

HISTORY AND THEORY:  
RECENT APPROACHES TO SOCIAL AND CULTURAL HISTORY

Prof. Suzanne Desan  
5124 Humanities

smdesan@wisc.edu  
Office Hours: Tues 2-4

All the books which are starred are available at the University Book Store. The books will all be on reserve at HC White. Most of the book chapters and articles from journals are available in a xeroxed packet in the Copy Center on 1st floor Humanities. Others will be available on-line.

This course will provide an introduction to several of the major recent approaches to social and cultural history, including methodologies influenced by anthropology, Marxism, feminism, cultural geography, post-structuralism, post-colonialism, or recent attempts to “internationalize” history (or some combination of these approaches.)

Week 1 (Sept. 6): INTRODUCTION

Week 2 (Sept. 13): HISTORY AS INTERPRETATION

William Sewell, Logics of History: Social Theory and Social Transformation (Chicago, 2005), 1-21, 152-174, 318-372

Dipesh Chakrabarty, Provincializing Europe: Political Thought and Historical Difference (Princeton, 2000), 97-113

Michel de Certeau, “History: Science and Fiction” in Heterologies: Discourse on the Other, trans. Brian Massumi (Minneapolis, 1986), 199-207, 214-221

For background on (& criticism of) the post-modern, cultural turn in history, read:  
Joyce Appleby, Lynn Hunt, and Margaret Jacob, Telling the Truth About History (New York, 1994), 198-237

Week 3 (Sept. 20): ANTHROPOLOGY & MARXISM: RACE & CULTURAL IDENTITY

\* Marisol de la Cadena, Indigenous Mestizos: The Politics of Race and Culture in Cuzco, Peru, 1919-1991 (Durham, NC, 1999), 1-85, 131-176, 231-72, 306-330, skim intervening pages

Antonio Gramsci, An Antonio Gramsci Reader: Selected Writings, 1916-1935, ed. David Forgacs (New York, 1988), 189-209, 300-311.

Raymond Williams, selections from Marxism and Literature (1977) in Nicolas Dirks, Geoff Eley, and Sherry Ortner, eds., Culture/ Power/ History: A Reader in Contemporary Social Theory (Princeton, 1994), 585-608

Week 4 (Sept. 27): HISTORY, ANTHROPOLOGY, & VIOLENCE: CHALLENGING THE ETHNOGRAPHIC PRESENT

Ned Blackhawk, Violence over the Land: Indians and Empires in the early American West (Cambridge, Mass., 2006), read 1-87, skim 88-144, read 145-293

Elaine Scarry, The Body in Pain: The Making and Unmaking of the World (N.Y., 1985), 3-23

Ned Blackhawk will visit part of our class to discuss his work.

Week 5 (Oct. 4): FOUCAULT

Joseph Rouse, "Power/Knowledge," in The Cambridge Companion to Foucault, ed. Gary Gutting (Cambridge, Eng., 1994), 92-114.

Carolyn Dean, "Redefining Historical Identities: Sexuality, Gender, and the Self," in A Companion to Western Historical Thought, ed. Lloyd Kramer and Sarah Maza (Oxford, 2002), 357-371

\*Michel Foucault, History of Sexuality, vol. 1 (New York, 1990, orig. 1976).

Foucault, "Two Lectures," in Power/Knowledge: Selected Interviews and Other Writings, 1972-1977 by Michel Foucault, ed. Colin Gordon (NY,1980), 78-108

\*\* 5-7 pp. PAPER DUE on Monday, Oct. 8

Week 6 (Oct. 11): BOURDIEU & THE HISTORY OF PRACTICE

Cheleen Mahar, Richard Harker, and Chris Wilkes, "The Basic Theoretical Position," in An Introduction to the Work of Pierre Bourdieu: The Practice of Theory, ed. Richard Harker et al. (New York, 1990), 1-25

\* Pierre Bourdieu, The Logic of Practice (Palo Alto, Ca., 1992), 52-134.

Week 7 (Oct. 18): DISCOURSES & PRACTICES OF GENDER, RACE, AND SEXUALITY

Laura Downs, Writing Gender History (N.Y., 2005), 88-96

Joan Wallach Scott, "Gender: A Useful Category of Historical Analysis," in her Gender and the Politics of History (New York, 1988), 28-50, and the preface to her 1999 edition, ix-xiii

Ann Laura Stoler, Carnal Knowledge and Imperial Power: Race and the Intimate in Colonial Rule (Berkeley, Cal., 2002), 1-13, 41-78, 140-61

Kathryn Burns, Colonial Habits: Convents and the Spiritual Economy of Cuzco, Peru (Durham, NC, 1999), 1-11, 101-131

Week 8 (Oct. 25): GENDER, SEXUALITY, & MODERNITY

Judith Butler, "Subjects of Sex/Gender/Desire" in The Cultural Studies Reader, ed. Simon During (London, 1992), 340-353

