

WiSe 2016/17

Exploitation, Domination and Oppression (PS 51026)

Tuesday, 10-12, UL 6, Room 2014A

Contact

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Moodle password: *Power*

I. Outline

Oppression, exploitation and domination are concepts that are frequently used as tools for social critique. But what does it mean to be oppressed, exploited or dominated? What are the forces that create, perpetuate and reinforce oppression, exploitation or domination? Who are the agents that oppress, exploit or dominate? And who should be held responsible for ending oppression, exploitation or domination? In this course we will discuss these questions and explore the philosophical basis of these three concepts, taking into account their manifestations in both explicit and implicit policies, practices and behaviours. We will analyze different conceptions of oppression, exploitation, and domination respectively, differentiate the concepts from each other, and work out areas where they overlap. The readings for the course will in particular draw on work in feminist theory, critical race theory and Marxist theory.

II. Practical Issues

1. Teaching Arrangement

The class will take place every Tuesday from 10-12. For each week there are some core readings, which you are expected to read before the class. These readings will frame our in-class discussions. If you haven't done any preparatory work, we will have little to discuss and you will get little out of this seminar. The readings can be found on Moodle or on HU Primus. For each class there are also optional readings, which you are not expected to read but which might be helpful to provide some background.

TRIGGER WARNING: Given that we will be discussing topics that pertain to social injustice, some readings may contain examples that mention (though they don't use) expressions and descriptions of events that you may find disconcerting.

2. Credits (Studienpunkte)

BA Students Philosophy:

BA-Ordnung (2014):

- 3 SP for active participation
- 4 SP for a Hausarbeit with around 25,000 characters without blanks (= graded MAP)

Exemption for BA Students Philosophy/Ethics:

BA-Ordnung (2014), Module: Kernthemen Philosophie/Ethik II

- 3 SP for active participation
- 2 SP for a shorter MAP (15,000 characters without blanks) or 20 min. oral exam

3. Active Participation

Students must demonstrate active participation during the seminars. There are two ways in which this can be done:

Option 1: 10-15 min presentation on one of the core readings. I will provide questions for each text one week in advance that the presenter/s should answer in their presentation. A presentation can be done alone or in a group of up to three people.

Option 2: Critical response paper to one of the core readings. You are expected to choose a line of argument from one of the texts examined during this seminar, which you will (a) briefly summarise, and (b) critically discuss/evaluate. Please refer to the essay guide on Moodle to get an idea how you should/could proceed.

- **Deadline for submission:** 14.02.2017 (you should email your paper to Mirjam.mueller.1@hu-berlin.de in either PDF or Word).
- **Length:** The paper should be around 8000 characters without blanks (around 6 pages, 12 font, 1.5 spacing)
- The response paper will not be graded

4. MAP (Modul-Abschlussprüfung)

The structure and format of the graded work is roughly the same as the response papers: you should (a) summarise, outline and explain the claims/ arguments relevant for your chosen research question, and then (b) critically discuss/evaluate them. However, you are expected to do more in-depth work. You are expected to formulate the MAP question/ topic yourself. There will be a session to discuss your topic during the final week of term. The exact hand-in dates and submission procedures will be confirmed in Feb 2017. The deadline will probably be around the beginning of the summer term.

- **Deadline:** To be confirmed in February
- **Length:** 25.000 characters (without spacing). Format: 12p font, 1.5 spacing

III. Syllabus

18.10. Introduction and Outline

25.10. Understanding Oppression

- Ann, E. Cudd, 2006. *Analyzing Oppression, Chapter 1* (Oppression: The Fundamental Injustice of Social Institutions). *Available online at: Primus HU*

1.11. Oppression: Groups and Institutions

- Iris Marion Young, 1990: *Justice and the Politics of Difference*. Princeton University Press: Princeton and Oxford; chapter 2 (Five Faces of Oppression).

Optional:

- Ann E. Cudd: *Analyzing Oppression. 2. Chapter*

8.11. Structural Oppression: Racism and Sexism

- Sally Haslanger, 2004: *Oppressions: Racial and Other*, p. 97-123.

Optional:

- Marilyn Frye, 1983. *Oppression*, in: Marilyn Frye: *The Politics of Reality. Essays in Feminist Theory*, 1-16.

15.11. Epistemic Oppression

- Miranda Fricker, 1999. *Epistemic Oppression and Epistemic Privilege*. *Canadian Journal of Philosophy*. Vol. 29, pp. 191-210.

Optional:

- Kristie Dotson: *Conceptualizing Epistemic Oppression*. *Social Epistemology*. Vol. 28 (2), pp. 115-138.

22. 11. Oppression and Responsibility

- Carol Hay, 2011. *The Obligation to Resist Oppression*. *Journal of Social Philosophy*. Vol. 42 (1), pp. 21–45.

Optional:

- Bernard Boxill, 2010. Responsibility of the Oppressed to Resist. *Journal of Social Philosophy*. Vol. 41 (1), p. 1-12.
- Martin Luther King, 1958. Three ways of Meeting Oppression.

29.11 Liberal Perspectives on Exploitation

- Alan Wertheimer, 1999. *Exploitation*. Princeton University Press. Chapter 7.

Optional:

- Hillel Steiner, 1984. A Liberal Theory of Exploitation. *Ethics*, pp. 224-241.

06.12. Deontological Perspectives on Exploitation

- Ruth Sample, 2003. *Exploitation: What it is and Why it is Wrong*. Rowman & Littlefield. New York. *Chapter 3*.

Optional:

- Jeremy Snyder, 2008. Needs Exploitation. *Ethical Theory and Moral Practice*, Vol. 11 (4), pp. 389-405.

13.12 No Class

03.01. Marxist Perspectives on Exploitation

- Jeffrey Reiman, 1987. Exploitation, Force, and the Moral Assessment of Capitalism: Thoughts on Roemer and Cohen. *Philosophy & Public Affairs*, Vol. 16, No. 1, pp. 3-41.

10.01 Exploitation and Vulnerability

- Nicholas Vrousalis, 2013. *Exploitation Vulnerability and Social Domination*.

Optional:

- Robert Goodin, 1987. Exploitation a Situation and Exploiting a Person. In: Andrew Reeve (edt.), 1987. Sage Publications.

17.01 Republican Domination

- Philip Pettit, 1997. Republicanism. A Theory of Freedom and Government. Oxford University Press, Oxford. Chapter 2.

Optional:

- Philip Pettit, 2002. Keeping Republican Freedom Simple: On a Difference with Quentin Skinner. Political Theory, 30 (3), pp.339-356.

24.01 Structural Domination

- Alex Gourevitch, 2013. Labour Republicanism and Transformation of Work. Political Theory XX (X), p. 1-27.

31.01 Domination and Oppression

- Sharon Krause, 2013. Beyond non-domination: Agency, Inequality and the Meaning of Freedom. Philosophy and Social Criticism, Vol. 39 (2), pp. 187-208.

07.02. Non-domination and Autonomy

- Cecile Laborde, 2006. Female Autonomy, Education, and the Hijab. Critical Review of International Social and Political Philosophy, 9(3), pp. 351-377

14.2 Concluding Discussion and Essay Preparation