

Classroom #6

Wednesday 10am-1pm &
Thursday 6-9pm

Introduction to French Social Theory

Vincent Antonin Lepinay

Office Room #331

Office hours: Wednesday afternoon, email first.

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Seminar Description

We are using the work of French sociologist Pierre Bourdieu to read - upstream and downstream - other influential social theorists. Power and capital, autonomy and subjectivity will be two main meta-questions organizing our readings. Each week addresses a specific theme and for clarity one or two social scientists who were either influential on Bourdieu or engaged Bourdieu's main contributions. Every session, we read two pieces. Either excerpts of a book or articles. You are encouraged to read the whole books even though I can only assume you will read the assigned chapters. In addition to the main and compulsory readings, additional readings are proposed to students. These are in no way complete bibliographies of the themes discussed. They are more hints for expanding the common list of compulsory readings. They are also helps for students who make a presentation on that week and expand their presentations into their final essay. The language of the class is English.

Students will be evaluated in two ways.

First, oral participation in all classes will weigh up to 50% of the final grade. This is a seminar and participation is not an option. The instructor will launch the discussion by a short lecture but he will also ask questions to students during the seminar. It is hence expected that all the readings be done prior to coming to class. In addition to this overall oral participation, each student will have to make a formal presentation of a group of texts during one of the seminars. If the class ends up with more students than sessions, students will be allowed to team up and make joint presentations. Students will confer with the instructor to figure out how they want to present and what additional readings they will bring to the discussion during their presentation. The formal presentation itself should be no longer than 45 mn, and no shorter than 20mn.

Second, a written examination will consist of a final essay submitted at the end of the course. This essay will count for 50% of the class grade. This essay can be an elaboration upon the class presentation. Students will once again confer with the instructor before launching into a final project. The aim of the paper is to engage students into writing about one of the authors we will read but in relation to their own project. It is about articulating social theory and their own research, not about regurgitating the authors we will read. It should be no shorter than 5,000 words, no longer than 10,000 words.

All the required readings will be available on the course website. The books will also be available from the library. The address of the course site will be communicated on the first day of the class. Anna Artiushina is the teaching assistant. Any practical problem should be referred to her.

Seminar schedule

February 4 - Introduction and division of labor.

March 6 - Durkheim and Tarde on the definition of the social
The debate between Tarde and Durkheim, *Environment and Planning D: Society and Space*, 2008, 26:761-777, accessible at <http://www.slideshare.net/joneilortiz/the-debate-between-tarde-and-durkheim-presentation>

Durkheim, Emile. *Rules of Sociological Method*. Free Press, 1982.
Tarde, Gabriel. *Monadology and Sociology*. Translated by Candea, Ferriere and Hale, 2010.

Additional readings:

Candea, Matei, ed. *The Social After Gabriel Tarde: Debates and Assessments*. Reprint. Routledge, 2012.

Durkheim, Emile. *The Division of Labor in Society*. Free Press, 1997.

—. *Suicide*. Free Press, 1997.

—. *The Elementary Forms of Religious Life*. Oxford University Press, USA, 2008.

Rogers, Everett M., and Everett Rogers. *Diffusion of Innovations*, 5th Edition. 5th ed. Free Press, 2003.

Tarde, Gabriel. *The Laws of Imitation*. Biblio Bazaar, 2009.

Tarde, Gabriel. *Gabriel Tarde On Communication and Social Influence: Selected Papers*. Edited by Terry N. Clark. Reprint. University Of Chicago Press, 2011.

Tarde, Gabriel de 1843-1904. *Social Laws; an Outline of Sociology*. Nabu Press, 2010.

Bourdieu and Levi Strauss. The Nature of Rules

March 7 - Levis Strauss reading Mauss

Durkheim and Mauss 1905 *Primitive Classification?*

Mauss, Marcel. *Essay on the Gift*, Introduction by Claude Levi Strauss.

