

## *Recent Approaches to Cultural and Social History*

HIST 703: History & Theory

Spring 2016

Tues. 1:20AM - 3:15PM, Humanities 5257

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This course will provide an introduction to several important recent approaches to cultural and social history, including methodologies influenced by anthropology, feminism, gender theory, cultural geography, post-structuralism, post-colonialism, globalization theory, and combinations of these. We will read selected chapters and articles by “classic” cultural theorists (most of whom start with B), like Bhabha, Bourdieu, Butler, Appadurai, Geertz, and Foucault, and discuss their theoretical work in relation to recent historical works. The aim of the course is to think through how social and cultural historians are inspired by and use theory in conceptualizing historical change. Throughout the semester we will explore the following questions: how do theoretical perspectives inform and influence various historians’ writing? How are their methods and perspectives shaped, limited, and made possible by their training, their theoretical perspectives, and their epistemological assumptions? One goal of the course is to help you think about how to best theorize and conceptualize your own approach to history.

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 Friday, Feb. 19 and Wednesday, March 16. The final longer paper, due on Monday, May 9, 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:

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

Linda Gordon. *The Arizona Orphan Abduction* (New York: Harvard University Press, 2001).

Walter Johnson. *Soul by Soul: Life Inside the Antebellum Slave Market* (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1999).

Afsaneh Najmabadi. *Women with Mustaches and Men without Beards: Gender and Sexual Anxieties of Iranian Modernity* (Berkeley, Cal., 2005).

Jennifer Ratner-Rosengagen. *The American Nietzsche: A History of an Icon and his Idea* (Chicago: Chicago University Press, 2012)

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

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

Books are available at Room of One's Own Bookstore at 315 W. Gorham Street, or on Reserve at HC White.

Chapters, articles, and other readings: Will be available as a course packet from the Copy Center at 6120 Social Sciences. This way you can also make better and more extensive notes while you read 😊

January 19: INTRODUCTIONS

CULTURAL AND SOCIAL HISTORY

Jan. 26: *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.

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).

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

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

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)

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

TRANSNATIONAL CULTURAL ENCOUNTERS & SUBALTERN HISTORIES

Feb. 2: Homi Bhabha. *The Location of Culture* (London: Routledge, 1994), 1-27 and 145-174 [Intro and ch. 6].

Natalie Davis, "Polarities, Hybridities: What Strategies for Decentring," in *Decentring the Renaissance: Canada and Europe in Multidisciplinary Perspective 1500-1700*, ed. Germaine Warkentin and Carolyn Podruchny (Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2001), 19-32.

Steven Feierman. "Colonizers, Scholars, and the Creation of Invisible Histories." In *Beyond the Cultural Turn*, edited by Victoria Bonnell and Lynn Hunt (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1999), 182-216.

Richard White. *The Middle Ground: Indians, Empires, and Republics in the Great Lakes Region, 1650-1815* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 1991), ix-xvi, 50-93.

Optional supplementary readings:

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

Mary Louise Pratt. *Imperial Eyes: Travel Writing and Transculturation* (New York: Routledge, 1992), 1-12.

Feb. 9: Anna Lowenhaupt Tsing. *Friction: An Ethnography of Global Connection* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2005). read 1-54, skim 55-77, read 81-154, 203-272.

Saskia Sassen, "Spatialities and Temporalities for the Global: Elements for a Theorization," in *Globalization*, ed. Arjun Appadurai (Durham: Duke University Press, 2001), 260-78

Arjun Appadurai, "Global Ethnoscapes: Notes and Queries for a Transnational Anthropology," in *Recapturing Anthropology: Working in the Present*, ed. Richard G. Fox, 191-210 (Santa Fe: School for American Research, 1991).

Feb 16: 1968 and Transnationalism

Deborah Cohen and Lessie Jo Frazier, "Scale: Exploring the 'Global '68'" in *Framing the Global: Entry Points for Research*, edited by Hilary E. Kahn (Bloomington, Indiana: Indiana University Press, 2014), 253-275

Essays from *The American Historical Review* 114 (2009) Forum on "The International 1968":

Jeremi Suri, "The Rise and Fall of an International Counterculture," *American Historical Review* 114 (2009): 45-68

Sara M. Evans, "Sons, Daughters, and Patriarchy: Gender and the 1968 Generation," *American Historical Review* 114 (2009): 331-347

Jeffrey L. Gould, "Solidarity Under Siege: The Latin American Left, 1968," *American Historical Review* 114 (2009): 348-375.

