

Carleton University
Institute of Political Economy
PECO 5501A/PSCI 5501A/SOCI 5504A

Critique of Everyday Life

Tuesday & Thursday 2:35-5:25
Please confirm location on Carleton Central
Summer 2013

Instructor: Mathew Coleman
Email: coleman.373@osu.edu Office
e: 1503 Dunton Tower Telephone:
613 520-2600 ext. 7566
Office hours: Wednesday 11am-1pm

COURSE DESCRIPTION

In this seminar we will explore the geo-sociological concept of the everyday, taking our inspiration from sociologist and geographer Henri Lefebvre's (1901-1991) three volume treatise on the everyday, *Critique of Everyday Life*. Published roughly at the beginning, middle and end of the Cold War, this trilogy offers a rich and persuasive (and oftentimes inconsistent) account of everyday life as simultaneously a sphere of creativity and alienation – a paradoxical medium of revolution and pacification, fragmentation and continuity, repetition and difference.

Our reading of Lefebvre's work will function as a springboard into myriad other prominent "theories of the everyday". Our goal in the seminar will be to problematize and think through what this arguably ubiquitous and yet poorly specified word – the everyday – means from various theoretical perspectives, including: Situationism, post-Marxist/feminist theories of social reproduction, autonomist Marxism, non-representational theory, actor network theory, and flat ontology. We will focus specifically on what the everyday means for thinking about the importance of race, class, sexuality, and gender to the social world. Students new to Agamben, Foucault, and Schmitt, as well as those more acquainted with this work, should feel equally welcome to participate in the seminar.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. Regular seminar participation and attendance: 25%.
2. Seminar presentation: 25%. You will be responsible for leading discussion during one seminar, along with at least one of your peers. Your goal is to highlight and discuss key arguments from the assigned texts, and which you consider worthy of extended group attention.

3. 3,500 word review essay: 50%. Your essay can be on a topic of your choice, but should draw in detail on at least two major texts from the seminar. We will discuss the review essay in greater detail during the seminar.

COURSE EXPECTATIONS

There is a lot of reading for this course. We will talk about how to read efficiently during the first class, so don't fret.

My baseline expectation is that seminar participants will come every week having read the assigned readings in their entirety. I also expect seminar participants to **come prepared with something substantive to say about the week's readings.**

Attendance for all seminars is required. **If you miss a seminar, you must complete an essay (minimum 5 pages, double spaced) on the readings for that day. The essay should not be a summary; it should raise substantive issues. Essays for missed classes will be due the following week, at the beginning of seminar. If you do not turn in your essay, I will automatically take 10% off your final grade.** If there is some issue in your life that is making attendance (and active participation) difficult, please talk to me as soon as possible so that we can make alternate arrangements.

Lastly, please participate actively in seminar. This will be a fun and rewarding seminar if everyone pitches in.

BOOKS AND ARTICLES

I will provide electronic copies of all the articles listed below, from the Carleton library. I also will be able to provide some of the book sections. However, I do strongly recommend purchasing the following texts:

- Lefebvre, H. (1991). Critique of Everyday Life Volume 1. London: Verso.
- Lefebvre, H. (2002). Critique of Everyday Life Volume 2. London: Verso.
- Lefebvre, H. (2005) Critique of Everyday Life Volume 3. London: Verso.
- Lefebvre, H. (1991). The Production of Space. London: Blackwell.
- Lefebvre, H. (2003). The Urban Revolution. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press.
- Brenner, N. and S. Elden. (2009). State, Space, World. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press.

If you have financial constraints, please come and see me. We'll work something out in terms of sharing my texts.

SEMINAR SCHEDULE

*** Presentations start week 2**

Week 1

Seminar 1 (May 7) Introductory remarks

No assigned reading

Seminar 2 (May 9) Approaches to the everyday

Ross, K. (1995). "Introduction", "La Belle Américaine" and "Hygiene and Modernization" in Fast Cars, Clean Bodies – Decolonization and the Reordering of French Culture. London: MIT Press.

