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 I: INTRODUCTION

Week 2: HISTORY AS INTERPRETATION


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.)


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"


If you read French, look at:

Week 5: MARXISM

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


Week 6: RECENT MARXIST APPROACHES TO CULTURAL HISTORY


Week 7: ANTHROPOLOGY AND HISTORY


*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


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


Week 11: FOUGCAULT


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").


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.


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:


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


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


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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.