Richard Ivan Jobs, "Youth Movements: Travel, Protest, and Europe in 1968" *American Historical Review* 114 (2009): 376-404

PRACTICE & STRUCTURING STRUCTURES

Feb 23: Pierre Bourdieu. *The Logic of Practice* (Palo Alto, Ca., 1990, orig. ed. 1980), review 52-65, read 66-97.

Pierre Bourdieu. "Structures, Habitus, Power: Basis for a Theory of Symbolic Power." In *Culture/Power/History: A Reader in Contemporary Social Theory*,

edited by Nicolas B. Dirks, Geoff Eley, and Sherry B. Ortner, 155-189 (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1994), 155-199.

David Swartz. *Culture and Power. The Sociology of Pierre Bourdieu* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1997), 1-14, 95-116, 189-217.

Mar. 1: Walter Johnson. *Soul by Soul: Life Inside the Antebellum Slave Market* (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1999).

Walter Johnson, "On Agency," *Journal of Social History* 37 (2003): 113-124

Mar 8: Marcus Rediker. *The Slave Ship: A Human History* (Viking: New York, 2007).

### MICRO-HISTORY

Mar 15: Giovanni Levi, "On Microhistory," in *New Perspectives on Historical Writing*, ed. Peter Burke (University Park, Penn., 1991), 93-113.

Clifford Geertz. *The Interpretation of Cultures* (New York: Basic Books, 1973), 3-30 and 412-454. [Chap. 1 and 15]

James F. Brooks, Christopher R. N. DeCorse, and John Walton, ed. *Small Worlds: Methods, Meaning, & Narrative in Microhistory* (School for Advanced Research Press, 2008), 3-12, 145-172.

### SPRING BREAK

March 29: Linda Gordon. *The Arizona Orphan Abduction* (New York: Harvard University Press, 2001).

### NEW INTELLECTUAL HISTORY: UW'S OWN EXAMPLE

April 5: Jennifer Ratner-Rosenhagen, *The American Nietzsche: A History of an Icon and his Ideas* (Chicago: Chicago University Press, 2012). If you want to skip sections of the book we suggest paying less attention to: 69-109, 244-260, 274-306.

Series of short selections from these works by Nietzsche:

Friedrich Nietzsche, *Daybreak: Thoughts on the Prejudices of Morality*, trans. R.J. Hollingdale, eds. Maudemarie Clark and Brian Leiter (Cambridge: Cambridge UP, 1996).

Friedrich Nietzsche, *Gay Science*, trans. and with an intro. by Walter Kaufmann (New York: Viking, 1974).

Friedrich Nietzsche, *The Portable Nietzsche*, trans. and with intro. by Walter Kaufmann (New York: Viking, 1954).

Friedrich Nietzsche, *Human, All-Too-Human: A Book for Free Spirits*, trans. R.J.

Hollingdale (Cambridge: Cambridge UP, 1996).

### DESIRE & SEXUALITY

- April 12: Michel Foucault. *The History of Sexuality, Vol 1: An Introduction* (New York: Vintage Books, 1990), Part 1 and Part 4. (skim the rest)
- Eve Kosofsky Sedgwick. *Between Men: English Literature and Male Homosocial Desire* (New York: Columbia University Press, 1985), 1-27.
- April 19: 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 (skim the rest)
- April 26: Judith Butler. *Gender Trouble: Feminism and the Subversion of Identity* (New York: Routledge, 1990), Preface (1990), 1-17.
- Documentary about Judith Butler uploaded to learn@UW
- Anne (Finn) Enke. *Finding the Movement: Sexuality, Contested Space, and Feminist Activism* (Durham: Duke University Press, 2007). 1-144, 217-267 (skim the rest)

#### 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* (Philadelphia: Temple University Press, 2012).
- May 3: TBD