Epistemological difficulties...

why don't we learn?

ideas and their politics

End of Universalism?
End of Enlightenment ?
Loss of normative grounds?

Wittgenstein: "At the foundation of our well-founded beliefs lie beliefs that are not well founded."

Vertigo of postmodernity

Is the problem to do with how we think and reason?

"What is this reason that we use?"

Interpreting Goya's picture.
Are the monsters produced by the "sleep" of reason or by the "dream" of reason?

THE DANGER IS TOO LITTLE REASON (when it sleeps)

The Enlightenment (Modernity)

Its defense of reason

- Means, not ends
- The Knowing Subject
- Correspondence theory of truth
- Universality of Truth

Reason grounds critique

Reason justifies actions

Addresses the problem of justification

Marxist Critical Theory
- Defense of modernity and the Enlightenment project
- seeks rehabilitation of reason

THE DANGER IS TOO MUCH REASON (when it dreams)

The Counter-Enlightenment (Postmodernism)

Its critique of reason

- Rejection of Subject/object dualism
- Universals are false constructs
- Oriented to mastery
  - Distorting, damaging, bullying
- its abstraction - contempt for difference

Two traditions...

Postmodern theory
- rejection of Enlightenment project
- critique of reason

CT LECTURE ONE
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