Culture & Subjectivity  
Psychology 8001-01  
Fall 2014  
Monday & Wednesday, 5:30-7:10 pm  
Melson 104

General Information
Professor: John L. Roberts, Ph.D.  
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Office Hours: Monday (1-3pm), Wednesday (12-3pm)  
and by appointment

Course Description
An examination of the dialectical nature of the relationship between subjectivity and culture including recent developments in linguistics, textual analysis, and research on intersubjectivity.

Course Objectives
Students will develop and express fluency and understanding of the reciprocal relationship between subjectivity and culture, paying particular attention to the role of psychology in making possible various subjectivities.

Required Texts
Texts will consist of required books, and other materials (i.e., book chapters, essays, etc.) on electronic reserve, and/or handed out in class. The required books are as follows:

1. Title: Civilization and Its Discontents  
   Author: Sigmund Freud  
   Publisher: Norton  
   Edition: 1961  
   ISBN-10: 0393301583  

2. Title: The Sublime Object of Ideology  
   Author: Slavoj Zizek  
   Publisher: Verso  
   Edition: 1989  
   ISBN-10: 086919714  

3. Title: The Social Construction of Reality  
   Author: Peter L. Berger & Thomas Luckmann  
   Publisher: Anchor  
   Edition: 1967  
   ISBN-10: 0385058985  
4. Title: *On the Genealogy of Morals / Ecce Homo*
   Author: Friedrich Nietzsche
   Publisher: Vintage
   Edition: 1989
   ISBN-10: 0679724621

5. Title: *Psychiatric Power*
   Author: Michel Foucault
   Publisher: Picador
   Edition: 2008
   ISBN-10: 0312203314

6. Title: *Gender Trouble*
   Author: Judith Butler
   Publisher: Routledge
   Edition: 2006
   ISBN-10: 0415389550

7. Title: *Time & the Other*
   Author: Emmanuel Levinas
   Publisher: Duquesne University Press
   Edition: 1990
   ISBN-10: 0820702331

8. Title: *Reassembling the Social: An Introduction to Actor-Network-Theory*
   Author: Bruno Latour
   Publisher: Oxford University Press
   Edition: 2007
   ISBN-10: 0199256055

**Course Format**
The course is a seminar, and will be primarily based around class discussion with student presentations/discussion facilitation. As such, students will expected to be consistently and thoroughly prepared by reading all of the assignment material, coming to class with questions and issues in mind, and participating actively in discussion. If a student is not adequately prepared (has not done the reading), he/she cannot meaningfully contribute to our discussion. “Seminar” derives from the Latin *seminarium*, meaning “seed plot.” Ideally, we will all learn from each other, and that our time together will be fertile ground for the exchange of perspectives and the growth of understanding.
Course Requirements & Expectations
Attendance: It is vital that you attend all class meetings unless there is a very good reason for you not being present. In a seminar, we are all teachers and when someone is absent the teaching suffers. Though unlikely to occur, four (4) absences may result in a student’s final grade for the course reduced by up to one letter grade.
Participation: Because the seminar format requires consistent participation from its members, a significant portion of the grade will be based on weekly reading assignments – in the form of discussion and group facilitation/presentation (which will rotate).
Research Paper: Each student will complete a written twenty to twenty-five (20-25) page (double-spaced, 1 inch margin, APA style, etc.) research paper, which will be due on the last day of class. The paper will examine some dimension of culture & subjectivity pursuant to the student’s interest. It is expected that this paper will be scholarly and, perhaps, of publishable quality.
Academic Honesty: Students are responsible for upholding the University’s honor code.
Other Student Rights & Responsibilities: Students should carefully review information here:

http://www.westga.edu/assetsDept/vpaa/Common_Language_for_Course_Syllabi.pdf

It contains important material pertaining to your rights and responsibilities in this class. Because these statements are updated as federal, state, university, and accreditation standards change, you should review the information each semester.

Evaluation
Here is the following breakdown of grading:

Participation: 50 %
Final Paper: 50 %

Course Schedule & Topoi
Readings suggested for group discussion focus are in bold type.

8/25 Introduction

8/27 Psychology & the Social: Canguilhem, “What is Psychology,” 3-18; Rudinesco, “‘What is Psychology’: Situating the Text,” 19-29; Hacking, from Historical Ontology, 1-26, 99-114; Foucault, from Abnormal, 55-79.

9/1 No Class (Labor Day)


Film: *The Pervert’s Guide to Ideology*


10/29  Power/Knowledge, Discipline, & Psychiatry: **Foucault, Psychiatric Power, 201-333.**

11/3  Gender, Feminism, & Identity: **Butler, Gender Trouble, 1-106;** Foucault, from **The History of Sexuality, An Introduction: Volume 1,** 3-12.

11/5  Gender, Feminism, & Identity: **Butler, Gender Trouble, 107-203.**


11/19 Beyond the Social: **Latour, Reassembling the Social: An Introduction to Actor- Network-Theory, 1-140.**

11/24  No Class (Thanksgiving)

11/26  No Class (Thanksgiving)

12/1  Beyond the Social: **Latour, Reassembling the Social: An Introduction to Actor- Network-Theory, 141-262.**

12/3  Seminar Papers Due

*Syllabus is subject to change (like people)*