Sheringham, M. (2006). "The Indeterminacy of the Everyday" and "Henri Lefebvre: Alienation and Appropriation in Everyday Life" in Everyday Life – Theories and Practices from Surrealism to the Present. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Week 2

Seminar 3 (May 14) Volume 1

Lefebvre, H. (1991). Critique of Everyday Life Volume 1. London: Verso.

Seminar 4 (May 16) Social reproduction

Mitchell, K., S. A. Marston, et al. (2003). "Life's Work: An Introduction, Review and Critique." Antipode **35**(3): 415-442.

Marston, S. A. (2000). "The social construction of scale." Progress in Human Geography **24**(2): 219-242.

Brenner, N. (2001). "The limits to scale? Methodological reflections on scalar structuration." Progress in Human Geography **25**(4): 591-614.

Marston, S. A. and N. Smith (2001). "States, scales and households: limits to scale thinking? A response to Brenner." Progress in Human Geography **25**(4): 615-619.

Week 3

Seminar 5 (May 21) Theory of moments (Volume 2)

Lefebvre, H. (2002). Critique of Everyday Life Volume 2. London: Verso.

Seminar 6 (May 23) Site ontology

Allen, J. (2009). "Three spaces of power: territory, networks, plus a topological twist in the tale of domination and authority." Journal of Power 2(2): 197-212.

Marston, S. A., J. P. Jones, et al. (2005). "Human geography without scale." Transactions of the Institute of British Geographers 30(4): 416-432.

Woodward, K., J. P. Jones, et al. (2010). "Of eagles and flies: orientations toward the site." Area 42(3): 271-280.

Week 4

Seminar 7 (May 28) Crisis and generation (Volume 3)

Lefebvre, H. (2005) Critique of Everyday Life Volume 3. London: Verso.

Seminar 8 (May 30) Representation and the everyday

Latour, B. (2005). Reassembling the Social: An Introduction to Actor Network Theory. Oxford, Oxford University Press. (selections only)

Thrift, N. (2008). Non-representational Theory: Space, Politics, Affect. London, Routledge. (selections only)

Week 5

Seminar 9 (June 4) Space I

Lefebvre, H. (1991). The Production of Space. London: Blackwell.

Seminar 10 (June 6) Space II

Lefebvre, H. (1991). The Production of Space. London: Blackwell.

Week 6

Seminar 11 (June 11) Blind fields

Lefebvre, H. (2003). The Urban Revolution. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press.

Seminar 12 (June 13) State mode of production, autogestion, and anti-productivism

Neil Brenner and Stuart Elden, "State, Space, World – Lefebvre and the Survival of Capitalism" in State, Space, World (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2009), pp. 1-48.

Lefebvre, H. (2009). "The State and Society" (1964), "The Withering Away of the State" (1964), "Comments on a New State Form" (1979), "Space and the State" (1978), and "The Worldwide Experience" (1978) translated and edited by Gerald Moore, Neil Brenner and Stuart Elden in State, Space, World. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press.

Week 7

Seminar 13 (June 18) State ethnography, studying up

Painter, J. (2006). "Prosaic geographies of stateness." Political Geography **25**(7): 752-774.

Nader, L. (1972). Up the Anthropologist: Perspectives Gained from Studying Up. Reinventing Anthropology. D. Hymes. New York, Pantheon: 284-311.

Ferguson, J. and A. Gupta (2002). "Spatializing States: Toward an Ethnography of Neoliberal Governmentality." American Ethnologist **29**(4): 981-1002.

Sharma, A. and A. Gupta (2006). Rethinking theories of the state in an age of globalization. The Anthropology of the State: A Reader. London, Blackwell: 1-40.

Academic Accommodations

The Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) provides services to students with Learning Disabilities (LD), psychiatric/mental health disabilities, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD), chronic medical conditions, and impairments in mobility, hearing, and vision. If you have a disability requiring academic accommodations in this course, please contact PMC at 613-520-6608 or pmc@carleton.ca for a formal evaluation. If you are already registered with the PMC, contact your PMC coordinator to send me your **Letter of Accommodation** at the beginning of the term, and no later than two weeks before the first in-class scheduled test or exam requiring accommodation (*if applicable*). After requesting accommodation from PMC, meet with me to ensure accommodation arrangements are made. Please consult the PMC website for the deadline to request accommodations for the formally-scheduled exam (*if applicable*).

