

History 751  
Symbolic Anthropology and History  
Spring 1987

Steven Feierman

Office Hours: Monday 12:00-1:00  
Friday 1:00-2:00

Week 1. Introduction.

Week 2. George Orwell, "Politics and the English Language."  
Fernand Braudel, "History and the Social Sciences: The Long  
Term." Social Science Information, 1970.

E.P. Thompson, "Folklore, Anthropology, and Social History."  
Reprinted from the Indian Historical Review, January  
1978.

Bernard Cohn, "Anthropology and History in the 1980s,"  
Journal of Interdisciplinary History, 1981.

Weeks 3-4. Case Study on Zambian Cults of Affliction:  
Towards a Sociology of Symbolic Action.

Week 3. Andrew Roberts, A History of Zambia 174-194.

Victor Turner, Schism and Continuity in an African Society,  
chapter 10, "The Politically Integrative Function of  
Ritual."

Victor Turner, "Symbols in Ndembu Ritual, from The Forest of  
Symbols.

Start Chihamba.

Wim Van Binsbergen, chapter on Zambian cults of affliction  
and the articulation of modes of production.

Week 4. Victor Turner, Chihamba: The White Spirit.

Anita Spring, "Epidemiology of Spirit Possession among the  
Luvale of Zambia." Pp. 165-190 in Judith Hoch-Smith  
and Anita Spring, Women in Ritual and Symbolic Roles.

Week 5. Clifford Geertz, "Thick Description: Toward an  
Interpretive Theory of Culture," and "Deep Play: Notes  
on the Balinese Cockfight," from The Interpretation of  
Cultures.

Geertz, "Blurred Genres: The Refiguration of Social  
Thought." The American Scholar, 1979(?).

Edward Said, "The Problem of Textuality: Two Exemplary  
Positions." Critical Inquiry, summer 1978.

- Week 6. Claude Lévi-Strauss, "The Story of Asdiwal," from The Structural Study of Myth and Totemism, edited by E.R. Leach.  
Lévi-Strauss, "The Structural Study of Myth," in Structural Anthropology, vol. 1.  
Terence Turner, "Oedipus: Time and Structure in Narrative Form."
- Week 7. Sherry Ortner, "Theory in Anthropology since the Sixties," Comparative Studies in Society and History, 1984.  
Jean Comaroff, Body of Power, Spirit of Resistance, 1-120.
- Week 8. finish Body of Power.
- Week 9. Feierman, writings on intellectuals and the history of discourse.
- Week 10. Pierre Bourdieu, Outline of a Theory of Practice, 1-95.
- Week 11. Pierre Bourdieu, Outline of a Theory of Practice, finish book.
- Week 12. Reading period.
- Week 13. Marshall Sahlins, Islands of History, or Johannes Fabian, Time and the Other.
- Week 14. Anthony Giddens, Central Problems in Social Theory, 1-164.
- Week 15. Anthony Giddens, Central Problems in Social Theory, 165-end.