

## **Critical Problems in Social and Cultural Theory**

**PhD-course**

**15 credits or 7,5 credits**

**Fall–Spring 2025-2026**

**Coordinator: Professor Stefan Jonsson**

The course offers an advanced and historically informed overview of critical problems in Western social and cultural theory. Participants will acquire in-depth knowledge of primary textual sources that have helped define the social sciences and the humanities, and they will learn how these sources demonstrate a set of founding problems concerning otherness, ethnicity, race, cultural difference, identity, sexuality and collectivity that still underlie Western thought and scholarship.

Designed for doctoral candidates across the social sciences and humanities, the course is given at low pace, with one or two seminar per month throughout the academic year 2025–2026. The course consists of seminars with student presentations. The course requires personal attendance, and remote connection is provided only in exceptional cases. Language is English.

Examination requirements for 15 credits: (1) completion of readings and active participation in seminars; (2) one or two seminar presentations; (3) one written paper of 10–15 pages.

Examination requirements for 7,5 credits: (1) completion of readings and active participation in seminars; (2) one or two seminar presentations.

Certificate of course completion can be issued after examination upon request.

**For information and registration, contact [stefan.jonsson@liu.se](mailto:stefan.jonsson@liu.se), + 46 (0)11 36 36 30.**

**Critical Problems in Social and Cultural Theory**  
**PhD-course in Ethnicity and Migration, 7,5 or 15 credits**  
**Fall–Spring 2025-2026**

*Schedule overview*

- Mon 29 Sept, 14–16. Introduction (Stefan Jonsson)
- Tue 21 Oct, 10–12: Karl Marx (Anders Neergaard) in KH404, Martinson
- Mon 17 Nov, 10–13. Émile Durkheim (Stefan Jonsson)
- Mon 8 Dec, 10–13: W. E. B. Du Bois (Gurminder Bhambra, TBC)
- Mon 12 Jan, 10–13: Keynesianism and neoliberalism. Competing frameworks of money and economy. (Peo Hansen)
- Mon 2 Feb, 10–13: Karl Polanyi and Antonio Gramsci (Branka Likic-Brboric)
- Mon 23 Feb, 13–16: Hannah Arendt (Stefan Jonsson)
- Mon 16 March, 10–13: Pierre Bourdieu (Stefan Jonsson)
- Mon 13 April, 13–16. Judith Butler (Anna Bredström)
- Mon 27 April, 10–13: Edward Said (Catrin Lundström)
- Mon 25 May, 10–13: Indigenous Studies (Claudia Tazreiter)
- Mon 15 June, 13-16: Postcolonial and Decolonial Thought. Gayatri Spivak, Ariella Azoulay, Neferti Tadiar (Stefan Jonsson)

**Place:**

**All seminars in Tvärsnittet, Kopparhammaren, KH557, Campus Norrköping, unless otherwise noted.**

**Critical Problems in Social and Cultural Theory**  
**PhD- and Advanced course, 2025-2026. (7,5 or 15 ECTS)**  
**Professor Stefan Jonsson, REMESO**  
**Fall–Spring 2025-2026**

***READING LIST***

The bibliography is subject to change according to needs and preferences.

Mo 29 September, 14–16. Introduction

Teacher: Stefan Jonsson

No reading

Tue 21 October, 13–15. Marx, Labor and Race

Teacher: Anders Neergaard. *Note the room: KH404, Martinson*

Marx, Karl. *Capital: A Critique of Political Economy* (1887/2015), Volume I. Book One: The Process of Production of Capital (Part 7, ch 25 & Part 8, ch 26-33, pp. 434-548). <https://www.marxists.org/archive/marx/works/download/pdf/Capital-Volume-I.pdf>

Robinson, Cedric J. *Black Marxism: The Making of the Black Radical Tradition*. Chapel Hill, N.C.: University of North Carolina Press, 2000. (Part 1, ch 1-3, pp 9-68) (PDF from Anders).

Mon 17 November, 10–13. Durkheim

Teacher: Stefan Jonsson

Durkheim, Émile 1969 [1898]. ‘Individualism and the Intellectuals’, in Steven Lukes ‘Durkheim’s “Individualism and the Intellectuals”’, *Political Studies* 17 (1): 14–30.

Durkheim, Émile 2013 [1893/ 1903]. ‘Preface to the second Edition’. In: *The Division of Labour in Society*, translated by W. D. Halls, edited by Steven Lukes (2nd edn). London: Palgrave Macmillan, 8–32.

Bhambra, G and J. Holmwood 2021. “Durkheim: Modernity and Community”. In: *Colonialism and Modern Social Theory*. Cambridge: Polity Press, 2021, 141–176.

