

The Genealogies of Power in Critical Discourse from Early to Post-Modernity

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The aim of this course is to trace the theoretical lineage of a series of assumptions about power in western critical discourse, as well as the translation of that discourse into the paradigm of Japanese culture and history. The viability or suitability of that translation will be a central question of the course; an historical perspective on western discourses of power is a crucial starting point for our dialogue. In beginning the first semester with Machiavelli and Hobbes, we will examine modernity's founding gestures towards a cultural engagement with power and (il)legitimacy. The "genealogical" metaphor which underlies our methodology in the course will itself be interrogated in discussions of Marxism, Nietzsche, and Foucault. The first term will include the ramifications of these issues in Japanese critical theory. The second term will reflect student interests: possible topics include Said's orientalism, Wendy Brown's feminist critique of liberalism and identity politics, postmodernism's economy of violence and representation, fascism and Stalinism (including Barbara Spackman's understanding of fascist virilities), or any related issues. Student presentations will be scheduled at topical intervals throughout the year. Texts can be read in the original language, English, or Japanese translation. Where texts are scarce, photocopies will be provided; due to the length of most of the texts, excerpts will generally be assigned. Attendance should be regular; students will write a final paper at year's end.

First Semester Schedule (Tentative)

- 1st week: General introduction (Murakami/Wright)
- 2: Machiavelli, *The Prince* and excerpts from other works (Wright)
- 3: Hobbes, *Leviathan* (Wright)
- 4: Student Presentation
- 5: Mori Amane's *Public Laws of European Nations* and Kato Hiroyuki's *New Theory of Nations* (Murakami)
- 6: Student Presentation
- 7: Marx/Engels/Lenin (Murakami)
possible texts: Marx's *The German Ideology*, Engels's *The Origin of the Family, Private Property, and the State*, Lenin's *The State and Revolution*, and his writings on *Imperialism*
- 8: Gramsci, *The Modern Prince* and the *Letters from Prison* (Wright)
- 9: Student Presentation
- 10: Nietzsche, *The Genealogy of Morals* (Wright)
- 11: Foucault, *The History of Sexuality* and Nietzsche, *Genealogy, History* (Murakami)
- 12: Student Presentation
- 13: Conclusions/Term-end Party?