

Spring 2008
Jean Anyon
Policy Area Seminar 73100
Tuesday, 4:15

Critical Social Theory in Education Policy Studies

What is critical social theory? How can it be useful? For example, how are power and resistance theorized, and how can we study and utilize such theories in our research? How can we use theory and research to assist in and organize daily struggles against unjust power?

(An asterisk before a title means it is a book that you should purchase or otherwise obtain.)

January 29. Uses of Critical Social Theory

What is critical social theory? What can it do (and un-do)?

Is a *policy* a theory? If so, what is it a theory of?

How can we use theory in educational research?

Reading: *Critical Social Theory, Educational Research, and Intellectual Agency*. Anyon. 2008 (in press). (Handout)

Introduction to Pierre Bourdieu - A summary and clarification of his important concepts (Handout).

February 5. Pierre Bourdieu: Power, Culture, Education

The Forms of Capital. In *Handbook of Theory and Research for the Sociology of Education*. John G. Richardson, Editor. NY: Greenwood Press. 1986: 241-160. (Handout)

Cultural Reproduction and Social Reproduction. In *The Structure of Schooling: Readings in the Sociology of Education*. Richard Arum and Irene Beattie, Editors. NY: McGraw Hill. 1973: 56-68. (Handout)

(February 12 . No Class)

February 19. Foucault: Power, Resistance, and Governmentality

**A Foucault Primer: Discourse, Power, and the Subject*. 1997. Alec McHoul and Wendy Grace. Chapters 1 and 3.

*Foucault, *History of Sexuality Vol 1*. The *SECOND* Chapter 2.

February 26. Foucault, Continued.

1. "The Subject and Power," Foucault. In *Michel Foucault: Power*. Edited by James D. Faubion. (Handout)
2. "Governmentality," Foucault. In *The Essential Foucault*, Eds., Rabinow and Rose. (Handout)
3. "Nietzsche, Genealogy, History," Foucault. In *Language, Counter-Memory, Practice*. Ed. Bouchard. (Handout.)

March 4. David Harvey: Neoliberalism and the New Imperialism

*David Harvey. *A Brief History of Neoliberalism*. 2005. Chapters 1, 2, 3, 6, and pages 198-206.

March 11. William H. Sewell, Jr.: Agency and Structure

William H. Sewell, Jr. *Logics of History: Social Theory and Social Transformation*. 2005. Chapter 4 (Electronic)

March 18. Saskia Sassen: Theorizing Global Political Economy

The Global City: New York, London, Tokyo. 2001. (Second Ed.) Saskia Sassen. Preface (pp. xvii –xxiv); Overview (pp. 3-16); Chapter 10 and Epilogue (pp. 329-366). (Handout)

(March 25. AERA - No Class)

April 1. James C. Scott: Public and Private Transcripts and Resistance

*James C. Scott. *Domination and the Arts of Resistance: Hidden Transcripts*. 1992.

April 8. Judith Butler: Performance, Performativity, and Social Change.

"Performance and Performativity," Butler. (Handout). CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE.

“The Question of Social Transformation,” Butler. In *Undoing Gender*, by Judith Butler. Pages 204-231 (Handout).

April 15. Saba Mahmood: Religion as Resistance.

*Saba Mahmood. *Politics of Piety: The Islamic Revival and the Feminist Subject*. 2005.

(April 21-24. GC Vacation - No Class)

April 29. Arjun Appadurai: Globalization and the Cultural Imaginary.

*Arjun Appadurai. *Modernity at Large: Cultural Dimensions of Globalization*. 1996.

May 6. Critical Race Theory: Race and Resistance to Structures of Oppression

“Critical Race Theory,” Gloria Ladson Billings, in Denzin. (Handout.)

Michael C. Dawson, *Black Visions: The Roots of Contemporary African-American Political Ideologies*. 2003. Chapters TBA. (Handout)

May. 13. Antonio Gramsci: Common Sense, Good Sense, and the (Cultural) War of Position.

*Antonio Gramsci. *Selections from the Prison Notebooks*. Any edition. Selection TBA.

**Gramsci and Education*. Eds., Carmel Borg, et al. 2002.

Final Project

The final project is a paper, about 20 double spaced pages, not counting the bibliography.

In this paper, please develop your thoughts on theory in research (**and on theoretical concepts that are important to you**). Refer extensively (with appropriate citations) to several of the authors we have read. Bring in other theorists you have read if you want or need to. **The point of the paper should be to describe how your theory relates, or could relate to, the research you are planning to do for your dissertation.**

NOTE: *The intellectual work you do for this paper, and perhaps large chunks of the paper itself, may be very useful in writing your second doc exam and your dissertation proposal.*

Other Recommended Theorists:

I will give you citations for the following that do not already have them:

Aba Lughod

Stephen Ball

Glen Loury

Linda Tuhiwai Smith. *Decolonizing Methodologies: Research and Indigenous Peoples*.

Sandy Grande. *Red Pedagogy: Native American Social and Political Thought*. 2004.

Richard Delgado

Alejandro Portes

Paulo Freire

Steven Lukes, *Power: A Radical View*. Second Edition

David Couzens Hoy, *Critical Resistance: From Poststructuralism to Post-Critique*.

Nancy Fraser - "Rethinking the Public Sphere," and "Rethinking Recognition"

Deleuze and Guattari

Iris Marion Young