



## Ideology Critique in Critical Theory

Wednesdays, 16–18h, R 205 (Breisacher Tor), Rempartstr. 4

Fridays, 12–14h, Universitätsstr. 5, R 1

*Syllabus as of 08 May 2022*

“Ideology” is as central a concept in critical theory as it is contested. In many critical theories, it has been and still is a key concept because they understand themselves as practicing ideology critique. The debate about “ideology” therefore provides a keyhole through which we can understand the development of critical theories in general, as well as their fierce disagreement over conceptions of critique.

We begin with easy questions that are hard to answer: Is ideology like bad bread, namely something that only the other person has (Terry Eagleton), or are we all imprisoned in some ideology? Would there still be ideologies in a just society, whether we understand this as a classless or a well-ordered society? Is “ideology” an inherently paternalistic concept because ideology critique positions the critic beyond an “epistemological break” that separates her from those still enthralled by ideology?

In the seminar, we will investigate these and other questions by discussing texts on “ideology” and “ideology critique” from Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels via Theodor W. Adorno and Max Horkheimer to Rahel Jaeggi and Sally Haslanger. Yet the seminar is not limited to Frankfurt School critical theory: we will also look at the powerful intervention by Louis Althusser in the 1970s or the criticisms levelled against the concept of “ideology” by Michel Foucault, to name but two important contributions that continue to shape the current debate on “ideology.”

### Preparatory Reading

Eagleton, Terry (1991): *Ideology. An Introduction*. London/New York: Verso.

Žižek, Slavoj (ed.) (1994): *Mapping Ideology*. London/New York: Verso.

### Requirements

*Graded Exam*: You need to hand in two written assignments during the course.

- (a) *Assignment I (15%, due 17 June 2022)*: Write down how you understand “ideology” so far and outline one or two questions or problems connected to your understanding that you would like to pursue in your essay. Provide three or four sources that you think would help you with the question and annotate them shortly with two sentences, summarizing them and saying why they are useful for you (500-1,000 words including the sources).
- (b) *Assignment II (85%, due 20 July 2022)*: Write an essay on one of the problems/questions that you identified in your first assignment. Please hand in an electronic copy and a hard-copy (2,000-3,000 words). — *Resit Date*: 12th October 2022.

*Pass/Fail Exam*: Each student must give a short presentation (10min max!) of the core text (or texts if there are more than one) in one session. This short presentation is intended to open up the discussion in class and should answer three questions:

- (a) What is the main argument in the text? How can we express its main thesis?
- (b) How does the argument work?
- (c) Where do you see problems? Identify where you find an argument hard to understand or why you think an argument is inconclusive.

Please be aware that you should reconstruct the argument and not just recall the text. Since you will not have time to include every detail, you must decide what is important and what is not. It is far better if we discover in the discussion that we do need some of the left-out passages than if you try to cramp everything into the presentation.

*All core texts will be made available via ILIAS.*

## Sessions

#	Date	Topic	Core Text	Further Reading (optional)
1	27.04.2022	Overview		
2	29.04.2022	Intro	Please bring to the session what you think is an example of an ideological statement or picture.	Eagleton, Terry (1991): <i>Ideology. An Introduction</i> . London/New York: Verso, 1–31.
3	04.05.2022	Marx/Engels	Marx, Karl and Friedrich Engels (1975): <i>The German Ideology</i> . In: <i>Marx Engels Collected Works</i> , vol. 5. London: Lawrence & Wishart, 23–41.	Marx, Karl and Friedrich Engels (1978): Manifesto of the Communist Party. In: idem., <i>The Marx-Engels Reader</i> . Ed. by Robert C. Tucker. New York: W. W. Norton & Company, Inc., 496–500.
4	06.05.2022	Marx/Engels	Marx, Karl and Friedrich Engels (1975): <i>The German Ideology</i> . In: <i>Marx Engels Collected Works</i> , vol. 5. London: Lawrence & Wishart, 41–64.	Geuss, Raymond (1981): <i>The Idea of a Critical Theory. Habermas and the Frankfurt School</i> . Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1–44.
5	11.05.2022	Marxism	Eagleton, Terry (1991): <i>Ideology. An Introduction</i> . London/New York: Verso, 70–91.	Ng, Karen (2015): Ideology Critique from Hegel and Marx to Critical Theory. In: <i>Constellations</i> 22 (3), 393–404.
6	13.05.2022	Marxism	Discussion/Open Session	
7	18.05.2022	Mannheim	Mannheim, Karl (1979 [1929]): <i>Ideology and Utopia. An Introduction to the Sociology of Knowledge</i> . Translated by Louis Wirth and Edward Shils. London/Henley: Routledge & Kegan Paul, 49–74.	Merton, Robert King (1968): Karl Mannheim and the Sociology of Knowledge. In: idem., <i>Social Theory and Social Structure</i> . New York, NY: The Free Press.
8	20.05.2022	Mannheim	Mannheim, Karl (1979 [1929]): <i>Ideology and Utopia. An Introduction to the Sociology of Knowledge</i> . Translated by Louis Wirth and Edward Shils. London/Henley: Routledge & Kegan Paul, 74–96.	Merton, Robert King (1968): Karl Mannheim and the Sociology of Knowledge. In: idem., <i>Social Theory and Social Structure</i> . New York, NY: The Free Press.
9	25.05.2022	Mannheim/Horkheimer	Horkheimer, Max (1993 [1930]): A New Concept of Ideology? In: idem., <i>Between Philosophy and Social Science. Selected Early Writings</i> . Cambridge, MA/London: MIT Press, 129–151.	Benhabib, Seyla (1986): <i>Critique, Norm, and Utopia: A Study of the Foundations of Critical Theory</i> . New York: Columbia University Press, Chapter 4.
	27.05.2022	No Class Meeting		
10	01.06.2022	Frankfurt School Critical Theory	Horkheimer, Max (2002 [1937]): Traditional and Critical Theory. In: idem., <i>Critical Theory. Selected Essays</i> . New York: The Continuum Publishing Company, 188–243. <b>In this session: pp. 188–221.</b>	Abromeit, John (2018): Max Horkheimer and the Early Model of Critical Theory. In: Beverley Best, Werner Bonefeld and Chris O’Kane (eds.), <i>Handbook of Frankfurt School Critical Theory, vol. I</i> . London etc.: SAGE, 19–38.
11	03.06.2022	Frankfurt School Critical Theory	Horkheimer, Max (2002 [1937]): Traditional and Critical Theory. In: idem., <i>Critical Theory. Selected Essays</i> . New York: The Continuum	Honneth, Axel (1993): Max Horkheimer and the Sociological Deficit of Critical Theory. In: Seyla

