The Political Philosophy of Jürgen Habermas
POL 460/2006
Thursday 2-4
Larkin 213

Professor Simone Chambers
schamber@chass.utoronto.ca

Larkin 206
Tel: 416-946-3635
Office hours: Wednesday 10-12, or by appointment

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Jürgen Habermas is arguable one of the most important political and social philosopher of the 20th century. His corpus is huge, his writing style extremely difficult. This course will introduce students to Habermas but it is not an introductory course. In this course we will methodically work through his most important arguments and reconstruct his philosophy piece by piece. Habermas has contributed to many different fields of thought: linguistics, law, moral philosophy, sociology, religious studies, art theory and aesthetics, communications, philosophy of science, social science methodology, international relations, and these do not exhaust the list. Despite the breadth of his interests, Habermas works with a central paradigm that goes with him wherever his interests and research take him. He is the quintessential hedgehog. So we will begin the course with getting a handle on the central theoretical paradigm that informs all his work: communicative action theory. For this reason we begin about ¼ of the way into his career at the linguistic and communicative turn in his thought.

REQUIREMENTS

Undergraduates
Participation   15%

Take home exam
Due **February 6**   25%

5,000 words term paper
Due **April 11**   60%

MA students

Participation	15%
Take home exam Due **February 6**	25%
Research paper 7,500-8,000 words Due **April 11**	60%

PhD students
Research paper 10,000 words Due Date: **Negotiable**	100%

Strict word limit will be enforced

READINGS
The following books have been ordered at the University of Toronto Book Store. Most other readings will be available on line or on Blackboard.

Jürgen Habermas, *The Theory of Communicative Action, Vol. I.* Boston: Beacon
        Press. 1981.
Jürgen Habermas, *The Theory of Communicative Action, Vol. II.* Boston: Beacon
        Press. 1987.
Jürgen Habermas, *Between Facts and Norms*. Cambridge: MIT Press. 1996

We are reading about 50% of each of these volumes maybe even a little less. So
        borrowing and copying is an option. They are also easily available in
        second hand book stores.

COURSE OUTLINE

1. **January 9:** Introduction.

    • Introductory stuff

2. **January 16: Universal Pragmatics**

    • JH, "What is Universal Pragmatics." *Communication and the
       Evolution of Society*. 1979: 1-68. [Blackboard]

       Recommended Further Reading (RFR)

3. **January 23: Rationalization**

- JH, *The Theory of Communicative Action, Vol. I.* Chapter 1.

RFR

4. **January 30: Communicative versus Strategic Action**

- JH, *The Theory of Communicative Action, Vol. I.*
  Chapter 3
- JH, "Actions, Speech Acts, Linguistically Mediated Interactions, and the Lifeworld." *On the Pragmatics of Communication*. Cambridge: MIT Press, 1998. 215-253. [Blackboard]

  RFR

5. **February 6: System/Lifeworld/Colonization**

- *The Theory of Communicative Action, Vol. II*
  Chapter 5, sect. 3: pp. 77-111; chapter 6; chapter 8, sects 2&3: pp. 332-405.

  RFR

6. **February 13: Postmetaphysical Thinking**

- "An Alternative Way out of the Philosophy of the Subject: Communicative versus Subject-centered Reason." *The Philosophical Discourse of Modernity*. Cambridge: MIT Press. 1987: 294-326. [Blackboard]
- "The Normative Content of Modernity." *The Philosophical Discourse of Modernity.* Cambridge: MIT Press. 1987: 336-367.[Blackboard]
- "The Unity of Reason in the Diversity of its Voices." *Postmetaphysical Thinking.* Cambridge: MIT Press. 1992: 115-148.[Blackboard]
- "Themes in Postmetaphysical Thinking." *Postmetaphysical Thinking.* Cambridge: MIT Press. 1992: 28-56. [Blackboard]

  RFR

FEBRUARY 17-21: READING WEEK

7. **February 27: Discourse Ethics**

- "Discourse Ethics: Notes on a Program of Justification." *Moral Consciousness and Communicative Action*. Cambridge: MIT Press. 1990: 43-115. [Blackboard]
- "On the Pragmatic, the Ethical, and the Moral Employments of Practical Reason. *Justification and Application*. Cambridge: MIT Press. 1993: 1-18.[Blackboard]

  RFR

8. **March 6: Law, Morality, and the State**

- *Between Facts and Norms*. Cambridge: MIT Press. 1996. Chapter 1, 3 &4.

  RFR

9. **March 13: Deliberative Democracy**

- *Between Facts and Norms*. Cambridge: MIT Press. 1996. Chapter 7: pp. 287-328; chapter 8: pp. 352-387; Chapter 9: pp.427-446.
- JH, "Three Normative Models of Democracy," *Constellations* 1(1994)1: 1-10.
- JH, "Political Communication and Media Society: Does Democracy still Enjoy an Epistemic Dimension? The Impact of Normative Theory on Empirical Research," *Communication Theory* 16 (2006):411-426.

  RFR

10. **March 20: Human Rights and Cosmopolitanism**

- **"**The Concept of Human Dignity and the Realistic Utopian of Human Rights**."** *The Crisis of the European* Union. Polity 2012: 71-100.[Blackboard]
- **"**Kant's Idea of Perpetual Peace: At Two Hundred Years' Historical Remove." *Inclusion of the Other.* Cambridge MIT Press. 2001: 165-202. [Blackboard]

RFR

11. March 27: Religion

- "Awareness of What is Missing" in *An Awareness of What is Missing: Faith and Reason in a Post-Secular Age*. 15-23. [Blackboard]
- "Faith and Knowledge" in *The Future of Human Nature*, *Polity*, pp. 101-115. [Blackboard]
- "Religion and the Public Sphere: Cognitive Presuppositions for the 'Public Use of Reason'" in *Between Naturalism and Religion.* 114-148. [Blackboard]

RFR

12. April 3: Religion continued

TBA