**Winter 2013**

**Castoriadis, Dewey, James, Schmitt, Boltanski & Unger:**

**Imagination, practice, creativity, and critique in a pragmatist mode**

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This seminar will examine a variety of pragmatism informed, practice-oriented thinkers trying to theorize the process of social transformation. In particular, the focus will be on the role of imagination and creativity in transformation. The course will also examine one particularly skeptical criticism of this tradition.

**Requirements**:

1. Students will be organized into teams. One team will make a presentation on the readings each week. Presentations should outline a series of questions or problems raised by the reading that the seminar group can collectively discuss. **Presentations should not be summaries of the readings!!**
2. A 20 page paper dealing with a comparison of at least two of the authors in the course will be required to complete the class

The following books are available for purchase at the Seminary Coop

* Cornelius Castoriadis- *The Imaginary Institution of Society*, The MIT Press
* William James- *A Pluralistic Universe*, University of Nebraska Press
* John Dewey- *Experience and Nature*, Southern Illinois University Press; 1st edition
* Carl Schmitt- *Political Romanticism*, Transaction Publishers; Reprint edition
* Luc Boltanski- *On Critique*, Polity; 1 edition
* Roberto Mangiabera Unger- *The Self Awakened-Pragmatism Unbound*, Harvard University Press

**Week One:**

Introduction

**Week Two:**

Castoriadis, *Imaginary Institution of Society*, pages 1-164 (Preface & Part One)

**Week Three:**

Castoriadis, *Imaginary Institution of Society*, pages 165- 373 (Part Two)

**Week Four:**

William James, *A Pluralistic Universe*, pages 1-178 (Lectures 1-4)

**Week Five:**

William James, *A Pluralistic Universe*, pages 179-332 (Lectures 5-8) read appendices if you can.

**Week Six:**

John Dewey, *Experience and Nature*, Chapters 1-5

Recommended: Loren Goldman, “Dewey’s Pragmatism From an Anthropological Point of View.” Transactions of the Charles S. Peirce Society Vol. 48, No. 1 ©2012: 1–31.

**Week Seven:**

John Dewey, *Experience and Nature*, Chapters 6-10

**Week Eight:**

Carl Schmitt, *Political Romanticism*, entire

**Week Nine:**

Luc Boltanski, *On Critique. A Sociology of Emancipation*—entire

**Week Ten:**

Roberto Mangiabera Unger, *The Self Awakened-Pragmatism Unbound*—entire

Recommended: Charles Sabel, 2012. “Dewey, Democracy and Democratic Experimentalism”