#	Date	Topic	Core Text	Further Reading (optional)
			Publishing Company, 188–243. <b>In this session: pp. 221–243.</b>	Benhabib (ed.), <i>On Max Horkheimer. New Perspectives</i> . Cambridge, Mass.: MIT Press, 187–214.
12	08.06.2022		<b>PENTECOST BREAK – NO CLASS</b>	
13	15.06.2022		Adorno, Theodor W. (1973): Ideology. In: Frankfurt Institute for Social Research (ed.), <i>Aspects of Sociology</i> . Boston: Beacon Press, 182–205.	Cook, Deborah (2001): Adorno, Ideology and Ideology Critique. In: <i>Philosophy &amp; Social Criticism</i> 27 (1), 1–20.
	17.06.2022	<b>No Class Meeting</b>	<i>Assignment I</i> : Please hand in the first assignment.	
14	22.06.2022		Discussion of Assignment I.	
15	25.06.2022	Frankfurt School Critical Theory	Adorno, Theodor W. (2020): <i>Aspects of the New Right-Wing Extremism</i> . Translated by Wieland Hoban. Cambridge: Polity.	Marcuse, Herbert (2007 [1964]): <i>One-Dimensional Man. Studies in the Ideology of Advanced Industrial Society</i> . London/New York: Routledge.
16	29.06.2022	Post-Structuralism	Althusser, Louis (1971): Ideology and Ideological State Apparatuses (Notes towards an Investigation). In: idem., <i>Lenin and Philosophy and other Essays</i> . New York/London: Monthly Review Press, 127–157.	Rancière, Jacques (1977): On the Theory of Ideology. The Politics of Althusser. In: <i>Radical Philosophy</i> 7, 2–15.
17	01.07.2022	Post-Structuralism	Althusser, Louis (1971): Ideology and Ideological State Apparatuses (Notes towards an Investigation). In: idem., <i>Lenin and Philosophy and other Essays</i> . New York/London: Monthly Review Press, 158–186	Balibar, Étienne (2015): Althusser's Dramaturgy and the Critique of Ideology. In: <i>differences</i> 26 (3), 1–22.
18	06.07.2022	<b>No Class Meeting</b>	Reading Week	
19	09.07.2022	<b>No Class Meeting</b>	Reading Week	
20	13.07.2022	Post-Structuralism	Foucault, Michel (2010 [1969]): The Discourse on Language. In: <i>ibid., The Archaeology of Knowledge and The Discourse on Language</i> . New York: Vintage Books, 215–237.	Canguilhem, Georges (1981): What is Scientific Ideology? With an Introduction by Mike Shortland. In: <i>Radical Philosophy</i> 29.
21	15.07.2022	The New Ideology Critique	Jaeggi, Rahel (2009): Rethinking Ideology. In: Boudewijn de Bruin and Christopher F. Zurn (eds.), <i>New Waves in Political Philosophy</i> . Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan, 63–86.	Celikates, Robin (2006): From Critical Social Theory to a Social Theory of Critique: On the Critique of Ideology after the Pragmatic Turn. In: <i>Constellations</i> 13 (1), 21–40.
22	20.07.2022		<i>Assignment II</i> : Please hand in your essay.	
23	22.07.2022	The New Ideology Critique	Rosen, Michael (2000): On Voluntary Servitude and the Theory of Ideology. In: <i>Constellations</i> 7 (3), 393–407.	Rosen, Michael (1996): <i>On Voluntary Servitude: False Consciousness and the Theory of Ideology</i> . Cambridge: Polity Press.

#	Date	Topic	Core Text	Further Reading (optional)
24	27.07.2022	The New Ideology Critique	Finlayson, Lorna (2015): On Mountains and Molehills: Problems, Non-problems, and the Ideology of Ideology. In: <i>Constellations</i> 22 (1), 135–146.	Johnson, Pauline (2020): Critique as ideology critique in a neoliberal age. In: <i>Philosophy &amp; Social Criticism</i> 46 (7), 810-828.
25	29.07.2022		Open Session/Final Discussion	