\*Afsaneh Najmabadi, Women with Mustaches and Men without Beards: Gender and Sexual Anxieties of Iranian Modernity (Berkeley, Cal., 2005), 1-96, 132-80, 207-244

Afsaneh Najmabadi, "Beyond the Americas: Are Gender and Sexuality Useful Categories of Historical Analysis?" Journal of Women's History 18 (2006): 11-21

Week 9 (Nov. 1): INTERNATIONAL HISTORY: "MODERN" GLOBAL INTERSECTIONS

C.A. Bayly, Sven Beckert, Matthew Connelly, Isabel Hofmeyer, Wendy Kozol, and Patricia Seed, "AHR Conversation on Transnational History," American Historical Review 111(2006): 1441-1464

\* C. A. Bayly, The Birth of the Modern World: 1780-1914 (Oxford: Blackwell Publishing, 2004), 1-168, 284-324, 366-392, skim 451-87. NB: this is a big book, so read what you can; feel free to choose different page ranges & chronological time periods but be prepared to discuss his project and method.

Frederick Cooper, "Modernity" in Colonialism in Question: Theory, Knowledge, History (2005), 113-149

Week 10 (Nov. 8): INTERNATIONAL HISTORY: COLONIZATION & EMPIRE

\* NB: due to a conference, we will have to reschedule this class.

Frederick Cooper, "States, Empires, and Political Imagination" in his Colonialism in Question: Theory, Knowledge, History (N.Y., 2005), 153-203

Emma Rothschild, "A Horrible Tragedy in the French Atlantic," Past and Present 192 (2006): 67-109

\*Ann Laura Stoler, ed. Haunted by Empire: Geographies of Intimacy in North America (Durham, N.C., 2006), 140-162 (Dawdy), 191-212 (Lowe)

Steven Feierman, "Colonizers, Scholars, and the Creation of Invisible Histories," in Victoria Bonnell and Lynn Hunt, eds., Beyond the Cultural Turn (Berkeley, 1999), 182-216

\*\* 5-7 page paper due on Monday, Nov. 12

Week 11 (Nov. 15): INTERNATIONAL HISTORY: COLONIZATION & INTIMACY

\*Ann Laura Stoler, ed. Haunted by Empire: Geographies of Intimacy in North America (Durham, N.C., 2006), 23-67 (Stoler), 213-239 (Brown), 297-365 (Miller, Stern, and Briggs), 427-51 (Gordon)

Homi Bhabha, "Of Mimicry and Man: The Ambivalence of Colonial Discourse," in Tensions of Empire: Colonial Cultures in a Bourgeois World, ed. Frederick Cooper and Ann Laura Stoler (Berkeley, 1997), 152-160

Week 12 (Nov 22): = THANKSGIVING

No class: I will hold sign-up office hours for individual meetings to discuss papers

Week 13 (Nov. 29): INTERNATIONAL HISTORY: CIRCULATION of INFLUENCES & COMMODITIES

Marcy Norton, "Tasting Empire: Chocolate and the European Internalization of Mesoamerican Aesthetics," American Historical Review 111( 2006): 660-691

James Grehan, "Smoking and 'Early Modern' Sociability: The Great Tobacco Debate in the Ottoman Middle East (Seventeenth to Eighteenth Centuries)," American Historical Review 111 (2006): 1352-1377

\*Jerry Brotton, The Renaissance Bazaar: From the Silk Road to Michelangelo (Oxford: Oxford Univ. Press, 2002), 1-91, 124-220

Week 14 (Dec. 6): THEORIZING CLASS, GENDER, AND POLITICAL PRACTICE

Geoff Eley and Keith Nield, The Future of Class in History: What's Left of the Social (Ann Arbor, 2007), 139-201

\* Thomas Miller Klubock, Contested Communities: Class, Gender, and Politics in Chile's El Teniente Copper Mine (Durham, N.C, 1998), read 1-15, skim 19-79, read 80-100, skim 103-126, read 127-295

Week 15 (Dec. 13): THEORIZING SPACE AND POLITICAL PRACTICE

Michel de Certeau, The Practice of Everyday Life, trans. Steven Rendall (Berkeley, 1984), 114-130

Anne Enke, Finding the Movement: Sexuality, Contested Space, and Feminist Activism (Durham, N.C., forthcoming 2007, page proofs used by Anne Enke's permission), 1-22, 177-267

Sumathi Ramaswamy, "History at Land's End: Lemuria in Tamil Spatial Fables," Journal of Asian Studies 59 (2000): 575-602

\*\*\*\*\*

All students will be responsible for leading two seminars together with another student. Students will also write three papers: two short (5-7 pp.) and one not-too-long (14-16 pp.) The short papers will be due on Monday, Oct. 8 and Monday, Nov. 12. The final longer paper, due on Monday, Dec. 17, will be either an attempt to apply one of these methods to your own work or an analysis of some other historian(s)' use of these approaches.