For Religious Observance: Students requesting accommodation for religious observances should apply in writing to their instructor for alternate dates and/or means of satisfying academic requirements. Such requests should be made during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist, but no later than two weeks before the compulsory academic event. Accommodation is to be worked out directly and on an individual basis between the student and the instructor(s) involved. Instructors will make

accommodations in a way that avoids academic disadvantage to the student. Instructors and students may contact an Equity Services Advisor for assistance (www.carleton.ca/equity).

For Pregnancy: Pregnant students requiring academic accommodations are encouraged to contact an Equity Advisor in Equity Services to complete a *letter of accommodation*. Then, make an appointment to discuss your needs with the instructor at least two weeks prior to the first academic event in which it is anticipated the accommodation will be required.

Plagiarism: The University Senate defines plagiarism as “presenting, whether intentional or not, the ideas, expression of ideas or work of others as one’s own.” This can include:

- reproducing or paraphrasing portions of someone else’s published or unpublished material, regardless of the source, and presenting these as one’s own without proper citation or reference to the original source;
- submitting a take-home examination, essay, laboratory report or other assignment written, in whole or in part, by someone else;
- using ideas or direct, verbatim quotations, or paraphrased material, concepts, or ideas without appropriate acknowledgment in any academic assignment;
- using another’s data or research findings;
- failing to acknowledge sources through the use of proper citations when using another’s works and/or failing to use quotation marks;
- handing in "substantially the same piece of work for academic credit more than once without prior written permission of the course instructor in which the submission occurs.

Plagiarism is a serious offence which cannot be resolved directly with the course’s instructor. The Associate Deans of the Faculty conduct a rigorous investigation, including an interview with the student, when an instructor suspects a piece of work has been plagiarized. Penalties are not trivial. They include a mark of zero for the plagiarized work or a final grade of "F" for the course.

Oral Examination: At the discretion of the instructor, students may be required to pass a brief oral examination on research papers and essays.

Submission and Return of Term Work: Papers must be handed directly to the instructor and will not be date-stamped in the departmental office. Late assignments may be submitted to the drop box in the corridor outside B640 Loeb. Assignments will be retrieved every business day at **4 p.m.**, stamped with that day's date, and then distributed to the instructor. For essays not returned in class please attach a **stamped, self-addressed envelope** if you wish to have your assignment returned by mail. Please note that assignments sent via fax or email will not be accepted. Final exams are intended solely for the purpose of evaluation and will not be returned.

Grading: Assignments and exams will be graded with a percentage grade. To convert this to a letter grade or to the university 12-point system, please refer to the following table.

Percentage	Letter grade	12-point scale	Percentage	Letter grade	12-point scale
90-100	A+	12	67-69	C+	6
85-89	A	11	63-66	C	5
80-84	A-	10	60-62	C-	4
77-79	B+	9	57-59	D+	3
73-76	B	8	53-56	D	2
70-72	B-	7	50-52	D-	1

Grades: Final grades are derived from the completion of course assignments. Failure to write the final exam will result in the grade ABS. Deferred final exams are available ONLY if the student is in good standing in the course.

Approval of final grades: Standing in a course is determined by the course instructor subject to the approval of the Faculty Dean. This means that grades submitted by an instructor may be subject to revision. No grades are final until they have been approved by the Dean.

Connect Email Accounts: All email communication to students from the Department of Political Science will be via Connect. Important course and University information is also distributed via the Connect email system. It is the student's responsibility to monitor their Connect account.

Carleton Political Science Society: The Carleton Political Science Society (CPSS) has made its mission to provide a social environment for politically inclined students and faculty. Holding social events, debates, and panel discussions, CPSS aims to involve all political science students in the after-hours academic life at Carleton University. Our mandate is to arrange social and academic activities in order to instill a sense of belonging within the Department and the larger University community. Members can benefit through numerous opportunities which will complement both academic and social life at Carleton University. To find out more, please email carletonpss@gmail.com, visit our website at poliscisociety.com, or come to our office in Loeb D688.

Official Course Outline: The course outline posted to the Political Science website is the official course outline.