

LIST OF KEYWORDS FOR ANALYSIS

By DOC 1 Teaching Staff

IDEOLOGY

A system of beliefs characteristic of a particular class or group. All cultures contain multiple, often competing, ideologies.

IDEOLOGICAL FORMATION

The totality of ideologies in a particular culture at a specific historical moment. The tensions across the ideological field produce historical contradiction and potentially can lead to change.

DOMINANT IDEOLOGIES

Those ideologies associated with a ruling group in a particular society, that is, when ideology in a field of social power and privileges works to maintain the status quo (hiding contradiction). The group claiming a superior position in any socially constructed hierarchy has greater access to rights, resources, and political power. Example: the ideology of white supremacy.

HEGEMONIC

When dominant ideologies become common sense for almost everyone they are hegemonic. Examples: patriarchy (women should be subordinate to men). In democratic societies, hegemony is not imposed by force but built into institutions such as schools and the media.

CONTRADICTION

Contradictions are present in all cultures and permeate every ideological formation. The tensions produced by contradictions allow for the emergence of new formations and ultimately facilitate social change. The new formation generates new contradictions and the process continues on throughout history. Example: ideologies of freedom and liberty for all vs. systemic discrimination against a specific group.

COUNTER-HEGEMONY

The elaboration of alternate, often subordinated, ideologies that critique and challenge the hegemonic ideologies. Groups that are exploited, discriminated against, or disenfranchised may point out social contradictions and then develop “ideologies of resistance.” Example: Women’s movements or LGBT movements for equal rights.

RACIAL FORMATION

The system of racial categories and ideologies in a specific culture in a specific historical period. The racial hierarchy is linked to the dominant ideologies and is legitimated by social institutions.

RACIALIZATION (verb: TO RACIALIZE)

The imposition of a racial classification on to a previously unclassified group or practice. A racialized group is inserted into the artificial hierarchy of “races” in a specific culture in a specific historical period. Some groups considered “non-white” may work their way into “whiteness.” Example: Irish immigrants in the United States.

GENDER FORMATION (verb: TO GENDER)

The system of gendered relations and ideologies in a specific culture in a specific historical period. The gender hierarchy is linked to the dominant ideologies and is legitimated by social institutions. Traditional gender formations sustain the power of men over women (patriarchy).

CLASS FORMATION

The system of economic relationships in a specific society in a specific historical period. In the history of the United States, classes have formed often around the exploitation of cheap labor or free labor (slavery). The economic hierarchy is linked to the dominant ideologies and legitimated through social institutions. A group's position in the class hierarchy affects its life chances (opportunities).

INTERSECTIONALITY

The shifting interaction among categories and ideologies related to gender, class, and race in a specific culture in a specific historical period. Other categories such as religion and sexuality may become relevant in some cases [rotating kaleidoscope]. The context of each category changes along the continuum of history [rotating kaleidoscope moving along a horizontal line].

Revised 9/6/15