

Instructor: Amy Borovoy  
Dillon Court W02  
[aborovoy@princeton.edu](mailto:aborovoy@princeton.edu)  
Office Hours: Monday 4:30-5:30  
Ext 8-2471

EAS 550/ANT 570

Spring '05  
Monday 1:30-4:20

## **TOPICS IN SOCIAL THEORY AND EAST ASIA**

This course is an introduction to classical social theory and an exploration of new directions in social theory in contemporary historical and social science texts on East Asia. Weber's constructions of capitalism, Durkheim's notion of society, and Marx's concept of ideology all continue to inform contemporary East Asian studies; East Asian studies has also been central to demonstrating the Euro-centrism of many of these theories. We will explore these conversations, moving between theoretical and ethnographically and historically-oriented texts. Throughout the course we return to the questions of how individuals come to believe and accept the social systems they live within, the workings of power and conflict in these processes, and the embeddedness of social systems in culture and history.

### **Readings**

A course reader is available at Pequod Copy in the U-Store. A copy of the reader is also on reserve at Gest Library. The following books are required and can be purchased at the Princeton University Store. Copies are also on reserve at Gest Library.

Pierre Bourdieu, *Outline of a Theory of Practice*

Robert Tucker, ed. *The Marx-Engels Reader*

Michel Foucault, *Discipline and Punish*

Anne Allison, *Permitted and Prohibited Desires*

Dorinne Kondo, *Crafting Selves: Power, Gender, and Discourses of Identity in a Japanese Workplace*

### **Assignments**

Each student will be responsible for introducing one set of readings, including some brief genealogical or biographical background on the author and some thoughts on placing the readings in dialogue with one another. Each student will also write a term paper, roughly 20 pages. A list of suggested topics will be posted or students are welcome to choose their own topics which engage with course readings.

## **CLASS SCHEDULE**

### **Week 1 (February 1)**

#### **Introduction**

## **Week 2 (February 8)**

### **Theories of Cultural Integrity/Structural Functionalism**

Durkheim The Division of Labor in Society (selections)

Durkheim Suicide (selections)

Radcliffe Brown “On the Concept of Function in Social Science” and “On Social Structure”

John Embree Suyemura: A Japanese Village, Preface, Introduction, and Ch. 8 “Changes Observable in the Social Organization of Suye Mura”

## **Week 3 (February 15)**

### **Marxian Theories of Conflict, Labor, and Ideology**

Marx “On the Jewish Question”

Marx “Wage Labor and Capital,” pp. 203-217

Marx “The German Ideology,” pp. 146-178

Recommended: “Manifesto of the Communist Party” (for those who have not read it)

## **Week 4 (February 22)**

### **Engaging Marx with Culture and History**

Dipesh Chakrabarty, “Class consciousness and the Indian working class: dilemmas of Marxist historiography”

Thomas P. Rohlen, Ch. 2 “Songs, Ceremonies, and Uedagin Ideology”

Kumazawa Makoto, “Twenty Years of a Bank Worker’s Life”

## **Week 5 (March 1)**

### **Reformulations of Power , Ideology, and Resistance/Neo-Marxism**

Louis Althusser “Ideology and Ideological State Apparatuses”

Raymond Williams, “Ideology,” “Base and Superstructure,” “Determination,” and “Hegemony” from Marxism and Literature

Anne Allison, “Japanese Mothers and Obentos: The Lunchbox as Ideological State Apparatus” (In *Permitted and Prohibited Desires*)

James Scott, “Resistance without Protest and without Organization: Peasant Opposition to the Islamic *Zakat* and the Christian Tithes”

## **Week 6 (March 8)**

### **Practice Theory: Beyond Objectivism and Subjectivism**

Pierre Bourdieu Outline of a Theory of Practice, Parts 1-2

Thomas Keirstead “The Theater of Protest: Petitions, Oaths, and Rebellion in the Shôen”

Recommended:

Paul DiMaggio, “Review Essay: Pierre Bourdieu”

Interview with Pierre Bourdieu in *Cultural Anthropology*

## **SPRING BREAK**

## **Week 7 (March 22)**

### **State, Society, and Models of Social Control**

Foucault, *Discipline and Punish*, “The Body of the Condemned,” “Generalized Punishment,” pp. 84-103, and “Panopticism,” pp. 200-216; 225-228

Thomas Gold “Party-state Versus Society in China”

Sheldon Garon *Molding Japanese Minds*, Introduction and Ch. 4

### **Week 8 (March 29)**

#### **Gender, Labor, and Capital in Postwar Japan**

Tomiko Yoda, “The Rise and Fall of Maternal Society: Gender, Labor, and Capital in Contemporary Japan”

Amy Borovoy, “Recovering from Codependence in Japan”

Doi Takeo, *Anatomy of Dependence*, selections

### **Week 9 (April 5)**

#### **Subject and Agency in Postcolonial Contexts**

O’Hanlon “Recovering the Subject: Subaltern Studies and Histories of Resistance in Colonial South Asia”

Saba Mahmood, “Feminist Theory, Embodiment, and the Docile Agent: Some Reflections on the Egyptian Islamic Revival”

### **Week 10 (April 12)**

#### **The Feminine/Feminist Subject in Cultural Context**

Jennifer Robertson, *Takarazuka*, “Fan Pathology”

Ueno Chizuko, Interview, and “Are the Japanese Feminine? Some Problems of Japanese Feminism in Its Cultural Context”

### **Week 11 (April 19)**

#### **Defining Japan as an Area**

Harry Harootunian, “America’s Japan, Japan’s Japan”

Marilyn Ivy, *Discourses of the Vanishing: Modernity, Phantasm, Japan*, Introduction and Chapter 1

Yumiko Iida, *Re-thinking Identity in Modern Japan*, selections

### **Week 12 (April 26)**

#### **Re-thinking “Area Studies”**

Harry Harootunian, *History’s Disquiet*, “Tracking the Dinosaur”

Judith Farquhar and James Hevia, “Culture and Postwar American Historiography of China”

Arjun Appadurai, “Theory in Anthropology: Center and Periphery”

Andrew Gordon, “Rethinking Area Studies, Once More”