

History of Science 921: The History of Semiotics in Science and Medicine:
An Introduction
Spring 2007

Thomas Broman and Michael Shank

Wednesdays 9-11:30, 7130 Social Science Bldg

Books

Umberto Eco, *Semiotics and the Philosophy of Language* (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1986)

Giovanni Manetti, *Theories of the Sign in Classical Antiquity* (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1993)

Umberto Eco, *The Name of the Rose* (Warner)

Photocopied readings

Useful: Paul Cobley and Liza Jantz, *Introducing Semiotics* (Lanham, Maryland: Totem books, 2005); Winfried Nöth, *Handbook of Semiotics* (Bloomington, Ind.: Indiana University Press, 1990)

Requirements:

Active reading and active participation in discussion

Seminar research paper (to be discussed with the instructors)

Week 1 (January 24): introduction and introductions

How shall we conclude the seminar? Research? More readings? A second pass over an agreed-upon topic?

Carlo Ginzburg, "Clues: Roots of an Evidential Paradigm," in *Clues, Myths, and the Historical Method* (Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 1986), pp. 96-125.

Umberto Eco, *A Theory of Semiotics* (Bloomington, 1976): Introduction: Towards a Logic of Culture, pp. 3-32

Recommended:

Jack Goody and Ian Watt, "The Consequences of Literacy" or other case for abstraction involved in literacy/alphabet (sign of sounds)

Week 2 (January 31): Babylonian Divination, Greek Divination, Greek Medicine, Plato

Manetti, Introduction and ch. 1-4.

Francesca Rochberg. "Personifications and Metaphors in Babylonian Celestial *Omina*," *Journal of the American Oriental Society* 116 (1996) 475-85.

Hippocrates, *Prognostics*, I, 1-8

Jean Bottéro, "Divination and the Scientific Spirit" in his *Mesopotamia: Writing, Reasoning and the Gods* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1992), 125-137.

Peek at Umberto Eco, *Semiotics and the Philosophy of Language* (Bloomington: Indiana University Press), sections 1.6-1.7 (to be discussed in detail later)

Week 3 (February 7): Aristotle, the Stoics, Epicurus

Manetti, *Theories of the Sign in Classical Antiquity*, ch. 5-7.

Aristotle, *De interpretatione*—(ch. 1-3)

Aristotle, *Prior Analytics* II, 70a6-10

Aristotle, *Sophistical Refutations* 167b1-5

Recommended:

Norman Kretzmann, "Aristotle on spoken sound significant by convention," in John Corcoran, ed., *Ancient Logic and its Modern Interpretations*, [Synthèse Historical Library, vol. 9 (D. Reidel, 1974),

Week 4 (February 14): Philodemus to Augustine

Manetti, *Theories of the Sign in Classical Antiquity*, ch. 8-10.

Augustine, *On Christian Doctrine*, II, 2, 12-15.

Recommended

R. A. Markus, "St. Augustine on Signs," in Markus, ed., *Augustine: A Collection of Critical Essays* (Garden City, 1972), pp. 61-91.

B. D. Jackson, "The theory of signs in St. Augustine's *De doctrina christiana*," in Markus, ed., *Augustine: A Collection of Critical Essays*, pp. 92-147.

Week 5 (February 21): Semiotics in Action in Fiction

Eco, *The Name of the Rose*, beginning to p. 305 (through Third Day)

Week 6 (February 28): Semiotics in the Action of Fiction

Eco, *The Name of the Rose*, pp. 309- end.

Week 7 (March 7): Case Study in Medieval Semiotics: Ockham

William of Ockham, *Summa logicae*, part 1 (trans. Michael Loux) (Notre Dame, 1974), pp. 1-21, 49-55, 69-82, 188-98.

Claude Panaccio, "Semantics and Mental Language in Paul Spade, ed., *Cambridge Companion to Ockham* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1999), pp. 53-75.

Theresa Coletti, *Naming the Rose: Eco, Medieval Signs, and Modern Theory* (Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 1988), Introduction and ch 1 (Eco, Sign Theory and the Middle Ages) and 5 (Medievalizing Theory), pp. 1-38, 142-171.