March 13 - Bourdieu reading Levis Strauss reading Mauss

Bourdieu, Pierre. *Outline of a Theory of Practice*. Translated by Richard Nice. Cambridge University Press, 1977.

—. *The Bachelors' Ball: The Crisis of Peasant Society in Bearn*. Translated by Richard Nice. University Of Chicago Press, 2008.

Additional readings:

—. *In Other Words: Essays Toward a Reflexive Sociology*. Translated by Matthew Adamson. 1st ed. Stanford University Press, 1990.

—. *Practical Reason: On the Theory of Action*. Translated by Randall Johnson. 1st ed. Stanford University Press, 1998.

—. *The Political Ontology of Martin Heidegger*. 1st ed. Stanford University Press, 1991.

—. *The Weight of the World: Social Suffering in Contemporary Society*. Translated by Priscilla Parkhurst Ferguson. 1st ed. Stanford University Press, 2000.

—. *Language and Symbolic Power*. Edited by John Thompson. Translated by Gino Raymond and Matthew Adamson. Harvard University Press, 1999.

—. *Pascalian Meditations*. Translated by Richard Nice. Stanford University Press, 2000.

—. *Science of Science and Reflexivity*. Translated by Richard Nice. 1st ed. University Of Chicago Press, 2004.

—. *Sketch for a Self-Analysis*. Translated by Richard Nice. English Ed. University Of Chicago Press, 2008.

—. *The Logic of Practice*. Translated by Richard Nice. 1st ed. Stanford University Press, 1992.

Bourdieu, Pierre, and Loïc J. D. Wacquant. *An Invitation to Reflexive Sociology*. 1st ed. University Of Chicago Press, 1992.

Robson, Karen, and Chris Sanders, eds. *Quantifying Theory: Pierre Bourdieu*. Springer, 2010.

Bourdieu, Althusser and Foucault. Power, Autonomy and Emancipation in a Field.

March 14- Power and capital

Louis Althusser, "Ideology and Ideological State Apparatuses." In Lenin and Philosophy and Other Essays. (1970)

March 20- Power and apparatus

Michel Foucault, Discipline and Punish (1975), selections, as follows: Part One, Ch. 1, "The Body of the Condemned"; Part Three, Ch. 3, "Panopticism"; and Part Four, Ch. 3, "The Carceral."

---. *Power/Knowledge Selected Interviews and Other Writings* (ed Colin Gordon), "The Confession of the Flesh" (1977) interview. pp. 194-228.

Additional readings:

Althusser, Louis. For Marx. Reprint. Verso, 2010.

—. On Ideology. Translated by Ben Brewster. Verso, 2008.

—. Philosophy of the Encounter: Later Writings, 1978-1987.

Edited by Oliver Corpet and François Matheron. Translated by G. M. Goshgarian. 1st ed. Verso, 2006.

—. Writings on Psychoanalysis. Edited by Olivier Corpet and François Matheron. Translated by Jeffrey Mehlman. Columbia University Press, 1999.

Althusser, Louis, and Étienne Balibar. Reading Capital.

Translated by Ben Brewster. Verso, 2009.

Althusser, Louis, Olivier Corpet, and Yann Moulier Boutang. The Future Lasts Forever: A Memoir. New Press, The, 1995.

Bourdieu, Pierre. The State Nobility: Elite Schools in the Field of Power. 1st ed. Stanford University Press, 1998.

—. On Television. Translated by Priscilla Parkhurst Ferguson. New Press, The, 1999.

Pierre Bourdieu et. Homo Academicus. 1st ed. Stanford University Press, 1990.

Bourdieu, Pierre, and Jean-Claude Passeron. Reproduction in Education, Society and Culture. 2nd ed. Sage Publications, 1990.

Cultures of consumption. Habitus.

March 21 - Taste and distinction

Bourdieu, Pierre. Distinction: A Social Critique of the Judgement of Taste. Harvard University Press, 1984.

