

Power, Knowledge and Political Economy of Protest
Pr. Zakia Salime
Sociology
920-570
Time: W 4.10pm-6.50pm
Davison Hall, Douglas Campus
Seminar Room
Spring 2019

This course explores neoliberalism at the encounter of post-colonial (neocolonial) economic policies, transnational subjectivities, and protests. The course takes a multi-disciplinary, and global perspective to understand the academic and activist articulations of this encounter through materialist approaches, feminist epistemologies, decolonial theories, and everyday biopolitics and resistance. We will consider 'localized' protests as indicators of global racialized, sexualized, and gendered struggles characteristic of the ordering and regulation of subjects in the neoliberal era. We deploy an historical lens to examine how these dynamics are new reconfigurations of old struggles over place, resources, labor, identity (indigeneity, minority rights), and imagined freedoms. Students will explore both the everyday state, and everyday working tools of capitalism in-and-against spatial arrangements, resource exploitation, governance, cultural identity, subalternity and infrapolitics. The meaning of agency will be examined through several readings in various contexts, and through various struggles ranging from the Uprisings in Northern Africa and the 'Middle East', the Anti-World Cup protests in Brazil, the Pro-democracy street mobilization (Indignados) in Spain (and Western Europe), to the militarization and policing of Black Lives (Matter) in the U.S. We will look at these movements as situated yet connective points rather than isolated events. The main goal of this course is to provide students with the conceptual, theoretical and methodological tools for situating and formulating their unique projects in relation-rather-than at the margins of a global and (trans)disciplinary debates that are informed by intersectionality, materiality, difference, decoloniality, and resistance.

Required Readings

Elizabeth. A. Povinelli. *Economies of Abandonment: Social Belonging and Endurance in Late Liberalism* (Duke, 2011).

James C. Scott. *Domination and the Art of Resistance. Hidden Transcripts* (Yale, 1990)

James Ferguson. *Give a Man a Fish: Reflections on the New Politics of Distribution* (Duke 2015).

Samir Amin. *The Reawakening of the Arab World: Challenge and Change in the Aftermath of the Arab Spring* (Monthly Review Press, 2016)

Scott Lauria Morgensen. *Spaces between Us: Queer Settler and Indigenous Decolonization* (Minnesota, 2011)

Tania Murray Li. *The Will to Improve: Governmentality, Development, and the Practice of Politics* (Duke, 2007)

Walter D. Mignolo. *On Decoloniality: Concepts, Analytics, Praxis* (Duke, 2018)

Course objectives

This course will allow students (1) become familiar with the main conceptual and theoretical frameworks that have influenced social research on structure and resistance; (2) improve their critical thinking through cross-disciplinary analyses of social forces as they work to produce structures of domination, subjects, policies and institutions; (3) locate their own work and interests within/and in relation to these perspectives; (4) understand sociology as a discipline that has been shaped by other theoretical approaches.

Class Format

The class is organized as a seminar with students taking an active role in the discussions. This entails reflecting on the readings, participating in the class discussions and bringing provocative thoughts and questions to the class.

Course Requirements

1) A weekly reaction paper. Students must do **ALL** of the assigned readings. I expect you to write about **EACH** of the required readings. I also encourage you to include at least two explicitly formulated questions that you would like to see us discuss in class. **Briefs must be posted to the course's website on Sakai by 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday.** Fifty percent of your final grade will be based on class participation and the quality of these memos. Your attendance is required every week.

2) A Final Paper, due on Mai 10. I suggest the following:

A 20-page research paper, in which you explicitly utilize one or more of the theoretical frameworks discussed in this class to animate your analysis;

A 20-page literature review in which you go beyond the syllabus to explore more richly debates in a particular vein of theorizing or applications of concepts in that theoretical vein;

A 20-page critical essay reviewing and explicitly juxtaposing different theoretical frameworks we have explored during the semester and placing them in constructive dialogue with each other.

I do not offer extensions.

3) Attendance. There is no need to remind graduate students that attendance is required. Your final participation grade will be affected in case you missed more than one class during the semester.

Class policy

We earned membership in this class; we must be respectful of all the voices expressed in class and on Sakai. Make sure to use the forums open by the instructor in a way that reflects your respect to the ethics of academic debate.

Diversity Statement

The Rutgers Sociology Department strives to create an environment that supports and affirms diversity in all manifestations, including race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, religion, age, social class, disability status, region/country of origin, and political orientation. We also celebrate diversity of theoretical and methodological perspectives among our faculty and students and seek to create an atmosphere of respect and mutual dialogue. We have zero tolerance for violations of these principles and have Instituted clear and respectful procedures for responding to such grievances.

Academic Integrity

I follow the Rutgers University's policy on academic integrity. Please explore the website indicated below to become more familiar with this policy:

http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/files/documents/AI_Policy_9_01_2011.pdf

Violations include: cheating, fabrication, plagiarism, denying others access to information or material, and facilitating violations of academic integrity. Cheating and plagiarism will not be tolerated. To avoid plagiarism, every direct quotation must be identified by quotation marks or citation of the source. My policy on plagiarism is to award an **F** for the course.

Class Schedule (Subject to Revisions)

Week 1

1/23 Introduction and Overview of the Course

- Syllabus/ Introductions

Week 2

1/30 Walter Mignolo. On Decoloniality. Introduction & Chapter 1 to 4

Lila Abu Lughod, "Zones of Theory in the Anthropology of the Arab world." Annual Review of Anthropology (1989) 18: 267-306.