Andrea Tabbaroni, "Mental Signs and the Theory of Representation in Ockham," in U. Eco and C. Marmo, eds., *On the Medieval Theory of the Signs* (Amsterdam: Johns Benjamin, 1989), pp. 185-224.

Recommended:

Marilyn McCord Adams, *William Ockham* (Notre Dame, 1987) pp. 121-41.

Week 8 (March 14):

Eco, *Semiotics and the Philosophy of Language*, Introduction, ch. 1-2.

Week 9 (March 21):

Eco, *Semiotics and the Philosophy of Language*, ch. 3-4.

Week 10 (March 28)

Eco, *Semiotics and the Philosophy of Language*, ch. 5-6.

Spring break

Week 11 (April 11):

Eco, *Semiotics and the Philosophy of Language*, end.

Week 12 (April 18): Medical Semiotics

Faith Wallis, "Signs and Senses: Diagnosis and Prognosis in Early Medieval Pulse and Urine Texts," *Social History of Medicine* 13 (2000) 265-78.

Ian MacLean, *Logic, Signs and Nature in the Renaissance: The Case of Learned Medicine* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2001), ch. 8: The doctrine of signs

Selections from Carol Kaske's intro to Ficino's *De vita coelitus comparanda*, (e.g., pp. 38ff 59 etc), pp. 31-48.

Nancy Siraisi, "Signs and Evidence: Autopsy and Sanctity in Late Sixteenth-Century Italy," in Siraisi, *Medicine and the Italian Universities, 1250-1600* (Leiden: Brill, 2001), pp. 356-80.

Week 13 (April 25): Peirce and abduction

G. Cosenza, "Peirce and Ancient Semiotics," *Versus* 50/51, pp. 159-64.

Umberto Eco and Thomas Sebeok, eds., *The Sign of Three: Dupin, Holmes, Peirce* (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1983): Sebeok and Sebeok, "'You Know my

Method: ' A Juxtaposition of Charles S. Peirce and Sherlock Holmes," pp. 11-54; Eco, "Horns, Hoovers, Insteps: Some Hypotheses on Three Types of Abduction," pp. 198-220.

Christopher Hookway, *Peirce* (London; Routledge, 1985), ch. 4: Assertion and Interpretation: The Theory of Signs, and "Conclusion to part 1 pp. 118-148.

Charles Sanders Peirce, "Deduction, Induction, and Hypothesis," (1879) *The Essential Peirce* (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1998), I, pp. 186-99;

Charles Sanders Peirce, "What is a Sign?" in *The Essential Peirce* (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1998), II, pp. 4-10.

T. L. Short, "The Development of Peirce's Theory of Signs," in Cheryl Misak, ed., *The Cambridge Companion to Peirce* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2004), pp. 214-40.

Weeks 14 (May 2): Saussure and the fall-out from his work

From Julia Rivkin and Michael Ryan, eds., *Literary Theory: An Anthology* (Blackwell):

Jonathan Culler, "Introduction: the "Linguistic Foundation" pp. 73-75;

Saussure, *Course of General Linguistics*, excerpt, pp. 76-90.

Jean Baudrillard, "Symbolic Exchange and Death," pp. 488-508.

John E. Joseph, "The Linguistic Sign," in Carol Sanders, ed., *The Cambridge Companion to Saussure* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 200), pp. 59-75.

Stephen C. Hutchings, "The Russian Critique of Saussure," in Carol Sanders, ed., *The Cambridge Companion to Saussure* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 200), pp. 139-155.

Stephen Ungar, "Saussure, Barthes, and Structuralism," Carol Sanders, ed., *The Cambridge Companion to Saussure* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 200), 157-

Week 15 (May 9): Semiotics of art

Marilyn Aronberg Lavin, *The Flagellation of Christ*

Carlo Ginzburg, *The Enigma of Piero*

Nature article (2007), pp. 488-92 about David King's theory