

HISTORY AND THEORY:
RECENT APPROACHES TO SOCIAL AND CULTURAL HISTORY

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All books which are starred are available at the University Book Store and Brown's. I have put the other books and articles on reserve at the College Library. A few articles will be on reserve at the History Library.

Week 1: INTRODUCTION

Week 2: HISTORY AS INTERPRETATION

Michael Kammen, "The Historian's Vocation and the State of the Discipline in the United States," in ed., M. Kammen, The Past Before Us, (Ithaca, 1980), pp. 19-46.

Clifford Geertz, "Blurred Genres: the Refiguration of Social Thought," in Local Knowledge, pp. 19-35: also in American Scholar (Spring 1980): 165-179.

*Paul Veyne, Writing History (trans. 1985, orig. ed. 1971), pp. 1-116, 177-207.

Lawrence Stone, "The Revival of Narrative: Reflections on a New Old History," Past and Present 85 (1979): 3-24.

Week 3: THE ANNALES SCHOOL: HISTORY AS "THE LONGUE DURÉE"

"History with a French Accent--Braudel, Trevor-Roper, and Hexter on The Mediterranean and the Mediterranean World in the Age of Phillip II and the Annales School," Journal of Modern History 44 (1972): 480-539. (These pages refer only to the part by Hexter; you may want to read or skim the other two articles.)

Emmanuel Le Roy Ladurie, The Mind and Method of the Historian (Chicago, 1981, orig. ed. 1978), Chapters 1 & 7.

Ferdinand Braudel, "History and the Social Sciences; the Longue Durée," in On History (Chicago, 1980), pp. 25-54; also in P. Burke, Economy and Society in Early Modern Europe: Essay from the Annales (London, 1972), pp. 11-42; also in the original in Annales: Economies, Sociétés, Civilisations 13 (1958): 725-53.

Jacques Legoff, "Is Politics Still the Backbone of History?" Daedalus C (1971): 1-19; also in eds. Felix Gilbert & Stephen Graubard, Historical Studies Today (New York, 1972).

If you are not in European History and are not familiar with book-length Annales school works, it would be helpful to look at the table of contents and glance through a major work of an annaliste in order to get some sense of their structural approach to history. Look at, for example, Fernand Braudel, The Mediterranean and the Mediterranean World in the Age of Phillip II or Emmanuel Le Roy Ladurie, The Peasants of Languedoc.

Week 4: THE HISTORY OF "MENTALITÉS"

*Carlo Ginzburg, The Cheese and the Worms (Baltimore, 1980, orig. 1976).

Patrick Hutton, "The History of Mentalities: the New Map of Cultural History" History and Theory 20 (1981).

If you read French, look at:

Jacques Le Goff, "Les Mentalités: Une histoire ambiguë," eds. Jacques Le Goff et Pierre Nora, Faire de l'histoire, tome III (Paris, 1974), pp. 76-94.

Week 5: MARXISM

*Karl Marx, The Eighteenth Brumaire of Louis Napoleon (orig. 1852).

Tony Judt, "A Clown in Regal Purple: Social History and the Historians," History Workshop 7 (1979): 66-94.

Week 6: RECENT MARXIST APPROACHES TO CULTURAL HISTORY

*Eugene Genovese, Roll Jordan Roll: The World the Slaves Made (New York, 1974), pp. 1-49, 97-133, 194, 431-58, 585-621, 658-665.

E. P. Thompson, The Making of the English Working Class (Oxford, 1963), pp. 7-14, 189-212, 350-74, 807-33.

Richard Johnson, "Edward Thompson, Eugene Genovese, and Socialist Humanist History," History Workshop 6 (1978): 78-100.

Week 7: ANTHROPOLOGY AND HISTORY

Bernard S. Cohn, John W. Adams, Natalie Zemon Davis, and Carlo Ginzburg, "Anthropology and History in the 1980s" Journal of Interdisciplinary History 12 (1981): 227-78.

*Clifford Geertz, The Interpretation of Culture (New York, 1973), Chapters 1, 4-6, 15. (Other chapters to consider reading include 2, 3, & 8.)

Week 8: ANTHROPOLOGICAL APPROACHES: THE EXAMPLE OF CROWD THEORY

Robert Holton, "The Crowd in History: Some Problems of Theory and Method," Social History 3 (1978): 219-233.

N. Z. Davis, "Rites of Violence" in Society and Culture in Early Modern France (Stanford, 1975), pp. 152-187.

E. P. Thompson, "The Moral Economy of the English Crowd in the Eighteenth Century," Past and Present 1 (1971): 76-136.

*Victor Turner, Dramas, Fields, and Mataphora (Ithaca, 1974), Chapters 1 & 6.

