

Ewa Domanska  
Spring 2004  
Research Seminar (graduate: 5 units)  
Wednesday, 6.15-9.05, 260-008

CASA 312A  
French and Italian 312 E  
Comparative Literature 312 A

## **EPISTEMOLOGIES OF THE PAST: SCIENCE, FEMINISM, PSYCHOANALYSIS**

### **Course description**

This course is a research seminar designed to help students work on papers for classes, theses and individual projects. Each student – sooner or later - must make his or her own choice of epistemology, choosing among and integrating approaches as seems appropriate for different questions, intellectual goals and fields of study. Thus this course will introduce various epistemologies utilized in the humanities and human sciences and stress an awareness of how to draw on and combine these approaches for analyzing students' own research materials.

We will concentrate on the epistemological debates and approaches that characterize contemporary humanities. Our central concerns here will be to identify the different theories of knowledge; to assess the strengths and weakness of the different approaches; to comprehend the reasons why humanists may employ different modes of inquiry; to understand the systematic implications that different theories of knowledge have for our scholarly agendas and investigatory processes; and to consider the possibilities for an interplay among and synthesis of the various epistemological perspectives in our actual conduct of inquiry. In doing so we will distinguish between two epistemological perspectives: those of the so-called "hard sciences" which stresses logical-causal explanation and is designed to provide predictive knowledge and a "soft science" epistemology, which stresses contextual and experiential understanding designed to provide an empathetic awareness or clarity. Core examples will include interpretivism, feminist standpoint theory and situated knowledges.

### **Course requirements**

Attendance is mandatory. Students who miss more than three meetings (except illness or others serious matters) will not be graded. Students are expected to read assigned readings carefully and participate in discussions. Participants will be expected to give homework and one class reports (this should be no more than a 10 minute summary of a reading and should raise some questions for class discussion after the summary). A 15-20 pages final paper is required. Its topic will be chosen by the student himself/herself and it should draw upon materials used in other courses the student may be taking. I expect each participant in the course to meet with me to discuss his/her project.

### **Course schedule**

#### **March 31**

##### **1. Introduction: overview of the course.**

#### **April 7 – no class**

#### **April 14**

##### **2. Explanation as the main task of science (covering-law model: Carl Hempel)**

Carl G. Hempel, *Philosophy of Natural Science*. Prentice Hall, 1966 (chapter 5 [and 6])

Carl G. Hempel, „The Function of General Laws in History” (1942), in: *The Philosophy of History*, edited by Patrick Gardiner. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1974.

Maurice Mandelbaum, “The Problem of ‘Covering Laws’”, in: *The Philosophy of History*.

Jerzy Topolski, Towards an integrated model of historical explanation. *History and Theory*, no 3, vol. 30, 1991.

Jerzy Kmita, *Problems in Historical Epistemology*, transl. by Michael Turner. Warsaw: PWN, 1982 (chapter 1: “Epistemological Condition as Historical Condition”)

#### **April 21**

##### **3. Paradigms and revolutions in science – Thomas S. Kuhn**

Thomas S. Kuhn, *The Structure of Scientific Revolutions*. University of Chicago Press, 1996 .

**April 28**

**4. Problem of verification of knowledge**

Karl Popper, *The Logic of Scientific Discovery*. Routledge, 2002 (5th edition)

**May 5**

**5. Feminist epistemologies (part I)**

Rosi Braidotti, "Feminist Philosophies", in: *A Concise Companion to Feminist Theory*, ed. by Mary Eagleton. Oxford: Blackwell, 2003.

Jane Duran, *Toward a Feminist Epistemology*. Savage, Md.: Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, 1991 (Introduction, chapter 3: "Feminist Theories", chapter 4: "Toward a Feminist Epistemology")

**May 12**

**6. Feminist epistemologies (part II)**

*Feminist Epistemologies*, edited by Linda Alcoff and Elizabeth Potter. New York and London: Routledge, 1993.

**May 14**

**7. Epistemological value of memory**

Pierre Nora, "The Reasons for the Current Upsurge in Memory," *Transit. Europaeische Revue*, no 22, 2002

Pierre Nora, "From Lieux de mémoire to Realms of Memory," in *Realms of Memory; Rethinking the French Past*, edited by Pierre Nora. Columbia University Press, 1992, pp.1-23.

Kerwin Lee Klein, "On the Emergence of Memory in Historical Discourse". *Representations*, no 69, Winter 2000.

Paul Ricoeur "Memory and Forgetting" in *Questioning Ethics. Debates in Contemporary Philosophy*, Richard Kearney and Mark Dooley (eds). London: Routledge, 1999.

**May 19 – special guest: Purnima Mankekar**

**8. Feminist epistemologies (part III)**

Sandra Harding, *Is Science Multicultural? Postcolonialism, Feminisms, and Epistemologies*. Indiana University Press, 1998.

Rajeshwari Sunder Rajan, *Real and Imagined Women: Gender, Culture and Postcolonialism*. Routledge, 1993 (Introduction).

**May 26**

**9. Psychoanalysis as Critical Theory (Melanie Klein)**

Melanie Klein, „Love, Hate and Reparation”, in Melanie Klein and Joan Riviere, *Love, Hate and Reparation*. New York and London: Norton,

Hanna Segal, „Art and Depressive Position”, in her, *Dream, Phantasy and Art*. London, New York: Routledge, 1991.

C. Fred Alford, *Melanie Klein and Critical Social Theory: An Account of Politics, Art, and Reason Based on Her Psychoanalytic Theory*. Yale University Press, 1989 (fragments)

R. D. Hinshelwood, *A Dictionary of Kleinian Thought*. London: Free Association Books, 1989.

**June 2– special guest: Hayden White**

**10. Epistemology and ideology (Michel Foucault)**

Michel Foucault, "Nietzsche, Genealogy, History", in his: *Language, Counter-Memory, Practice. Selected Essays and Interviews*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 1977.

Michel Foucault, "Seminar: 28 January 1976", in Michel Foucault, *Society Must Be Defended. Lectures at the Collège de France, 1975-1976*, transl. by David Macey. New York: Picador, 2003, pp. 65-85.

Michel Foucault, *Discipline and Punish: the Birth of the Prison*, transl. by Alan Sheridan. New York: Vintage Books, 1995 (fragments)

**June 9**

**11. Research as a play (D.W. Winnicott)**

D. W. Winnicott, *Playing and Reality*. London: Routledge, 1982.

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