March 27 - De Certeau

Certeau, Michel de. *The Practice of Everyday Life*. Reprint. University of California Press, 2011.

—. *The Practice of Everyday Life, Vol. 2: Living and Cooking*. 1st ed. Univ of Minnesota Press, 1998.

Additional readings:

Barthes, Roland. *Empire of Signs*. Translated by Richard Howard. Writing. Hill and Wang, 1983.

—. *Mythologies*. Translated by Annette Lavers. Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 1972.

—. *The Fashion System*. Translated by Matthew Ward and Richard Howard. University of California Press, 1990.

Baudrillard, Jean. *For a Critique of the Political Economy of the Sign*. Telos Press Publishing, 1981.

—. *Impossible Exchange*. Reprint. Verso, 2012.

—. *Symbolic Exchange and Death*. Translated by Iain Hamilton Grant. Sage Publications, 1993.

—. *The Consumer Society: Myths and Structures*. 1st ed. SAGE Publications Ltd, 1998.

—. *The Mirror of Production*. Translated by Mark Poster. Telos Press Ltd., 1975.

—. *The System of Objects*. Translated by James Benedict. Verso, 2006.

Bourdieu, Pierre. *Photography: A Middle-Brow Art*. 1st ed. Stanford University Press, 1996.

—. *The Rules of Art: Genesis and Structure of the Literary Field*. Translated by Susan Emanuel. 1st ed. Stanford University Press, 1996.

—. *The Field of Cultural Production*. Columbia University Press, 1993.

Certeau, Michel De. *Culture In The Plural*. Edited by Luce Giard. Translated by Tom Conley. 1st ed. University Of Minnesota Press, 1997.

—. *Heterologies: Discourse on the Other*. Univ Of Minnesota Press, 1986.

Ward, Graham, ed. *The Certeau Reader*. 1st ed. Wiley-Blackwell, 2000.

**From critical sociology to sociology of critical capacities.
Illusio and principles of action.**

March 28 - Justification vs domination

Boltanski, Luc, and Laurent Thévenot. *On Justification: Economies of Worth*. Translated by Catherine Porter. Princeton University Press, 2006.

April 3 - Regimes of "engagement"/involvement

Laurent Thevenot. "On Engagement, Critique, Commonality, and Power", an interview by Paul Blokker and Andrea Brighenti, *European Journal of Social Theory*, (Special Issue on Pragmatic Sociology: Theory, Critique, and Application, edited by Paul Blokker) 14(3), pp. 383-400, 2011.

---. "Governing Life by Standards. A View from Engagements", *Social Studies of Science* vol. 39, n°5, October, pp. 793-813.

---. "Вверх дном: сообщество и личность в кульбите речей Мая 68 года". *Антропология революции*. Сб. статей. Сост. и ред. И. Прохорова, А. Дмитриев, И. Кукулин, М. Майофис.— М.: Новое литературное обозрение, pp. 242-293, 2009.

---. "«Чудесный хлеб» гостеприимства (недоразумения, проясняющие открытость и закрытость сообществ)", *Новое Литературное Обозрение*, n°100, pp. 678-701 <http://www.nlobooks.ru/rus/magazines/nlo/196/1641/1681/>, 2009

Additional readings:

Boltanski, Luc. *Distant Suffering: Morality, Media and Politics* (Cambridge Cultural Social Studies). Translated by Graham D. Burchell. Cambridge University Press, 1999.

— . *Love and Justice as Competences*. 1st ed. Polity, 2012.

— . *The Making of a Class: Cadres in French Society*. Translated by Arthur Goldhammer. Cambridge University Press, 1987.

Thevenot, Laurent, « A science of life together in the world », *European Journal of Social Theory*, vol 10, n° 2, May, pp. 233-244, 2007.

Thevenot, Laurent, "The plurality of cognitive formats and engagements: moving between the familiar and the public", *European Journal of Social Theory*, Vol 10, No 3, August, pp. 413-427, 2007.

