**Course description**

The course content is comprised by three interrelated topics:

***1. Production: property, labour, capital*** (Hann, Buchowski, Lampland, Konstantinov)   
Lectures and seminars discuss cultural assumptions and subsequent political discourses, legal provision, and organisational innovations that shape and legitimise current forms of property rights. Property is understood as an instrument of reproduction and profit making but also as an expression of moral convictions and social justice. Discussions will target the problem of property as power and obligation, dependence and independence parallel. Property forms and rights are examined in the innate tension of private decisions and public transparency. New structures of property will be examined in the light of the changing status of different forms of labour, and subsequent social distinctions. Ambiguous forms of post-socialist ownership will be compared with current western concepts and practices.

***2. Consumption: images, sites, practices*** (Voros, Zentai, Konstantinov, Pine, Merkel)   
Lectures and seminars will investigate how consumer society, both in its full-fledged or adolescent patterns, embodies a variety of forms and sites of shopping practices and relies on the over-arching presence of mass mediated marketing and advertisement. Post-socialist consuming desires will be studied as liberation from a particular image of modernity associated with the steaming factory or the rattling machine. The enchanted world of mass consumption reinforces social inequalities and segregation whereas political regimes legitimise themselves through promises for expanding consumption. It will be examined how consumption becomes constitutive of individual and collective identities and social communication: symbolic uses of goods are used not only reinforcing but challenging social boundaries as well.

***3. Public spaces and*** *realms* (Stewart, Kalb, Niedermuller, Boym)   
Lectures and seminars will speculate on how cultures of late capitalism reinvigorate conceptions of citizenship, entitlements, individual and collective rights to use social spaces in post-welfare-state and post-state-socialist contexts. Social actors shape their strategies and networks through navigating as producers and consumers in the world of transnational corporations, the arena of state bureaucracies, and the market of mediatized culture that all embody global and local practices. Protected spaces and practices of the privileged are resisted and challenged by various social groups constructed as politically, economically, or culturally marginal in late capitalism. The significance of the everyday experiences and knowledge in furnishing and occupying public realms in late modernity will be comparatively discussed.

**Teaching methods**   
The course is designed to offer advanced, in-depth analysis of topics listed in the syllabus. Resource persons will discuss different concepts of and approaches to problems described in lecture abstracts. Seminars will examine and connect major themes articulated by lectures and highlight conflicting interpretations suggested  by particular social and scholarly experiences of participants. Intensive and interactive seminar work will be prepared by preliminary assignments to participants: they are to critically review assigned literature and to participate in the discussion of issues that seminar leaders propose well in advance to the course. Based on preliminary inquiry, seminar discussion will incorporate the presentations of participants' own research results as well.

**Course level, target audience**   
Faculty and Ph.D. candidates are encouraged to apply who are engaged in teaching cultural and social anthropology, ethnology, cultural studies and theory, contemporary social history, and sociology in their home institutions.