

Recent Approaches to Cultural History

HIST 703: History & Theory

Fall 2014

Th 1:20AM - 3:15PM, Humanities 5257

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This course will provide an introduction to several important recent approaches to cultural history, including methodologies influenced by anthropology, feminism, gender theory, cultural geography, new historicism, post-structuralism, post-colonialism, and combinations of these. After a general overview of what historians have called the “cultural turn” in history, we will read selected chapters and articles by “classic” cultural theorists (most of whom start with B), like Bhabha, Bourdieu, Butler, Foucault, and Spivak, and discuss their theoretical work in relation to different recent works and fields of cultural history. The aim of the course is to think through how cultural historians are inspired by and use theory in their histories. Throughout the semester we will explore the following questions: how do theoretical perspectives shape the histories that (cultural) historians write? How are their methods and perspectives shaped, limited, made possible by their training, their theoretical perspectives, and their epistemological assumptions?

Work: You will all be responsible for leading two seminars together with another student. We will talk more about which seminar dates when we meet. You will 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. 6 and Monday, Nov. 10. The final longer paper, due on Monday, Dec. 15, will be either an attempt to apply the theoretical perspectives we have discussed to your own work or an analysis of some other historian(s)' use of these approaches.

Readings:

Books:

Anna Lowenhaupt Tsing. *Friction: An Ethnography of Global Connection* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2005).

Mary Louise Roberts. *What Soldiers Do: Sex and the American GI in World War II France* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2013).

Linda Gordon. *Dorothea Lange: A Life Beyond Limits* (New York: Norton, 2009).

Marcus Rediker. *The Slave Ship: A Human History* (New York: Viking, 2007).

Anne (Finn) Enke. *Finding the Movement: Sexuality, Contested Space, and Feminist Activism* (Durham: Duke University Press, 2007).

Chapters, articles, and other readings: Will be available on our learn@UW page. I would strongly prefer that we do not have any electronic devices in our seminar, and I therefore ask that you print our

readings and bring them to seminar. This way you can also make better and more extensive notes while you read ☺

Week 1 (Sept 4.): Introduction: The Cultural Turn in History

Beyond the Cultural Turn: New Directions in the Study of Society and Culture, edited by Victoria E. Bonnell and Lynn Avery Hunt (1999), 1-32.

James W. Cook. "The Kids Are All Right: On the "Turning" of Cultural History." *American Historical Review* (AHR), June 2012, 746-771.

Please also skim the following two (they were important in getting me to think about cultural history – I will explain why when we meet):

Stephen Greenblatt. *Marvelous Possession: The Wonder of the New World* (Chicago: Chicago University Press, 1991), 1-25.

Neil Whitehead, ed. *The Discoverie of the Large, Rich and Bewtiful Emphyre of Guiana* (Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1997), 23-39.

Optional supplementary readings:

Joyce Appleby, Lynn Hunt, and Margaret Jacob, *Telling the Truth About History* (: New York: Norton, 1994), 198-237.

Geoff Eley. *A Crooked Line: From Cultural History to the History of Society* (University of Michigan Press, 2005)

Cultural encounters & subaltern histories

Week 2 (Sept. 11):

Mary Louise Pratt. *Imperial Eyes. Travel Writing and Transculturation* (New York: Routledge, 1992), 1-14.

Homi Bhabha. *The Location of Culture* (London: Routledge, 1994), intro and ch. 6.

Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak. "Can the Subaltern Speak?" in *Colonial Discourse and Post-Colonial Theory. A Reader*, edited by Patrick Williams and Laura Chrisman, 66-111 (New York: Columbia University Press, 1994).

Optional supplementary readings:

Richard White. *The Middle Ground. Indians, Empires, and Republics in the Great Lakes Region, 1650-1815* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1991), intro and ch. 1-2.

Anthony Pagden. *European Encounters with the New World* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1993), introduction and chapter 1.

Week 3 (Sept. 18): Anna Lowenhaupt Tsing. *Friction: An Ethnography of Global Connection* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2005).

Desire, sexuality & colonialism

Week 4 (Sept. 25):

Michel Foucault. *The History of Sexuality, Vol 1: An Introduction* (New York: Vintage Books, 1990), Part 1 and Part 4.

Ann Laura Stoler. *Carnal Knowledge and Imperial Knowledge* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 2002), 140-161.

Ann Laura Stoler, ed. *Haunted by Empire* (Durham: Duke University Press, 2006), 1-22.