Thevenot, Laurent, « Laurent Thévenot answers ten questions about economic sociology », *Economic Sociology*, 8(1), pp. 36-40, 2006.

Habermas, Juergen. *Knowledge & Human Interests*. Translated by Jeremy J. Shapiro. Beacon Press, 1972.

Habermas, Jürgen. *Moral Consciousness and Communicative Action: Moral Consciousness and Communicative Action*. Translated by Christian Lenhardt and Shierry Weber Nicholsen. The MIT Press, 2001.

—. *The Philosophical Discourse of Modernity: Twelve Lectures*. Translated by Frederick G. Lawrence. First Edition. The MIT Press, 1990.

—. *The Structural Transformation of the Public Sphere: An Inquiry into a Category of Bourgeois Society*. The MIT Press, 1991.

—. *The Theory of Communicative Action, Volume 1: Reason and the Rationalization of Society*. Translated by Thomas McCarthy. Beacon Press, 1985.

—. *The Theory of Communicative Action, Volume 2: Lifeworld and System: A Critique of Functionalist Reason*. Translated by Thomas McCarthy. Beacon Press, 1985.

The New faces of Capitalism. The French/Italian connections and new forms of capitals.

April 4 - A new spirit for capitalism

Boltanski, Luc, and Eve Chiapello. *The New Spirit of Capitalism*. Verso, 2007.

Boltanski, Luc. *On Critique: A Sociology of Emancipation*. Polity, 2011.

May 15 - Cognitive Capitalism

Latour, Bruno, and Vincent Antonin Lepinay. *The Science of Passionate Interests: An Introduction to Gabriel Tarde's Economic Anthropology*. Prickly Paradigm Press, 2010.

Moulier-Boutang, Yann. *Cognitive Capitalism*. Polity, 2012.

Additional readings:

Berardi, Franco "Bifo". *The Soul at Work: From Alienation to Autonomy* (Semiotex. Translated by Francesca Cadel and Giuseppina Mecchia. Semiotext(e), 2009.

—. *The Uprising: On Poetry and Finance* (Semiotex. 1st ed. Semiotext(e), 2012.

Bourdieu, Pierre. *The Social Structures of the Economy*. 1st ed. Polity, 2005.

Bourdieu, Pierre. *Acts of Resistance: Against the Tyranny of the Market*. Translated by Richard Nice. Second Impression. New Press, The, 1999.

—. *Firing Back: Against the Tyranny of the Market*. New Press, The, 2003.

Hardt, Michael, and Antonio Negri. *Commonwealth*. Belknap Press of Harvard University Press, 2011.

Lazzarato, Maurizio. *The Making of the Indebted Man: An Essay on the Neoliberal Condition* (Semiotex. Translated by Joshua David Jordan. Reprint. Semiotext(e), 2012.

Lotringer, Sylvère, and Christian Marazzi, eds. *Autonomia: Post-Political Politics* (Semiotex. 2nd ed. Semiotext(e), 2007.

Marazzi, Christian. *Capital and Affects: The Politics of the Language Economy* (Semiotex. Translated by Giuseppina Mecchia. Semiotext(e), 2011.

Virno, Paolo. *A Grammar of the Multitude: For an Analysis of Contemporary Forms of Life* (Semiotex. Translated by Isabella Bertolotti, James Cascaito, and Andrea Casson. First US edition. Semiotext(e), 2004.

Virno, Paolo, and Michael Hardt, eds. *Radical Thought in Italy: A Potential Politics*. 1st ed. Univ Of Minnesota Press, 2006.

Social Theory as Enquiry. French Pluralism?

May 16 - The demise of social scientists expertise

Latour, Bruno. *Reassembling the Social*. Oxford University Press

May 22 - Social theory as collective enquiry

Latour, Bruno. *Enquiry on the Modes of Existence*. Harvard University Press.

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May 24 - Final essay due