

HISTORY AND THEORY:  
RECENT APPROACHES TO SOCIAL AND CULTURAL HISTORY

Suzanne Desan  
5124 Humanities

All the books which are starred are available at University Book Store and Brown's. A reader with the remaining articles is available at Kinko's at 620 University Avenue.

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 literary criticism (or some combination of these approaches.)

Week 1: INTRODUCTION

Week 2: HISTORY AS INTERPRETATION

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

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

Dominick La Capra, "Rhetoric and History," in his History and Criticism (Ithaca, 1985), pp. 16-44.

Clifford Geertz, "Blurred Genres: the Refiguration of Social Thought," in Local Knowledge, pp. 19-35; also in American Scholar (Spring 1980): 165-179.

Also Suggested: \*Lynn Hunt, "Introduction: History, Culture, and Text," in The New Cultural History, ed. Lynn Hunt (Berkeley, 1989), pp. 1-22.

Week 3: ANTHROPOLOGY AND HISTORY I

Clifford Geertz, The Interpretation of Cultures (New York, 1973), Chapters 4 & 15.

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

\*Aletta Biersack, "Local Knowledge, Local History: Geertz and Beyond," in New Cultural History, pp. 72-196.

\*Mary Ryan, "The American Parade: Representations of the Nineteenth-Century Social Order," in New Cultural History, pp. 131-53.

Week 4: ANTHROPOLOGY & HISTORY II

\*Natalie Zemon Davis, Society and Culture in Early Modern France (Stanford, 1975), Chapters 1 & 3-6.

\*Suzanne Desan, "Crowds, Community, and Ritual in the work of E. P. Thompson and Natalie Davis," New Cultural History, pp. 47-71.

Week 5: MARXISM AND CULTURAL HISTORY

\*Eugene Genovese, Roll, Jordan, Roll: The World the Slaves Made (New York, 1974), pp. 1-49, 97-133, 161-94, 585-621, 637-185.

James Oakes, The Ruling Race: A History of American Slaveholders (New York, 1982), intro and pp. 153, 169-191.

Week 6: MARXISM AND ANTHROPOLOGY

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

William Roseberry, "Images of the Peasant in the Consciousness of the Venezuelan Proletariat," in Proletarians and Protest: The Roots of Class Formation in an Industrializing World, eds. Michael Hanagan and Charles Stephenson (New York, 1986), pp. 149-169.

Week 7: MORE MARXISM AND CULTURAL HISTORY

\*E. P. Thompson, The Making of the English Working Class (Oxford, 1963), pp. 7-14, 189-212, 234-269, 350-374, 807-833.

Gareth Stedman-Jones, Languages of Class: Studies in English Working Class History (Cambridge, 1983), pp. 90-178.

\*Joan Scott, Gender and the Politics of History (New York, 1988), pp. 53-90.

\*\* 5-7 pp. PAPER DUE on Monday, October 23.

Week 8: GENDER AND THE STATE

\*Judith Walkowitz, Prostitution and Victorian Society: Women, Class, and the State (Cambridge, 1980), pp. 1-147, 192-213, & 246-56.

Sarah Hanley, "Engendering the State: Family Formation and State Building in Early Modern France," French Historical Studies 16 (1989): 1-27.

Week 9: WOMEN, POLITICS, and "WOMEN'S CULTURE"

Temma Kaplan, "Female Consciousness and Collective Action: The Case of Barcelona, 1910-1918," Signs: Journal of Women in Culture and Society 7 (1982): 545-566.

Linda Kerber, "Separate Spheres, Female Worlds, Woman's Place: The Rhetoric of Women's History," Journal of American History 75 (1988): 9-39.

Linda Kerber, Women of the Republic: Intellect and Ideology in Revolutionary America (Chapel Hill, 1980), pp. 69-113.

Claudia Koonz, "The Competition for Women's 'Lebensraum,' 1928-1934," in When Biology Became Destiny: Women in Weimar and Nazi Germany, eds. Renate Bridenthal, Atina Grossmann, and Marion Kaplan (New York, 1984), pp. 199-236.

Week 10: WOMEN'S HISTORY: THEORY AND PRACTICE I

\*Scott, Gender and the Politics of History, pp. 1-50 & 93-188.

Linda Gordon, "What is New and Not New in Women's History?" in Feminist Studies/ Critical Studies, ed. Teresa de Lauretis (Bloomington, 1986), pp. 20-31.

Sarah Maza, "Domestic Melodrama as Political Ideology: The Case of the Comte de Sanois," paper presented at the International Congress on the French Revolution, Washington, DC, May 1989.

Week 11: WOMEN'S HISTORY: THEORY AND PRACTICE II

\*Denise Riley, Am I That Name?: Feminism and the Category of "Women" in History (Minneapolis, 1988.)

Lori D. Ginzburg, "'Moral Suasion is Moral Balderdash': Women, Politics, and Social Activism in the 1850s," Journal of American History (1986?): 601-622.

Week 12: FOUCAULT

\*Michel Foucault, Discipline and Punish: the Birth of the Prison (New York, 1979, orig. 1975), Parts 1-3.

\*Patricia O'Brien, "Michel Foucault's History of Culture," in New Cultural History, pp. 25-46.

Week 13: THE HISTORY OF THE SENSES

\*Alain Corbin, The Foul and the Fragrant: Odor and the French Social Imagination (Cambridge, Mass., 1986, orig. 1982.)

Week 14: HISTORY AND LITERARY CRITICISM

\*Lloyd Kramer, "Literature, Criticism, and Historical Imagination: The Literary Challenge of Hayden White and Dominick LaCapra," New Cultural History, pp. 97-128.

Dominick LaCapra, "Rethinking Intellectual History and Reading Texts," in Modern European Intellectual History, eds. D. LaCapra and S. Kaplan (Ithaca, 1982), pp. 47-85.

Hayden White, "The Context in the Text: Method and Ideology in Intellectual History," in his The Content of the Form: Narrative Discourse and Historical Representation (Baltimore, 1987), pp. 185-213.

\*Thomas Laqueur, "Bodies, Details, and the Humanitarian Narrative," in New Cultural History, pp. 176-204.

Week 15: CONQUEST: LANGUAGE, IDEOLOGY, AND POWER

\*Tzvetan Todorov, The Conquest of America: The Question of the Other (New York, 1984, orig. 1982), trans. by Richard Howard, pp. 1-168 & 243-254.

Inga Clendinnen, "Disciplining the Indians: Franciscan Ideology and Missionary Violence in Sixteenth-Century Yucatan," Past and Present 94 (1982): 27-48.

Steve Stern, "The Rise and Fall of Indian-White Alliances: A Regional View of 'Conquest' History," Hispanic American Historical Review 61 (1981): 461-91.

\*\*\*\*\*  
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 the reading. The other short review paper will be due on Oct. 23. The final longer paper 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.