Recommended:

Durkheim, Émile 2001 [1912]. *The Elementary Forms of Religious Life* (1912). Trans. Carol Cosman. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2001, 2008.

Mon 8 December, 10–13. W. E. B. Du Bois

Teacher: Gurminder Bhambra **TBC**

Du Bois, W. E. B. 1997 [1903]. 'Of Mr Booker T Washington and Other' in *The Souls of Black Folk*. Edited and with an Introduction by David W. Blight and Robert Gooding-Williams. Boston: Bedford Books, 62-72

Du Bois, W. E. B. 1910. 'Reconstruction and Its Benefits,' *The American Historical Review* 15 (4): 781–799

Du Bois, W. E. B. 1944. 'Prospect of a World Without Race Conflict,' *American Journal of Sociology* 49 (5): 450-456

Bhambra, G and J. Holmwood 2021. "Du Bois: Addressing the Colour Line". In: *Colonialism and Modern Social Theory*. Cambridge: Polity Press, 2021, 177–206.

Mon 12 January, 10–13: Keynesianism and neoliberalism. Competing frameworks of money and economy.

Teacher: Peo Hansen

Keynes, John Maynard (1930) *The Collected Writings of John Maynard Keynes*, Volume V, *A Treatise on Money*, in Two Volumes, 1 The Pure Theory Of Money, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. **Read pp. 3–8.**

Mitchell, William, L. Randall Wray and Martin Watts (2019b) *Macroeconomics: A Modern Money Theory Approach*, London: Macmillan International Higher Education, Red Globe Press. **Read Chapter 1, pp. 2–17; and Chapter 13, pp. 193–203.**

Tcherneva, Pavlina R. (2008) "Keynes's Approach to Full Employment: Aggregate or Targeted Demand?", Working Paper, No. 542, Levy Economics Institute of Bard College, Annandale-on-Hudson, NY.

Wray, L. Randall (2012) "Money", in J.E. King (ed.) *The Elgar Companion to Post Keynesian Economics*, second edition, Cheltenham: Edward Elgar, pp. 401–409.

Monday 2 February, 13–16. Polanyi and Gramsci

Teacher: Branka Likic-Brboric

Polanyi, Karl. *The Great Transformation* (1944), Boston, MA, Beacon Press, 2001.

Gramsci, Antonio. *The Gramsci Reader. Selected Writings 1916-1935*, edited by David Forgacs. New York: New York University Press. (Selections)

Burawoy, Michael. "For a Sociological Marxism: The Complementary Convergence of Antonio Gramsci and Karl Polanyi", *Politics and Society*, Vol. 31 No. 2 (June, 2003): 193-261.

Fri 23 February, 10–13: Arendt

Teacher: Stefan Jonsson

Arendt, Hannah. *The Origins of Totalitarianism*. 3d ed. New York & London: Harcourt Brace Jovanovich 1973. (Part II: Imperialism)

Christopher J. Lee, "Locating Hannah Arendt within Postcolonial Thought: A Prospectus," *College Literature* 38, no. 1 (Winter 2011): 95–114.

Robert Gerwarth and Stephan Malinowski, "Hannah Arendt's Ghosts: Reflections on the Disputable Path from Windhoek to Auschwitz," *Central European History* 42, no. 2 (June 2009): 279–300

Monday 16 March, 13–16. Bourdieu

Teacher: Stefan Jonsson

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

Reed-Danahay, Deborah. "'Tristes Paysans': Bourdieu's Early Ethnography in Béarn and Kabylia." *Anthropological Quarterly* 77, no 1 (Winter 2004): 87–106.

Monday 13 April, 10–13. Butler

Teacher: Anna Bredström

Butler, Judith. *Gender Trouble: Feminism and the Subversion of Identity*. London: Routledge, 1990.

Rubin, Gayle. "Thinking Sex: Note for a Radical Theory of the Politics of Sexuality" (1984),

Munoz, José E. *Disidentifications: Queers of Color And The Performance Of Politics*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 1999. Selections.

Mon 4 May, 13–16. Said

Teacher: Catrin Lundström

Said, Edward W. *Orientalism*, New York: Pantheon Books, 1978.

Abu-Lughod, Leila. "Orientalism and Middle East Feminist Studies", *Feminist Studies*, 27: 1 (2001), 101-113.

Mohanty, Chandra Talpede. "Under Western eyes: Feminist scholarship and colonial discourses". *Feminist review*, 30 (1988), 61-88.

Mon 25 May, Tue 30 May, 10–13. Indigenous Studies

Teacher: Claudia Tazreiter

**Readings to be announced**

Mon 15 June, 10–13. Postcolonial and Decolonial Thought

Teacher: Stefan Jonsson

**Readings to be announced**