A2 Chomsky Seminar #1: Myths 12 & 13

Absent: Peloquin, Dalton, L.Cooper, Hawkins, Savarese

Some silence at the start…

Alex Gruber: Gave Bohne background from discussion…

* Andrew Smith: Chomsky states facts—myth #13 as her exemplification. Bohne was saying that Chomsky states opinions, but doesn’t validate them.
* Eble: What do you mean by “validate?”
* Smith: She “says a bunch of stuff.” Facts aren’t always supporting her opinion.
* Gruber: She’ll support an idea with a statistic. You can manipulate them, but you need something extra there to have a solid source, argument.
* Eli Proffitt: Economics with Mr. Rosfeld. Chomsky cites many statistics… mumbled…
* Sam Waldbillig: Uses statistics to make her opinion seem right…
* Zane Cooper: Along with supporting what she says (not)—her opinions expect too much out of humanity. Her ideas occur in a purely utopian world.
  + Shagena: Nothing to do to fix… but examples were to totally open the borders, to cease U.S. military aggression.
  + Smith: People could provide counterarguments; she hints at them, but doesn’t want the reader to know what the opposition says.
  + Gruber: Concession, refutation. Not a ton of that.
  + Eble: What about the titles of each chapter?
  + Gruber: She doesn’t address the evidence…
  + Eble: Which one?
  + Gruber: Myth #12
  + Eble: But in Myth #12, she uses the past to demonstrate the difference between the present.
  + Gruber: But that’s a weak argument…
  + Eble: But her context is to address myths…

Eble: What other gripes?

* Spencer Ballard: Bohne says that we should take away morality from this text. We should put ourselves in their shoes; this will aid understanding.
* Andrew Smith: If you hate someone… killing people doesn’t validate if it’s against the law.
* Eble: Asked for clarification.
* Smith: Compares to somebody being bullied severely. Killing that person
* Gruber: Ends justifying means?
* Smith: We can waive that law.
* Gruber: Justified by coming here …
* Logan Cooper: We should feel bad for them…
* Eble: Where?
* Cooper: Case study… “this would never have happened”
* Eble: Where do you see that pathos, that sadness?
* Cooper: Maria Eugenia Martinez… (168-170) Read from the quote. Stuff like that…she’s playing on feeling bad…
* Eble: What’s the problem?
* Cooper: Much of argument based on pathos…
* Wermes: I disagree… she does rely on pathos. Beginning of 12, Piri Thomas… uses a ton of statistics. That actually works against her. Looking at numbers = hard to feel sympathy.
* Gruber: A lot of pathos with myth #9, the refugee policy. Guantanamo Bay; Cubans versus Haitians. How is that just?
* Eble: Dantica… other pathos-based examples. Is that a problem?
* Logan Cooper: That’s a problem… but if she backed up with statistics… if she gave her own ideas. Unrealistic ideas?
* Eble: What’s unrealistic?
* Logan: Forgive third-world debt. That would almost never happen.
* Eble: Does she present her ideas as a panacea? Read from Chapter 21… she doesn’t say that she can fix everything…
* Gruber: There’s not a society in which we can’t fix global inequality. Not possible to have a just society. Communism… not feasible…
* Eble: Does that mean we shouldn’t try?
* Gruber: Other ways to fix that…
* Andrew Smith: That goes along with the power of the United States. ISIS… a majority of people want the U.S. to “take them out.” Others are saying “let it be…” There are two sides…

Gruber: Question to go along with that—what’s the United States’ role in acting to help a country like that? What’s the limit?

