York University
Winter Term 2016
Graduate Program in Psychology / Social and Political Thought
Subjectivity and Society 6062 3.0 (W)
Course Director: Thomas Teo

Time: Thursday 11:30 - 14:30
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“Aber das menschliche Wesen ist kein dem einzelnen Individuum inwohnendes Abstraktum. In seiner Wirklichkeit ist es das ensemble der gesellschaftlichen Verhältnisse”

Tentative Course Outline and Reading List

January 7, 2016
1. Introduction: Situating subjectivity

(A) Foundational Debates

January 14, 2016

2. The societal and agentic nature of subjectivity


January 21, 2016

3. Intersubjectivity


January 28, 2016

4. Subjectivity and social characteristics


February 4, 2016

5. Subjectivity and the body


(B) Power and Subjectification

February 11, 2016
6. Psychologization


February 18, 2016: Reading week

February 25, 2016
7. Subjectification, technology, and the self


March 3, 2016
8. Privilege and subjectivity


March 10, 2016: No class

(C) Resistance

March 17, 2016

9. Researching


March 24, 2016

10. Theorizing and counter-conceptualizing


March 31, 2016

11. Aesthetics / Politics


**Evaluation**

(a) Participation

• In order to ensure that the material has been reflected upon adequately, regular attendance and participation is necessary.
• If **more than 3 meetings in the term are missed** the student must write an additional essay (or essays) regarding the missed meetings (regardless of the reasons for missing class) to be handed in on the same day as the regular paper (2000 words). If you miss 4 meetings, then you need to hand in one additional paper, if you miss 5 meetings, then you need to submit 2 additional papers, etc. Each additional paper is worth 15% and changes the composition of the fall grade accordingly.
• Participation means active engagement during our meetings.
• Participation counts towards 15% of the final grade.

(b) Presentation in class

• The duration of the presentation (and leading a class discussion) for each student should be approximately 30 (25-35) minutes (longer if a video is shown).
• Assessment of the presentation by the whole group is taken into account (peer evaluation). Written assessments by class include sections on "Strengths," "Suggestions for Improvement," and a "Grade."
• The presentation may go beyond class reading material and include additional sources. It can **take the student’s program into account.** The presentation may include audiovisual material and class discussions should involve questions derived from the reading material.
• Presentations can be done individually or as a group effort.
• PowerPoint (Keynote, or a similar presentation software) should/can be used.
• Provide an electronic copy of your presentation 12 hours before your presentation (send to instructor via e-mail).
• List all sources at the end of the PowerPoint or Keynote presentation.
• The presentation (and leading a class discussion) counts towards 25% of the grade.
• Averaged grades and feedback are provided usually one week after the presentation.
• Grading for each presentation: Instructor: 50%. Peers: 50%.
• Letter grades will be used (A+, A, A-, B+, etc.) which are converted into numbers (A+ = 9, A = 8, A- = 7, etc.) which are averaged (for instance, A- ranges from 6.5 to 7.49).

(c) Paper

• The written elaboration of the presentation in the form of a manuscript is required.
• The paper must be written in APA format / MLA format and have a length of about 18 pages including references. To be precise: 4000 (max. 4500) words without references!
• References must be drawn from at least 15 different academic sources.
• The paper must have a perspective on subjectivity.
• The deadline for the paper is April 14, 2016. There will be deductions for late submissions. Deductions: Each day late will count as a deduction of 0.15 for the first two days, 0.25 for the next two days, 0.35 for the next two days, etc. This means if you receive an average A for the paper and you are two days late you would receive: 8 – 0.30 = 7.7 (which is still an A).
• All papers must be sent as an e-mail attachment to the instructor [criterion for date of submission].
• Organization: 1. Title page (p. 1): Title of paper, name, student number; course title; term). 2. Abstract (p. 2) (150 - 200 words). 3. Paper and 4. References (pp. 3 – 18): [Start a new page for the reference section]. Typing: Papers should be typed in Times New Roman. Use a 12-point font and double spacing for the entire manuscript. Use 1-inch margins on the left, right, top, and bottom of the page. The text is to be left-aligned and not right-justified. Proofread the paper. More information on guidelines for the paper will be provided in one of the class meetings.
• The paper represents 35% of the grade.
• Grading: Letter grades.

(d) Comments

• All papers should be read. The written comments of the readings should include all texts.
• 750 words for all reading (use the word count function in your word processing program and list the number of words at the end of the section). Do not count references! Do not count direct quotes.
• “What can I learn from these texts about subjectivity”? Identify the most significant issues in the texts and respond to them. Or, alternatively, respond to the main arguments in the articles. A comment should be provocative, demonstrate comprehension of the
concepts, and challenge a viewpoint. **Do not summarize material.** Referencing is not required but **necessary** if you use additional sources.

- Comments are due on each Tuesday at 15:00 and must be sent as 1 attachment to my e-mail address (see above) (or in the main text). Identify authors of texts.
- Write your name at the top of the comments!
- Write 6062 in the "subject" heading of the e-mail.
- There will be deductions for late submissions.
- The first comments are due on Tuesday, January 12 at 15:00 for the Thursday, September 14 meeting. Comments are usually returned via email. Make sure that all comments were returned.
- If the day of a comment submission falls on a holiday, comments should be submitted earlier - if the student cannot submit on a holiday.
- Comments represent 25% of the grade.
- Grading: **Each weekly comment will receive a qualitative grade:** Outstanding (exceptional) = A+; excellent = A; Very good = A-; Good = B+; etc. These qualitative comments are converted into numbers (A+ = 9, A = 8, A- = 7, etc.) and averaged.
- For the day of one’s own presentation, no comments are accepted!
- You need to submit **a total of 6 comments**! If you submit more than 6 comments, only the best 6 comments will be used in the final grade.