Rhys Isaac, "Dramatizing the Ideology of Revolution: Popular Mobilization in Virginia, 1774 to 1776," William and Mary Quarterly 33 (1976): 357-385.

Week 9: FOLKLORE AND HISTORY

*Larry Levine, Black Culture and Black Consciousness (Oxford, 1977), 3-174, 191-202, 270-320, 386-397, 441-447. (These pages are suggestions; although you should definitely read the beginning of the book and the epilogue, otherwise focus on those parts of the book which interest you the most.)

Week 10: ANTHROPOLOGY, MARXISM, AND HISTORY

*Eric Wolf, Europe and the People without History (Berkeley, 1982), pp. 1-101, 131-58, 267-309, 385-393.

Sidney Mintz, Sweetness and Power: The Place of Sugar in Modern History (New York, 1985), pp. xv-xxx, 52-73, 147-186.

Week 11: FOUCAULT

*Michel Foucault, Discipline and Punish: the Birth of the Prison (New York, 1979, orig, 1975). Read the first three parts and skim Part 4.

Alan Megill, "Foucault, Structuralism, and the Ends of History," Journal of Modern History 51 (1979): 451-503.

It may also be helpful to read part of Foucault's Power and Knowledge (1982), especially Chapters 3, 4, 6, and/or 8.

Week 12: THE INFLUENCE OF LITERARY CRITICISM: HISTORY AS TEXT

Paul Ricoeur, "The Model of the Text: Meaningful Action

Considered as a Text," in Interpretative Social Science: A Reader, eds, Paul Rabinow & William Sullivan.

*Hayden White, The Tropics of Discourse (Baltimore, 1978), pp. 27-80 ("The Burden of History" & "Interpretation in History".)

Jacques Derrida, Writing and Difference (Chicago, 1978), pp. 3-30.

Edward Said, "The Problem of Textuality: Two Exemplary Positions," Critical Inquiry 4 (1978): 673-714.

If you are not familiar with literary criticism, it would be helpful to read (as an introduction) *Terry Eagleton, Literary Theory: an Introduction (Oxford, 1982), especially Chapters 2, 3, & 4. Chapter 6 is interesting on Eagleton's thoughts about politics and criticism.

Week 13: CULTURE, POLITICS, AND REPRESENTATION I

*Lynn Hunt, Politics, Culture, and Class in the French Revolution (Berkeley, 1984), Introduction, Chapters 1-3, 6, & Conclusion.

William Sewall, Work and Revolution in France: the Language of Labor from the Old Regime to 1848 (Princeton, 1980), Introduction.

Lynn Hunt, "Cultural Approaches to History," Unpublished paper presented at the Conference on Comparative Social History, Evanston, Il., 1986.

Week 14: CULTURE, POLITICS, AND REPRESENTATION II

*Representations 9 (1985). This is a special issue on American culture between the Civil War and World War I:

Alan Trachtenberg, "Albums of War: On Reading Civil War Photographs," pp. 1-32.

Michael Fried, "Realism, Writing, and Disfiguration in Thomas Eakins's Gross Clinic," pp. 33-104.

Walter Benn Michaels, "The Gold Standard and the Logic of Naturalism," pp. 105-132.

Elaine Showalter, "The Death of the Lady (Novelist): Wharton's House of Mirth," pp. 133-49.

Michael Rogin, "'The Sword Became a Flaming Vision': DW Griffith's The Birth of a Nation," pp. 150-195.

Week 15: GENDER, LANGUAGE, AND POWER

Joan Scott, "Is Gender a Useful Category of Historical Analysis?"
Unpublished paper presented at the meeting of the American
Historical Association, New York City, December 27, 1985.

Carroll Smith-Rosenberg, Disorderly Conduct: Visions of Gender
in Victorian America (Oxford, 1985), pp. 11-76.

Neil Hertz, "Medusa's Head: Male Hysteria under Political
Pressure," Representations 4 (1983): 27-54; with responses
by Catherine Gallagher & Joel Fineman in Ibid.: 55-72.

All students will be responsible for leading two seminars
together with another student. You will write a short paper
discussing the issues for one of these weeks. There will also be
one long paper (roughly 20 pp.) due at the end of the course.
This paper will explore one (or more) of the methodological
issues discussed in this course. The paper may be an attempt to
apply one of the methods or it may be an analysis of other
historians' uses of anthropology, marxism, literary theory,
feminist theory, etc.