* Eble: U.S. government?
* Smith: Military?
* Gruber clarified.
* Smith: Isis situation… or immigration. U.S. role should be to help militarily, to take out the terrorists. With immigration: Stating laws. Mrs. Raymond.
* Eble: Are all laws just?
* Logan Cooper: Assimilation / easier for white Americans. Mrs. Raymond didn’t take long to become an American. Her view on the laws will be drastically different an immigrant who has to wait through the tedious process. I’d dispute using Mrs. Raymond’s words as gospel-truth.
* Andrew Smith: Easy for white folks in the early twentieth century. Eastern Europeans coming to the U.S. will live in poverty. I have neighbors who are Mexican. Depends on work force, education level. He’s looked upon differently than folks who come here illegally to do a basic job.
* Gruber: I disagree with Zane. Kids / Child experience, people thought she was different.
* Zane: That was in South America; those are kids.
* Smith: Folks lived in ghettos
* Zane: Consider someone from Italy versus Africans…
* Smith: People get used to them/ her
* Zane: Then, she’s accepted… there’s still racial profiling. I still think it’s a really big difference.
* Smith: That goes with “don’t judge a book by his cover.”
* Zane: Tell me… people still judge others, make snap judgments.

Sam: Back to Gruber’s question: U.S. should mind its own business. Why should our troops be sent to die at another country.

* Gruber challenged.
* Smith: North Korea.
* Sam: Agreed…
* Gruber: Endangering American lives. Cited ISIS discussion from Mr. Naumann’s terrorism class. American lives are already at stake.
* Jake Wermes: Two most recent excursions into the Middle East…
* Eble: By that definition (loss of lives meriting military excursion)… can a Middle Eastern nation attack the United States?
* Jake Wermes
* Smith: ISIS attacking because its extremism… they hate everything…
* Eble: Why did 9/11 hijackers attack the U.S.?
* Sam, Andrew responded…
* Gruber: Muslims upset about Israel. Spoke about living conditions in Gaza. America supports Gaza. Complex.
* Spencer: Draw out troops, let ISIS build up?
* Zane responded.
* Spencer: They would grow more…
* Andrew Smith: ISIS feels the pressure…
* Eble: What tells you that?
* Spencer: Trying to get us to leave… American journalists…
* Smith: Attacking journalists = greatest way to get our attention…

Eble: So… on economic ends… can an American company head over other countries to exploit resources?

* Zane Cooper: Americans should have some ability to regulate companies in other countries.
* Eble: Why?
* Zane: They’re based in America… consumers are American… companies are trying to save money… tax evasion… starts there…
* Kevin Collins: regulations so that American companies don’t take advantage of the other countries?
* Smith: What if GE has a plant in a third-world country? Is that opportunity?
* Eble: Is that the purpose…
* Gruber: It’s something…
* Zane: Government forcing people out… there has to be some kind of regulation. Like environmental science. Companies go overseas… no environmental regulation.
* Andrew Smith: That’s a hard thing to do… in accounting class, we discussed GE paying taxes… (or not paying taxes). There’s huge corporate power.
* Eble: Corporation is a person…

Eble: Any other part in the text where you struggled with Chomsky’s claims, evidence?

* Smith: We kinda looked at this with summarizing. Why can we trust her? What’s her ETHOS… experiences with immigration. Could one of us get a history degree, write a book about this?
* Gruber: You don’t have to trust her, you don’t have to believe what she believes. She has enough experience; her dad’s fame… you can see her perspective and she has enough ethos to have a valid opinion.
* Eble: Not enough to trust her?
* Smith: Bringing it up…
* Eble: Put off by her style / brashness?
* Zane: The way I was reading made her sound pretentious, preachy. Can you pinpoint any places? America is known as the place to go because of consumption. Consumption is core to our identity. I don’t think an idea like that would work.
* Gruber: Myth #7—the rules were different then… that’s a... my grandparents went through Ellis Island… proper papers.
* Eble: Isn’t that the point?
* Gruber: Sending papers to America…
* Eble: Talked about immigrants now versus the past…
* Gruber: She uses it both ways… statistics both ways… the past is different…
* Shagena: Myth that immigrants came freely in the past…
* Eble: Read from myth #19
* Shagena: 9/11 terrorists… Southern Border open… we could lose sight
* Ballard: What instances? Why wait until it happens?
* Eble / Ballard back and forth.
* Zane: Mexicans—drug cartels, gangs… huge.
* Eble: Drugs, cartels come here earlier.
* Zane: We stereotype people…
* Andrew Smith: Stereotyping… works in agriculture… Mexican…

Eble: Does Chomsky propose opening the border completely?

* Smith:
* Ballard: Making it easier to access legal passages might help… not opening completely
* Eble: Straw man…