

**OUTLINE. Lecture 23 Sociology 621 WHAT IS IDEOLOGY?**  
**December 5, 2011**

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**I. INTRODUCTION**

**1. Multiple uses of the term “Ideology”**

**2. Ideology and other aspects of social relations/practices (recapitulation)**

2.1 *Ideology as a practice, contrasted with political and economic practice.*

DEFINITION of ideological practice: Ideological practice is the social process through which (conscious) subjectivity is formed through the real activities of people engaged in social relations in which what happens to them – lived experiences -- are transformed into cognitive products.

2.2 *Once again: Type vs Dimension of practice*

2.3 *Ideology, Culture, Consciousness, Nonconsciousness*

Patriarchal ideology VS Patriarchal culture

Bourgeois ideology V Bourgeois culture

2.4 Key dynamic issue: contradictions between ideological and cultural practices

**II. THERBORN’S ANALYSIS**

**1. Basic objectives & definition:**

- the historical investigation of ideology.
- To expand the concept of ideology to encompass nonclass subjectivities/subjects.
- To give an account of the content and specific forms of “interpellation”
- the fundamentally contradictory character of the process of subject-formation

ideology = “*The operation of ideology in human life involves, fundamentally, constituting and patterning how human being live their lives as conscious, reflecting initiators of acts in a universe of meaning....In this sense, ideology constitutes human beings as subjects.*”

**2. Conceptual Distinctions on the Terrain of Ideology**

**2.1. Modes of Interpellation**

1. *meaning of interpellation* = subjection & qualification

- Subjection = the effects of ideology on individual subjectivity;
- Qualification = effects of such subjectivity on the individual’s insertion into social relations.

2. *modes of interpellation*: answers to three questions: what exists? what is good? what is possible?

**2.2 Material Matrix of Ideology:** discursive and nondiscursive practices; sanctions & affirmations

**2.3 The Analysis of Contradictions and Transformations of Ideology**

1. Intergenerational perspective on ideology → Transformations of ideologies always presuppose an existing ideology

2. Key idea = Changes in social structures change the forms of sanctions/affirmations and disjunctions of subjection and qualification.

3. Contradictions & the temporality of change