**Pragmatism, Action & Criticism**

**Spring 2012**

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Pick 423

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This course will examine some core texts that either develop, extend or use a pragmatism informed theory of social action. The texts in the beginning of the course will be highly theoretical, while those toward the end will focus more on middle range applications, in particular in the areas of democratic policy making, recomposing the welfare state and multinational corporate strategic expansion as a learning process. The interest while reading will be on understanding how to conceptualize processual social action that is capable of reflection, creativity and criticism.

Students will be required to form two groups, and one of those two groups will present the reading for each week. Each group should be able to do four presentations for the quarter. The presentations should not be summaries. Instead, they should be short critical examinations of the texts that suggest a small number of key topics for class discussion. No presentation should be longer than 10 minutes long. A 15 to 25 page paper will also be required for a grade in the class.

**Books Required:**

John Dewey, *Human Nature and Conduct*

Anselm Strauss, *Continual Permutations of Action*

Hans Joas, *The Genesis of Values*

Luc Boltanski and Lauren Thevenot, *On Justification*

Mary Parker Folett, *The New State*

Chris Ansell, *Pragmatist Democracy*

*All available at the Seminary Coop*

**Week One:**

John Dewey, *Human Nature and Conduct*

**Week Two**

Anselm Strauss, *Continual Permutations of Action*

**Week Three**

Hans Joas, *The Genesis of Values*

**Week Four**

Luc Boltanski & Lauren Thevenot, *On Justification*

**Week Five**

Mary Parker Follett, *The New State*

**Week Six**

Christopher Ansell, *Pragmatist Democracy*

**Week Seven**

Charles Sabel & Michael Dorf, A Constitution of Democratic Experimentalism, *Columbia Law Review*, 1998

Jack Knight and James Johnson, “On the Priority of Democracy: A Pragmatist Approach to Political Economic Institutions and the Burden of Justification” in *American Political Science Review* 101:47-62 2007

Eric MacGilvray, Five Myths about Pragmatism, Or, against a Second Pragmatic Acquiescence, in *Political Theory*, 2000, vol 28(4) pp 480-508

**Week Eight**

Maurizio Ferrera and Anton Hemerijck, “Recalibrating Europe’s Welfare Regimes” in Jonathan Zeitlin & David Trubek, eds, *Governing Work and Welfare in a New Economy*, (Oxford) pp 88-128)

Charles Sabel, *[Individualized Service Provision as the key to the New Welfare State: Lessons from Special Education in Finland](http://www.sitra.fi/julkaisut/Selvityksi%C3%A4-sarja/Selvityksia62.pdf%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank)*, with AnnaLee Saxenian, Reijo Miettinen, Peer Hull Kristensen, and Jarkko Hautamäki, December 2011

Peer Hull Christensen, “Developing Comprehensive, Enabling Welfare States for Offensive Experimentalist Business Practices” in Kristensen & Lilja, *Nordic Capitalisms and Globalization. New Forms of Economic Organization and Welfare Institutions* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2011)

**Week Nine**

Gunnar Hedlund & Dag Rolander, “Action in heterarchies: new approaches to managing the MNC” in Bartlett, Doz and Hedlund, eds, *Managing the Global Firm* (Routledge, 1990

Saka-Helmhout, A. and M. Geppert (2011). ‘Different Forms of Agency and Institutional Influences within Multinational Enterprises’, *Management International Review*, 51(5), pp. 567-592

Saka-Helmhout, A.  (2011). “Learning from the periphery: Beyond the transnational model”, *Critical Perspectives on International Business*, 7(1), pp. 48-65

Becker-Ritterspach, F., Saka-Helmhout, A. and J. J. Hotho (2010). “Practice transfer in MNEs as the socially-embedded translation of practices”, *Critical Perspectives on International Business*, 6(1), pp. 8-37

Bente Elkjaer, “Organizational Learning : The 'Third Way' “ *Management Learning* 2004 35: 419