

Historical Studies at the School of Historical and Contemporary Studies at Södertörn University, Stockholm, announces the following PhD course to be taught from 2 October 2024 to 19 January 2025.

### **Political Discourse Theory in Cultural Analysis and Social Science 7,5 HP (ECTS)**

This course aims to provide an introduction to poststructuralist political discourse theory, and to provide participants with an opportunity to consider, discuss and implement a range of theoretical concepts and methodological tools in relation to their own research projects. The course introduces the ontological presuppositions and the epistemological as well as political implications of this approach and gives a thorough introduction to its key concepts and ideas. It will furthermore situate this particular research tradition within both a broader intellectual and philosophical history (Post-Kantian continental philosophy, hermeneutics, phenomenology, critical theory, structuralism) as well as in the broad and contemporary field of Discourse Studies. In so doing, it shall give graduate students an insight into current discussions about the break and continuation between Marxism and post-marxism, radical democracy and citizenship, political processes and identification, hegemony and populism, psychoanalytic categories relevant for social science and humanities research, and collective mobilisation and social change from a discourse theoretical perspective. An integral part of the course is to discuss the relevance of the theory to participants' research projects, and it will present some key methodological strategies for utilising it in qualitative empirical research. The course suits both PhD-students working on theoretical projects and those working on qualitative empirical ones.

Fundamentally, an overarching aim for the course is to understand political discourse theory not simply as an established and fixed perspective that may be applied in understanding social, cultural and historical phenomena, but as a living and lively intellectual tradition, which still today remains in a process of rearticulation and reconstruction.

The examination consists of active participation in seminars and workshops as well as written assignments.

#### *Who's teaching?*

Teachers: Maria Broch (psychosocial studies and media studies), David Payne (political philosophy), and Jenny Gunnarsson Payne (ethnology)

This year, the teachers also aim to organise 2-4 open online seminars with invited international guests active within the field of political discourse theory in relation to the course. Names on guests will be announced nearer the start of the course. These seminars will be integrated into the schedule.

### *When?*

The course will be held at a part-time pace during period 2, 3 and 4 (2 October-19 January, autumn semester 2024). You can find a detailed preliminary schedule below.

### *Where?*

The course is offered by the school of Historical and Contemporary Studies at Södertörn University. Teaching will mainly take place onsite on Södertörn University campus, although invited guest lectures and occasionally other parts of the course may be held digitally.

### *Who can sign up?*

The course is open to any PhD-student interested in political discourse theory. Some background knowledge in constructivist approaches to humanities and social science research is strongly recommended. PhD-students at Södertörn University will have priority, as will PhD-students admitted to the national research school Future of Democracy: Cultural Analyses of Illiberal Populism (FUDEM), but we are more than happy to admit participants from other universities too. We may admit up to 20 participants.

### *How do I sign up?*

You apply to the course by emailing [hssadmin@sh.se](mailto:hssadmin@sh.se) before 15 September 2024.

For any further questions you may contact [jenny.gunnarsson.payne@sh.se](mailto:jenny.gunnarsson.payne@sh.se).

## Preliminary schedule, autumn term 2024.

The course will run through periods 2 to 4, i.e. from: 2 October to 14 January. See schedule overview below (beware that it is preliminary and might be subjected to minor changes)<sup>1</sup>

Please note: We plan to add 2-3 *voluntary* online sessions with invited international guest lecturers. These will be free-standing and should be understood as an added bonus! The dates and times will depend on availability of the speakers. Dates will be revealed as soon as they are confirmed.

Date	Day	Time	Place	Teachers	Activity
Week 40	Reading week, individual preparations,				Individual preparatory readings, publish presentations on learning platform
Week 41 8 October		9-10	TBC	DP, JGP, (MB if possible, on Zoom)	<i>Course introduction and welcome</i>
8 October		10-12	TBC	DP	<i>Lecture:</i> “Theory, Discourse, Politics: Political Discourse Theory in Formation”
WEEK 42 15 October	Tuesday	10-12	TBC	DP	<i>Seminar:</i> “Post-Marxism and/or Post-Marxism? Evaluating the signs of their times in light of our own times”
Week 43 22 October 10-12	Tuesday	10-12	TBC	DP	<i>Lecture:</i> “On Antagonism and Agonism: rethinking the bases of social conflict and political contestation’

---

<sup>1</sup> Any possible changes will be minor and will be done in dialogue with the participants.

Week 44 31 October	Thursday	10-12	TBC	JGP	<i>Presentation and group discussion:</i>  "Bodily materiality and a material understanding of discourse"
Week 45 7 November	Thursday	10-12		JGP/DP	<i>Lecture:</i> "Populism and the People in Discourse Theory"
Week 46 14 November	Thursday	10-12	TBC	MB	<i>Lecture:</i> "Psychoanalytic key concepts in discourse theory: Identification, affect, and fantasy"
Week 47 21 November	Thursday	10-12	TBC	MB	<i>Seminar:</i> "Psychoanalysis and discourse theory"
Week 48 26 November	Tuesday	10-12	TBC	JGP	<i>Lecture:</i> "Methodological approaches: From the method of articulation to the logics approach"
Week 49 4 December	Wednesday	10-12	TBC	JGP	<i>Seminar:</i> "Applying PDT"
Week 51 16 December .	Monday	10-15 (prelim)	TBC	JGP & DP & MB	<i>Examination workshop</i>  <b><i>Read and comment on each other's outlines or first drafts</i></b>
14 January		17.00	--	Submit in Canvas	<u>Deadline, final essay</u>

