

HISTORY AND THEORY:
RECENT APPROACHES TO SOCIAL AND CULTURAL HISTORY

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All the books which are starred are available at University Book Store. The book chapters, as well as the main books, will all be on reserve at HC White or the State Historical Society. Articles from journals are available in a xeroxed packet in the Copy Center on 1st floor Humanities.

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, or post-structuralism (or some combination of these approaches.)

Week 1 (9/13): INTRODUCTION

Week 2 (9/20): HISTORY AS INTERPRETATION

Nancy F. Partner, "Making up Lost Time: Writing on the Writing of History," Speculum 61 (1986): 90-117.

Geoff Eley, "Is All the World a Text? From Social History to the History of Society Two Decades Later," Comparative Study of Social Transformations, working paper #55, 1990.

Jane Caplan, "Postmodernism, Postructuralism, and Deconstruction: Notes for Historians," Central European History 22 (1989): 260-78.

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

Week 3 (9/27): ANTHROPOLOGY AND HISTORY I: CLASSIC APPROACHES

Clifford Geertz, "Deep Play: Notes on a Balinese Cockfight," in The Interpretation of Cultures (New York, 1973), Chap. 15.

Natalie Zemon Davis, "Rites of Violence: Religious Riots in Sixteenth-Century France," in Society and Culture in Early Modern France (Stanford, 1975), pp. 152-87; also in Past and Present 59 (1973): 51-91.

Robert Darnton, The Great Cat Massacre and Other Episodes in French Cultural History (New York, 1984), Intro & Chapter 2.

Roger Chartier, "Texts, Symbols, and Frenchness: The Historical Uses of Symbolic Anthropology," Journal of Modern History 57 (1985): 682-95.

Week 4 (10/4): ANTHROPOLOGY & HISTORY II: CULTURAL HEGEMONY

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

*Steven Feierman, Peasant Intellectuals: Anthropology and History in Tanzania (Madison, 1990), 1-93, 120-222, 240-64.

Week 5 (10/11): ANTHROPOLOGY & HISTORY III

*Richard White, The Middle Ground: Indians, Empires, and Republics in the Great Lakes Region, 1650-1815 (Cambridge, Eng., 1991), 1-185, 469-523.

Thomas Abercrombie, "To Be Indian, to be Bolivian: 'Ethnic' and 'Natural' Discourses of Identity," in Nation-States and Indians in Latin America, ed. Greg Urban and Joel Sherzer (Austin, 1991), 94-130.

Week 6 (10/18): MARXISM AND ANTHROPOLOGY

*James Scott, Weapons of the Weak: Everyday Forms of Peasant Resistance (New Haven, 1985), Chapters 1, 2, 7, & 8; you may want to skim other chapters, esp. 6.

James Scott, Domination and the Arts of Resistance: Hidden Transcripts (New Haven, 1990), pp. 136-82.

Week 7 (10/25): MARXISM AND CULTURAL HISTORY: WHAT HAPPENED TO CLASS?

E. P. Thompson, The Making of the English Working Class (Oxford, 1963), pp. 7-14, 269-313, 350-374, 807-833.

William Sewell, "How Classes are Made: Critical Reflections on E. P. Thompson's Theory of Working Class Formation," in E.P. Thompson: Critical Perspectives, eds. Harvey J. Kaye and Keith McClelland (Philadelphia, 1990), 50-77.

Note: The Thompson book & the Sewell article are on reserve in HC White. These selections are not included in the reader.

*Leonard Berlanstein, ed., Rethinking Labor History (Urbana, Illinois, 1993), 15-39, 90-113, 149-81.

** 5-7 pp. PAPER DUE on Friday, October 29.

Week 8 (11/1): GENDER & HISTORY: THEORY AND PRACTICE

*Joan Scott, Gender and the Politics of History (New York, 1988), pp. 1-50, 93-138, & 167-77.

Joan Scott, "The Evidence of Experience," Critical Inquiry 17 (1991): 773-797.

Kathleen Canning, "Feminist History after the Linguistic Turn: Historicizing Discourse and Experience," Forthcoming in Signs: Journal of Women in Culture and Society 19 (1994), typescript.

Week 9 (11/8): GENDER, IDEOLOGY, & DECONSTRUCTION

*Mary Poovey, Uneven Developments: The Ideological Work of Gender in Mid-Victorian England (Chicago, 1988), 1-88, 126-202.

Mary Poovey, "Feminism and Deconstruction," Feminist Studies 14 (1988): 51-65.

Linda Gordon, "Social Insurance and Public Assistance: The Influence of Gender in Welfare Thought in the United States, 1890-1935," American Historical Review 97 (1992): 19-55.

Week 10 (11/15): GENDER AND THE POLITICAL IMAGINATION

*Lynn Hunt, The Family Romance of the French Revolution (Berkeley, 1992), xiii-xvi, 1-124, 151-204.

Ruth Bloch, "The Gendered Meanings of Virtue in Revolutionary America," Signs: Journal of Women in Culture and Society 13 (1987): 37-58.

Week 11 (11/22): GENDER, ANTHROPOLOGY, AND POST-STRUCTURALISM

*Dorinne Kondo, Crafting Selves: Power, Gender, and Discourses of Identity in a Japanese Workplace (Chicago, 1990), 3-48, 119-308; skim 49-75.

*Berlanstein, Rethinking Labor History, 55-89.

Week 12 (11/29): FOUCAULT & THE HISTORY OF SEXUALITY

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

Judith Walkowitz, The City of Dreadful Delight: Narratives of Sexual Danger in Late Victorian London (Chicago, 1992), 1-13, 135-169.

Week 13 (12/6): ETHNICITY, RACE, & DISCOURSES OF POWER

Evelyn Brooks Higginbotham, "African-American Women's History and the Metalanguage of Race," Signs: Journal of Women in Culture and Society 17 (1992): 251-274.

Robin Kelley, "'We Are Not What We Seem': Rethinking Black Working-class Opposition in the Jim Crow South," Journal of American History 79 (1993): 75-112.

Ann Stoler, "Carnal Knowledge and Imperial Power: Gender, Race, and Morality in Colonial Asia," in Gender at the Crossroads of Knowledge: Feminist Anthropology in the Post-Modern Era, ed. Micaela di Leonard (Berkeley, 1991), 51-101.

John and Jean Comaroff, "Medicine, Colonialism, and the Black Body," Ethnography and the Historical Imagination (Boulder, Co., 1992), 215-235.

Week 14 (12/13): ENVIRONMENTAL HISTORY

*Alfred Crosby, Ecological Imperialism: The Biological Expansion of Europe, 900-1900 (Cambridge, Eng., 1986), 1-40, 70-216, 269-308.

William Cronon, "Kennebec Journey: The Paths Out of Town," in Under an Open Sky: Rethinking America's Western Past, eds William Cronon, George Miles, and Jay Gitlin (New York, 1992), 28-51.

Raymond Williams, "Ideas of Nature," in his Problems in Materialism and Culture (London, 1980), 67-85.

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.) One of the short papers should be written in conjunction with leading discussion. The other short review paper will be due on Friday, Oct. 29. The final longer paper, due on Friday, Dec. 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.