

HISTORY AND THEORY:
RECENT APPROACHES TO SOCIAL AND CULTURAL HISTORY

Prof. Suzanne Desan
smdesan@wisc.edu
5124 Humanities

Office Hours: Mon. 11:45-1:45

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 are available in a xeroxed packet in the Copy Center on 1st floor Humanities. Articles from journals 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 (Jan. 20): INTRODUCTION

Week 2 (Jan. 27): HISTORY AS INTERPRETATION

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

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

Gabrielle M. Spiegel, "The Task of the Historian" American Historical Review 114 (2009): 1-15

If you need 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 (Feb. 3): 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 (esp. introductions and conclusions of skipped chapters)

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 (Feb. 10): ANTHROPOLOGY, GLOBAL ACTIVISM, & THE LAND

* Anna Lowenhaupt Tsing, Friction: An Ethnography of Global Connection (Princeton, 2005), read 1-54, skim 55-77, read 81-154, 203-272

Kenneth Cmiel, "The Emergence of Human Rights Politics in the United States," Journal of American History 86 (1999): 1231-1250

Week 5 (Feb. 17): FOUCAULT

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, The Foucault Reader, ed. Paul Rabinow (NY, 1984), 3-27 (intro by Rabinow), 170-213 (from Discipline & Punish), 291-339 (from History of Sexuality, vols. I & 2). If you know these works well, choose another section, e.g. "Madness and Civilization."

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, Feb. 22

Week 6 (Feb. 24): 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., 1990, orig. ed. 1980), 52-97

Pierre Bourdieu, Distinction: A Social Critique of the Judgement of Taste (Cambridge, Mass., 1984, orig. ed. 1979), 99-125, 169-77, 208-225

Week 7 (March 3): DISCOURSES & PRACTICES OF GENDER

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

* Dror Wahrman, The Making of the Modern Self: Identity and Culture in Eighteenth-Century England (New Haven, 2004), xi-82

Jeanne Boydston, "Gender as a Question of Historical Analysis," Gender and History 20 (2008): 558-583.

Oyèrónké Oyěwùmí, "Visualizing the Body: Western Theories and African Subjects" in Oyèrónké Oyěwùmí, editor, African Gender Studies: A Reader (2005), pp. 3-21

N.B.: If you have not read this classic article, read it before the Boydston piece: Joan Wallach Scott, "Gender: A Useful Category of Historical Analysis," American Historical Review 91 (1986): 1053-1075

Week 8 (March 10): 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 (March 17): SPACE, GENDER, SEXUALITY, 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., 2007), 1-173, 217-267

** 5-7 page paper due on Monday, March 22

Week 10 (March 24): THEORIZING PLACE AND LANGUAGE

* Keith H. Basso, Wisdom Sits in Places: Landscape and Language among the Western Apache (Albuquerque, 1996)

Michel de Certeau, "Ethno-Graphy: Speech or the Space of the Other" in The Certeau Reader, ed. Graham Ward (Oxford, 2000), 129-149.

Week 11 (April 7): TRANSNATIONAL HISTORY: EXAMINING REVOLUTION AND EMPIRE

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

* Jeremy Adelman, Sovereignty and Revolution in the Iberian Atlantic (Princeton, 2006), 1-14, 53-55, 99-115, 139-219, 258-307, 344-397, skim where necessary but make sure to get his essential method and challenge to past versions.

Week 12 (April 14): TRANSNATIONAL HISTORY: CIRCULATION of COMMODITIES & PRACTICES

* Marcy Norton, Sacred Gifts, Profane Pleasures: A History of Tobacco and Chocolate in the Atlantic World (Ithaca, 2008), 1-106, 140-266

Jeremy Prestholdt, "On the Global Repercussions of the East African Consumerism," American Historical Review 109 (2004): 755-781

Week 13 (April 21): TRANSNATIONAL HISTORY: INTELLECTUAL HISTORIES OF IMPERIALISM & ORIENTALISM

Anthony Pagden, "Imperialism, liberalism & the quest for perpetual peace," Daedalus 134 (2005): 46-57

Emma Rothschild, "Language and Empire, c. 1800," Historical Research 78 (2005): 208-229

Jennifer Pitts, A Turn to Empire: The Rise of Imperial Liberalism in Britain and France (Princeton, 2006), 1-22, 59-100

Suzanne Marchand, "Philhellenism and the *Furor Orientalis*," Modern Intellectual History

1 (2004): 331-358

Week 14 (April 28): TRANSNATIONAL HISTORY: IDENTITY, RACE, COSMOPOLITANISM, AND DIASPORA

James Sweet, "Mistaken Identities? Olaudah Equiano, Domingos Alvares, and the Methodological Challenges of Studying the African Diaspora," American Historical Review 114 (2009): 279-306

Paul Gilroy, "The Black Atlantic as a Counterculture of Modernity" in The Black Atlantic: Modernity and Double Consciousness (1995), pp. 1-40, 111-145

Anthony Kwame Appiah, "Rooted Cosmopolitans," in his The Ethics of Identity (Princeton, 2007), 213-272 (not in packet)

Week 15 (May 5): IDENTITY, RELIGION, MODERNITY, & THE SELF

* Dror Wahrman, The Making of the Modern Self, 157-217, 265-321

Frederick Cooper, with Rogers Brubaker "Identity" in Colonialism in Question: Theory, Knowledge, History (N.Y., 2005), 59-90

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, Feb. 22 and Monday, March 22. The final longer paper, due on Monday, May 10, 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.