Class Description: Social Theory has changed. This course aims to pay close attention to everyday-life social theory and provide a grounding for students in often marginalized critical and multicultural social theories and a diversity of current debates. Accordingly, it juxtaposes the writings of official, unofficial, and ignored social theories and a wide variety of more recent works (from Wallerstein and Skocpol to Anzaldua and Trinh). We examine key post-colonial, post-structuralist, post-modernist, transnational, and multiculturalist feminist works, including critical race theoreticians. In the final section of the course, we attempt to deal with the question of resistance of people without power. This is a heavily theoretical course for Asian American/Ethnic Studies graduate students and other interested students.

Requirements/Grading: Class Participation and Oral Presentation(s) 40%
Analytical Essays 60%

Reading/Writing Assignments:
1) Class Participation: Students should come to class well prepared for the class discussion.
2) Weekly Discussion Questions: In order to facilitate quality discussion, students must prepare a set of questions and email them to all at least one day before our meeting.
3) Leading Discussion: organizing and leading discussion for one or two of our ten meetings.
4) Analytical Essays: Each Student will write two short analytical essays (6-8 pages; double spaced) on issues relevant to their research (due, February 12; March 19). Your essays will cover the readings and ideas that we have covered up until that point in the seminar and I expect that ideas covered in previous weeks will inform your critical dialogue with whichever text(s) you choose to engage in the papers.
The following books are required and available at ASUCLA.
They are also on reserve at YRL:


In addition to the above textbooks, the rest of readings will be posted on the class website.

**Schedule of Classes**

**Week 1: Introduction**
Discussion of Readings, Presentation Schedules, etc.
*Video, San Francisco State: on strike*

**Week 2: Theories of Modernity**
  Part One, Modernity's Classical Age: 1848-1919. 25-33
  The Spirit of modern Europe. 183-186

**Week 3: Critical Theory**
- Lukacs, Georg, *The Irrational Chasm between Subject and Object*. 224-226
- Horkheimer, Max, *Notes on Science and the Crisis*. 226-230
- Lenin, V.I., *What is to be Done?* 234-236
- Fromm, Erich, *Psychoanalysis and Sociology*. 241-243
- Marcuse, Herbert, *Repressive Desublimation*. 471-473
  Social Analysis and Communicative Competence. 416-417
• Benjamin, Walter, Art, War, and Fascism.  276-277

• Niebur, Reinhold, Moral Man and Immoral Society.  263-264
• Myrdal, Guntar, The Negro Problem as a Moral Issue.  265-267
• Thomas, William I. & Florian Znaniecki. Disorganization of the Polish Immigrant.  267-274
• Gandhi, Mohandas Karamchand, Nonviolent Force: A Spiritual Dilemma. 280-281
• Mao, Tse-tung, Identity, Struggle, Contradiction.  282-285

Week 4: Structuralism and Its Discontent
• Levi-Strauss, Claude, The Structural Study of Myth.  335-339
• Barthes, Roland, Semiological Prospects.  339-343
• Althusser, Louis, Why Theory? 344-347
• Lacan, Jacques, The Eccentric Self and the Discourse of the Other. 363-366
• Wallerstein, Immanuel, The Modern World-system.  426-432
• Skocpol, Theda, The State as a Janus-Faced Structure.  432-435
• De Beauvoir, Simone, Woman as Other. 367-370
• Friedan, Betty, The Problem that Has No Name.  387-390
• King, Martin Luther, Jr., The Power of Nonviolent Action.  373-378
• Students for a Democratic Society, Participatory Democracy, 383-386

Week 5: Post-Colonial Critiques
  Video, Edward Said (DVD) or
    Frantz Fanon: black skin, white mask
• Fanon, Frantz, Black Skin, White Masks
• Cesaire, Aime, Between Colonizer and Colonized.  370-372
• Thiong’o, Ngugi wa, The Language of African Literature.  435-455 (Colonial Discourse)
• Mohanty, Chandra Talpade. Under Western Eyes: Feminist Scholarship and Colonial Discourses. 196-220 (Colonial Discourse)

Week 6: Poststructuralist Thought and Alternatives
• Derrida, Jacques, The Decentering Event in Social Thought.  447-451
  Video, Derrida
  • Colin Gordon (ed.), Power/Knowledge: Selected Interviews & Other Writings 1972-1977 by Michel Foucault.

• Hartsock, Nancy, Foucault on Power: A Theory for Women?  544-554
• C.L. R. James, Black Power and Stokely.  456-465

**Week 7: Postmodern Debate**

• Huyssen, Andreas, Whither Postmodernism?  505-509
• Lyotard, Jean-Francois, The Postmodern Condition.  508-513
• Baudrillard, Jean, *Simulacra and Simulations: Disneyland*.  524-529

*Video, Play it again, Nam!: Scenes from the life of Andy Warhol*

**Week 8: Multiculturalism and the Cultural Left**

• Hall, Stuart, Cultural Studies and the New Left.  *Cultural Identity and Diaspora*.  392-403 (Colonial Discourse)

*Video, Stuart Hall: representation and the media*

• West, Cornel, The New Cultural Politics of Difference.  577-589
• Gates, Henry L., “Race” as the Trope of the World.  590-596
• Gilroy, Paul, Urban Social Movements, “Race,” and Community.  404-420 (Colonial Discourse)
• Mercer, Kobena, Black Hair/Style Politics.  *In Out There*, 247-264.
• Kandiyoti, Deniz, Identity and Its discontents: Women and the Nation.  376-391 (Colonial Discourse)
• LaClau Ernesto & Chantal Mouffe, Radical Democracy: Alternative for a New Left, 541-544

**Week 9: The New Mestiza Theory**

• Anzaldua, Gloria, *Borderlands/La Frontera: The New Mestiza*
• Rodríguez, Richard, Complexion. In Out There, 265-278
• Lorde, Audre, The Master’s Tools Will Never Dismantle the Master’s House. 485-487
• Haraway, Donna, The Cyborg Manifesto and Fractured Identities. 597-604
• Trinh T. Minh-ha, Infinite Layers/Third World? 604-609

Video: Surname viet given name nam (Trinh T. Min-ha)
• Spivak, Gayatri C., Can the Subalterns Speak? 610-614
• Collins, Patricia H., Black Feminist Thought in the Matrix of Domination. 615-626
• Allen, Paula G., Who is Your Mother? Red Roots of white Feminism. 648-656
• Butler, Judith, Imitation and Gender Insubordination. 637-648
• *Eng, Daivd with Judith Halberstam & Jose Esteban Munoz, What’s Queer about Queer Studies Now? Social Text 84-85, 23 (3-4): 1-17, 2005

Week 10: Resistance to Marginalization
• *Scott, James, Resistance without Protest and without Organization: Peasant Opposition to the Islamic Zakat and the Christian Tithe. Comparative Studies in Society and History 29 (3): 417-452
• Pulido, Laura, Black, Brown, Yellow, and Left: Radical Activism in Los Angeles.

*Article available on JSTOR or YRL online journals