## Readings, *Political Discourse Theory in Cultural Analysis and Social Science* (7,5 ECTS)

- Brock, Maria. 2016. Reading Formations of Subjectivity: From Discourse to Psyche. *Social and Personality Psychology Compass*, 10: 125–135. doi: 10.1111/spc3.12241. (10 p.)
- Brock, Maria & Gunnarsson Payne, Jenny. 2023. “That’s disgusting!’: Shifting politics of affect in right-wing populist mobilisation.’ In Stagnell, A. et al (Ed.): *Populism and the People in Contemporary Critical Thought*, London: Bloomsbury (15 p.)
- Brown, Wendy. 2021. Foreword, in: *Seven Essays on Populism* (Biglieri, Paula & Cadahia, Luciana). Polity Press. (9 p.)
- De Cleen, Benjamin & Stavrakakis, Yannis. 2017. Distinctions and Articulations: A Discourse Theoretical Framework for the Study of Populism and Nationalism, *Javnost - The Public*, 24:4, 301-319. (18 p.)
- Geras, Norman 1987. Post-Marxism? *New Left Review*, 163(1). May/June: 40-82 (40 p. Note: read this text for an overview of Geras’ critique of Laclau and Mouffe only)
- Glynos, Jason. 2012. Body, Discourse, and the Turn to Matter, in: *Language, Ideology, and the Human*. London & New York: Routledge. Version available here: <https://core.ac.uk/download/pdf/9589905.pdf> (20 p.)
- Glynos, Jason and Howarth, David, 2008. 'Critical Explanation in Social Science: A Logics Approach.' *Swiss Journal of Sociology*, 34 (1). pp. 5-35 (30 p.)
- Glynos, Jason & Stavrakakis, Yannis 2008. Lacan and Political Subjectivity: Fantasy and Enjoyment in Psychoanalysis and Political Theory, *Subjectivities*, 24: 256-274 (18 p.)
- Glynos, Jason., & Stavrakakis, Yannis. 2010. Politics and the unconscious - An interview with Ernesto Laclau. *Subjectivity*, 3(3), 231-244. (13 p.)
- Gunnarsson Payne, Jenny. 2019. Challenging Gender Ideology: (Anti-)gender Politics in Europe’s Populist Moment, *The New Pretender*. Available: <http://new-pretender.com/2019/02/10/challenging-gender-ideology-anti-gender-politics-in-europes-populist-moment-jenny-gunnarsson-payne/> (equivalent to 3 p.)
- Gunnarsson Payne, Jenny. 2022. ‘Le corps propre’? On the specific materiality of the body with respect to an ‘Improper politics’, *Contemporary Political Theory* (2022) 21. Pp. 462-466. (<https://doi.org/10.1057/s41296-021-00473-1>) (4 p.)
- Gunnarsson Payne, Jenny. (forthcoming) “A Massive Field of Action”: Feminist anti-essentialism and political discourse theory. (Will be distributed by author.) (15 p.)
- Howarth, David 2000. *Discourse*. Buckingham & Philadelphia: Open University Press, pp. 126-142. (16 p.)
- Howarth, David, 2005. Applying Discourse Theory, in *Discourse Theory in European Politics* (Howarth, Torfing eds.). Basingstoke: Palgrave MacMillan, pp. 316-345 (29 p.)

Laclau, Ernesto & Mouffe, Chantal, 1985. *Hegemony and Socialist Strategy*, London & New York: Verso. (Preface, Introduction and Chapter 3). (app. 70 p.)

Laclau, Ernesto & Mouffe, Chantal 1987. Post-Marxism without Apologies, *New Left Review*, 166(1), Nov/Dec 1987, pp. 79-106 (27 p.)

Laclau, Ernesto, 1990. *New Reflections on the Revolution of our Time*, London Verso. Selected passages (maximum 50 pages).

Laclau, Ernesto 1991. Memorandum. Intellectual Strategies; Memorandum to PhD Students in the IDA Programme, Essex University. (Unpublished version, to be distributed by teachers.) (1 p.)

Laclau, Ernesto, 2005. *On Populist Reason*. London: Verso. (Chapters 1 to 4) (160 pages).

Laclau, Ernesto, 2015. Discourse, *Ernesto Laclau: Post-Marxism, Populism and Critique*, edited by David Howarth. London: Routledge. Pp 23-29. (6 p.)

Laclau, Ernesto, 2016. 'Antagonism, Subjectivity and Politics', in *The Rhetorical Foundations of Society*. London: Verso. (14 p.)

Marchart, Oliver, 2018. *Thinking Antagonism: Political Ontology after Laclau*. Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press. (selected pages, max 50 p.)

Mouffe, Chantal, 2000. *The Democratic Paradox*. London: Verso. Chapters 4 and 5. (48 p.)

Mouffe, Chantal, 2018. *For a Left Populism*. London: Verso. (100 pages).

Scott, Joan W. 2001. Fantasy Echo: History and the Construction of Identity. *Critical Inquiry*, 27(2), 284–304 (20 p.).

Smith, Anna Marie. 1998. *Laclau and Mouffe: The Radical Democratic Imaginary*. London: Routledge. Chapter 3. (32 p.)

**818 pages**

In addition, a list of articles of both older and more recently published applied discourse theoretical studies will be provided for participants to choose from, for inspiration for their own empirical projects.

**Total number of pages with the optional articles (3-4 texts each) will be around 900 pages**

Readings for the voluntary and yet unconfirmed guest lectures will be confirmed and distributed nearer the time.