Week 5 (Oct. 2): Mary Louise Roberts. *What Soldiers Do: Sex and the American GI in World War II France* (University of Chicago Press: Chicago, 2013).

Biography as micro-history

Week 6 (Oct. 9):

James F. Brooks, Christopher R. N. DeCorse, and John Walton, ed. *Small Worlds: Methods, Meaning, & Narrative in Microhistory* (School for Advanced Research Press, 2008), 3-53, 145-172.

Clifford Geertz. *The Interpretation of Cultures* (New York: Basic Books, 1973), 3-30.

Week 7 (Oct. 16): Linda Gordon. *Dorothea Lange: A Life Beyond Limits* (Norton: New York, 2009).

Literary/discourse-analysis & New historicism

Week 8 (Oct. 23):

Michel Foucault. *The Archeology of Knowledge & The Discourse on Language* (Pantheon Books: New York, 1972), 21-39

Geoffrey Galt Harpham. "Foucault and the New Historicism" *American Literary History* 3:2 (1991): 360-375.

Stephen Greenblatt. *Shakespearean Negotiations: The Circulation of Social Energy in Renaissance England* (University of California Press: Berkeley, 1988), Ch. 2 "Invisible Bullets."

Optional supplementary readings:

Clifford Geertz. *The Interpretation of Cultures* (New York: Basic Books, 1973). A ch. from the book on learn@UW: "Deep Play: Notes on the Balinese Cockfight".

Catherine Gallagher and Stephen Greenblatt, ed. *Practicing New Historicism* (Chicago: Chicago University Press, 2000).

Practice & structuring structures

Week 9 (Oct. 30):

William H. Sewell. "The Concept(s) of Culture." In *Beyond the Cultural Turn: New Directions in the Study of Society and Culture*, edited by Victoria E. Bonnell and Lynn Avery Hunt, 35-61 (1999).

Pierre Bourdieu. *The Logic of Practice* (Stanford: Stanford University Press, 1980), 52-65.

Pierre Bourdieu. "Cultural Reproduction and Social Reproduction." In *Knowledge, Education and Cultural Change*, edited by Richard Brown, 71-99. (London: Tavistock publ., 1970).

David Swartz. *Culture and Power. The Sociology of Pierre Bourdieu* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1997), 1-14, 95-117, 189-217.

Week 10 (Nov. 6): Marcus Rediker. *The Slave Ship: A Human History* (Viking: New York, 2007).

Gender & subjectivity

Week 11 (Nov. 13):

Judith Butler. *Gender Trouble* (Routledge: New York, 1990), Prefaces (1990+1999), 1-46.

Judith Butler. *Bodies that Matter: On the Discursive Limits of "Sex"* (Routledge: New York, 1993), 1-55.

Documentary about Judith Butler uploaded to learn@UW

Optional supplementary readings:

Joan Scott. "Gender: A Useful Category of Historical Analysis." *AHR* 91:5 (1986): 1053-1075.

Anne (Finn) Enke, ed. *Transfeminist Perspectives in and beyond Transgender and Gender Studies* (Temple University Press: Philadelphia, 2012), introduction.

Week 12 (Nov. 20): Anne (Finn) Enke. *Finding the Movement: Sexuality, Contested Space, and Feminist Activism* (Duke University Press: Durham, 2007).

Week 13 (Nov. 27): Thanksgiving

Week 14 (Dec. 4): Guest: Emily Callaci

Emily Callaci. "Dancehall Politics: Mobility, Sexuality, and Spectacles of Racial Respectability in late Colonial Tanganyika, 1930s-1961" *The Journal of African History* 52: 3 (2011): 365 – 384.

Kwame Anthony Appiah. *In My Father's House: Africa and the Philosophy of Culture* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1992), Preface, ch. 1 and 7.

Judith Walkowitz. "'The "Vision of Salome": Cosmopolitanism and Erotic Dancing in Central London, 1908-1918." *AHR* 108:2 (2003): 337-76.

Optional supplementary readings:

Lynn Thomas. "The Modern Girl and Racial Respectability in 1930s South Africa." *Journal of African History* 47 (2006).

Tera Hunter. *To 'Joy My Freedom: Southern Black Women's Lives and Labors after the Civil War* (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1997). (the chapter on dance)

Week 15 (Dec. 11): Revisiting historiographical "turning" and cultural history

Julia Adeney Thomas. "Comment: Not Yet Far Enough" *AHR* 117:3 (2012): 794-803.

Nathan Perl-Rosenthal. "Comment: Generational Turns" *AHR* 117:3 (2012): 804-814.