**FAU- Institut für Soziologie**

**Soz Qf1/ Soz Qf3**

**Winter Term 2014/2015**

**General Information:**

When and where? Wednesdays, 10:15 – 11:45 p.m., Room 5.013 (Kochstraße 4)

Lecturer: Yasemin Yilmaz, M.A.

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Office: by arrangement

**Aim and Content:**

Throughout the development of sociological theory, there is one concept that prevails: social processes and ‘culture’ are interwoven and form a complex union. Depending on further premises and research interests, there are two different approaches in sociology to investigate those interdependencies:  the sociology of culture, on the one hand, often attempts to explain cultural phenomena as a product of social processes, while on the other hand cultural sociology sees culture as a component of explanations of social phenomena.

Within the scope of this introductory seminar, however, we will focus on a third possibility in analysing the link between social and cultural phenomena, i.e. Cultural Studies.

Cultural Studies emerged predominantly in the academic field of British literary and critical theory in the 1960s. Since it is not a unified theory, it therefore enables a diverse field of study including many different approaches, methods and academic perspectives. Despite this vast field of research, Cultural Studies focuses on the cultural analysis of daily life in various societies (abroad and at home) and its construction. It concentrates on how meaning relates to ideology, social, class, power relations (e.g. hegemony), nationality, ethnicity and gender within a given culture and society, respectively its institutions. For this very reason Cultural Studies combines insights of feminist theory, social, theory, political theory, history, philosophy, literary theory, media theory, communication studies and art criticism.

After an introduction to the history and main principles of Cultural Studies, this course will reflect on its advantages and disadvantages as compared to established sociological perspectives. For this, we will turn an eye to examples of research and difficulties in analysing culture within the framework of sociology and comparative analysis.

**Requirements (former regulations):**

* Participation in class
* One presentation of current texts, focusing on main thesis and discussion
* 3 written assignments (3-4 pages); see course schedule for deadlines

**OR** one seminar paper (12-15 pages), handed in until 31st March 2015

**Preliminary Course Schedule**

**1st session: 08/10/2014**

First meeting; rough overview; organisational matters

**A. Introduction**

**2nd session: 15/10/2014** – **What does *Culture* mean?**

Geertz, Clifford*: Thick Description*

*Optional reading:* Mukherjee, Ankhi*: What is a classic?*

**3rd session: 22/10/2014 – Sociology and *cultural turn***

Jeffrey Alexander*: The Oxford Handbook of Cultural Sociology*

**4th session: 29/10/2014 – British Cultural Studies**

Turner, Greame*: British Cultural Studies*

Johnson, Richard*: The Practice of Cultural Studies*

**5th session: 05/11/2014 – The Importance of Semiotics**

Hall, Stuart*: Representation and Signifying Practices*

*Further information on texts concerning parts B to D will be given with revised schedule*

**B. The “pillars“ of Cultural Studies**

**6th session: 12/11/2014 – The world is text**

* ***Opportunity to hand in your assignments for part A!***

De Certeau, Michel: The Practice of Everyday Life

**7th Sitzung: 19/11/2014 – Power Relations and Hegemony**

Adamson, Walter: *Hegemony and Revolution*

Gray, Herman in *Media and Cultural Studies: keyworks*

**8th Sitzung: 26/11/2014 – Identity and the Construction of Otherness**

Hall, Stuart. “The Spectacle of the Other.” *Representation and Signifying Practices*

**C. Analysing daily life I: Myth and Identity**

**9th session: 03/12/2014 – Myths in a world of signs**

* ***Opportunity to hand in your assignments for part B!***

Barthes, Roland: *Mythologies*

**10th session: 10/12/2014 – Post-Colonial Identity**

Said, Edward: *Orientalism: Conceptions of the Orient*

**11th session: 17/12/2014 – Gender and Masculinity**

*Tba*

**D. Analysing daily life II: Society and Critique**

**12th session: 14/01/2015 – Ideology**

* ***Opportunity to hand in your assignments for part C!***

Althusser, Louis: *On Ideology*

Zizek, Slavoj: *Mapping Ideology*

**13th session: 21/01/2015** **– Production and Consumerism**

tba

**14th session: 28/01/2015 – Popular Culture and Fandom**

* ***Assignments for part D may be handed in by 28th February 2015!***

*tba*