Mahmood Mamdani, Between the public intellectual and the scholar: decolonization and some post-independence initiatives in African higher education. Inter-Asia Cultural Studies. 2016 (17)1:68-83

Saba Mahmood, *Politics of Piety: The Islamic Revival and the Feminist Subject* (Princeton 2005). "The Subject of Freedom" Sakai

Week 3

2/6 Walter Mignolo. On Decoloniality, Chapter 5 to 10

Said, Edward. Orientalism. Vintage Books, 1978. Excerpts. Sakai

Tim Mitchell. Questions of Modernity. (Minnesota, 2000). Excerpts, Sakai

Decolonizing methodologies. Race Critical and Decolonial Sociology. A blog by Alana Lentin, published April 10, 2017.

<http://www.publicseminar.org/2017/04/decolonizing-epistemologies-part-1/>

<http://www.publicseminar.org/2017/04/decolonizing-epistemologies-part-2/>

Week 4

2/13 McClintock. Imperial Leather. Race, Gender and Sexuality in the Colonial Contest (Routledge, 1995). Excerpts, Sakai

Kauanui J. Kēhaulani . Tracing Historical Specificity: Race and the Colonial Politics of (In)Capacity. American Quarterly (69)2:257-265, 2017, Sakai

Mbembe, Achile. Necropolitics. Mbembe Achile, "Necropolitics," *Public Culture* 15(1): 11-40, 2003 (Sakai)

Week 5

2/20 Mitchell, Tim. The effect of the State. Sakai.

Aradhana Sharma and Akhil Gupta. "Rethinking Theories of the State in an age of Globalization". In *The Anthropology of the State*, a reader. Edited by Aradhana Sharma and Akhil Gupta (Blackwell Publishing, 2006) Sakai

Miller Peter and Nikolas Rose. *Governing the Present*. (Polity, 2008) Excerpts, Sakai

Foucault, Michel. *Power, Essential Works of Foucault 1954-1984*. (Penguin Books, 1994) "Governmentality", Sakai

Week 6

2/27 Tania Murray Li. *The Will to Improve*.

Final Paper Proposal Due.

Week 7

3/6 James Scott. *Domination and the Art of Resistance: Hidden Transcripts* (Yale University Press, 1990) Intro-to chapter 4.

Mary Louisa Cappelli. Standing with Standing Rock: Affective Alignment and Artful resistance at the Native Nations Rise March. *Sage Open*. July- September 2018:1-13.

Week 8

3/13 James Scott. *Domination and the Art of Resistance: Hidden Transcripts* (Yale University Press, 1990) Chapter 5 to 8.

Bayat, Asef. *Life as Politics. How Ordinary people change the Middle East* (Stanford, 2010) Excerpts, Sakai

Week 9 SPRING BREAK / NO CLASS

Week 10

27/3 James Ferguson. Give a Man a Fish: Reflections on the New Politics of Distribution.

Week 11

4/3 Samir Amin. The Reawakening of the Arab World: Challenge and Change in the Aftermath of the Arab Spring.

Week 12

4/10 Dewey M. Clayton. Black Lives Matter and the Civil Rights Movements: A Comparative analysis of two social movements in the United States. *Journal of Black Studies*. (49)5:48-480, 2018, Sakai

Holston, James. "Come to the street: Urban Protest, Brazil 2013." *Anthropological Quarterly*. 87-3: 887-900, 2014, Sakai

Mayanthi L. Fernando. Save the Muslim Woman, Save the Republic: Ni Putes Ni Soumises and the Ruse of Neoliberal Sovereignty. *Modern & Contemporary France*. 21(2) 147-165, 2013, Sakai

Maria Kyriakidou, Jose Javier Olivas Osuna. The Indignados protests in the Spanish and Greek press: Moving beyond the 'protest paradigm'? *European Journal of Communication* 32(1), 2017, Sakai

Week 13

4/17 Scott Lauria Morgensen. Spaces between Us: Queer Settler and Indigenous Decolonization.

Explore Standing Rock Syllabus (explore)

<https://nycstandswithstandingrock.wordpress.com/standingrocksyllabus/>

Week 14

4/24 AbdouMaliq Simone. The Politics of Urban. Intersection: Materials, Affect, Bodies. *The New Blackwell Companion to the City*. Edited by Gary Bridge and Sophie Watson (Blackwell Publishing, 2011) (Sakai)

Yarimar, Bonilla and Jonathan Rosa. #Ferguson: Digital protest, hashtag ethnography, and the racial politics of social media in the United States. *American Ethnologist*. 24(1): 4-17, 2015, Sakai

Jaime Amparo Alves. 2014. From Necropolis to Blackpolis: Necropolitical Governance and Black Spatial Praxis in São Paulo, Brazil. *Antipode*. (46) 2.: 323-339, 2014, Sakai

Gianpaolo Baiocchi, Marnie Brady and H. Jacob Carlson. Beyond the Market: Housing Alternatives from the Grassroots. *Dissent*, Fall 2018. [Link: https://www.dissentmagazine.org/article/beyond-market-alternatives-grassroots-lec-clt](https://www.dissentmagazine.org/article/beyond-market-alternatives-grassroots-lec-clt)

Week 15

5/1 Elizabeth A. Povinelli. Economies of Abandonment: Social Belonging and Endurance in Late Liberalism.