

Anthropology of modes of social regulation

The course aims at analyzing issues related to social conflict, the use of the Law and State Apparatuses and the use of physical or symbolic strength. Distanced analysis is an appropriate knowledge technique, even though the current situation (since last term) has brought an unprecedented regression that threatens the very existence and the meaning of generations of alumni, teachers and incoming students. The course deals with urgent questions falling upon the dominated – including intellectuals, who can be seen as dominated within the dominants -, and the dominated in the wider social field. It aims at gathering knowledge - through chosen texts and guest lecturers – on the State, different societies and the origins of modern social politics. It also focuses upon groups or agents interested in social regulations as necessary to diminish or get some kind of control over the unpredictable consequences of the capitalistic productions of goods, services and knowledge, resulting from the growing commoditization of all spheres of social life. Amongst these agents are the political representatives of the interests of dominant classes who confront the challenges laid down by the subaltern classes; but mostly, the bureaucratic apparatus which, to a certain extent, is autonomous with regards to economically dominant groups. This apparatus is relatively able to use previously created social knowledge for new practical purposes. This apparatus also values the role of intellectuals who produce the appropriate knowledge required by the bureaucracy politics of social regulations. The course also includes the study of social movements in the playing of social politics. The first five classes will discuss the readings of the bibliography. Next, various guest lecturers will give papers on their work. The following authors will be included in the first section: Pierre Bourdieu, Max Weber, Marc Abelès, Max Gluckman, Charles Tilly, Norbert Elias, Theda Skocpol, Peter Evans, Phillip Abrams, James Scott, and other. A specific bibliography will be provided for each class of the second section.

Since this course will be held together with the research project “Crossed movements and specific histories of rural workers. Comparative analysis of the strike cycles initiated by metallurgical workers of São Paulo, the ABC paulista and by sugar cane workers of Pernambuco at the end of the 1970’s (Memories Social-Conflicts - CAPES), coordinated by the course teacher, guest lecturers will be called to discuss research topics related to the project, including the following: (a) current growth of neo-pentecostalist churches amongst the popular classes; (b) comparing urban and rural workers’ union histories (c) rural workers’ union movements and central unions in the 1980’s; (d) generations of metallurgical union leaders in the ABC paulista; (e) labor conflicts and justice yesterday and today; (f) visual anthropology and the urban and rural workers; (g) rural and urban property, land concentration and foreign owners; (h) conflicts resulting from mining; (i) retirement; (j) intellectual publics and the defense of democracy.