M.A. Semster IV

Thematic Course PH: 415

(Reading A Philosopher: Jürgen Habermas)

Objective: *The course is intended to introduce the students to contemporary debates in the field of continental social and political philosophy as propounded by the German philosopher Jürgen Habermas.*

Credit I— Contextualizing Habermas within the European Philosophical Tradition

Kant: Enlightenment; Hegel and modernity; Marx: Historical materialism
Heidegger: National Socialism, German philosophy
Adorno: Marxism, critical theory; Habermas and Frankfurt School

Credit II— Critical Theory of society

What is critical theory? critical theory as a form of knowledge
Relation of philosophy and social theory, understanding and social enquiry, rationalization, technological reason, reason (*Vernunft*), understanding (*Verstand*),the emancipatory potential of critical theory

Credit III— Nature of Intersubjective Communication

Theory of Public Sphere, Episodic public sphere, Public opinion
Linguistic turn, communicative rationality, communicative action
Post-secular Society, Role of religion in public communication, The Habermas-Rawls debate

Credit IV— Selected Primary Readings

Knowledge and Human Interests, Three roots of communicative action, discourse ethics, normative content of modernity
(The topics of this chapter will be covered through selections from works written by Habermas)

Books/articles for Reference:

1. Arendt, Hannah, Seyla Benhabib, James Bohman, John Dewey, Jon Elster, Nancy Fraser, Jürgen Habermas et al. *The Idea of the Public Sphere: a reader*. Lexington Books, (2010).
2. Broman, Thomas. "The Habermasian Public Sphere and "Science in the enlightenment"." *History of science* 36, no. 2 (1998): 123-149.
3. Delahunty, Robert J., and John Yoo. "Kant, Habermas and Democratic Peace." *Chi. J. Int'l L.* 10 (2009): 437-473.
4. Dews, Peter. *Habermas: a critical reader*. Blackwell Publishers (1999).
5. Finlayson, James Gordon, and Fabian Freyenhagen, eds. *Habermas and Rawls: Disputing the political*. Routledge (2011).
6. Finlayson, James Gordon. *Habermas: A very short introduction*. Oxford University Press, (2005).
7. Geuss, Raymond. *The idea of a Critical Theory: Habermas and the Frankfurt School*. Cambridge University Press, (1981).
8. Habermas, Jürgen, and William Outhwaite. *The Habermas Reader*. Polity Press (1996).
9. Habermas, Jürgen, Sara Lennox, and Frank Lennox. "The Public Sphere: an encyclopedia article (1964)." *New German Critique* 3 (1974): 49-55.

10. Habermas, Jürgen. "Martin Heidegger: On the Publication of Lectures from the Year 1935." *Graduate Faculty Philosophy Journal* 6, no. 2 (1977): 155-180.
11. Habermas, Jürgen. "Notes on post-secular society." *New perspectives quarterly* 25, no. 4 (2008): 17-29.
12. Habermas, Jürgen. "Religion in the public sphere." *European Journal of Philosophy* 14, no. 1 (2006): 1-25.
13. Habermas, Jürgen. *Jürgen Habermas on Society and Politics: a reader*. Beacon Press, (1989).
14. Habermas, Jürgen. *On the Pragmatics of Communication*. MIT press, (2000).
15. Habermas, Jürgen. *The Divided West*. John Wiley & Sons, (2014).
16. Habermas, Jürgen. *The Philosophical Discourse of Modernity: twelve lectures*. John Wiley & Sons, 2018.
17. Held, David. *Introduction to Critical Theory: Horkheimer to Habermas*. Univ of California Press, 1980.
18. McCarthy, Thomas. *The Critical Theory of Jürgen Habermas*. MIT Press (1981).