

Proposed syllabus for History of Science 903
The History of Semiotics in Science and Medicine:
An Introduction

Michael H. Shank
Fall 2012

M 3:30-6 in Sterling 1327

The syllabus is tentative because there is a possibility for changes in it, especially in the latter part of the semester.

Books

- Giovanni Manetti, *Theories of the Sign in Classical Antiquity* (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1993) 9780253336842
James Allen, *Inference from Signs: Ancient Debates about the Nature of Evidence* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2001). 0198250940
Umberto Eco, *Semiotics and the Philosophy of Language* (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1986) 9780253203984
Umberto Eco, *The Name of the Rose* (Warner Books, 1986) 9780446344104

Additional readings photocopied and/or pdf files

Useful references: Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy (web-based:
<http://plato.stanford.edu/contents.html>)

Paul Cobley and Liza Jantz, *Introducing Semiotics* (Lanham, Maryland: Totem books, 2005).

Winfried Nöth, *Handbook of Semiotics* (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1990).

Ian MacLean, "The Process of Intellectual Change: A Post-Foucauldian Hypothesis" in John Neubauer, ed. , *Cultural History After Foucault* (New York : Aldine De Gruyter,

Requirements:

Active reading and active participation in discussion

Seminar research paper (to be discussed): The paper should show mastery of, and use one (maybe more) key concept(s) or insight(s) from the semiotic theories we will study (e.g., code, sign, inference, etc.) to analyze, clarify, or criticize some appropriate aspect of the student's chosen field or research programme.

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

Week 1 (September 10): introduction and introductions; Babylonian Divination, Greek Divination and Medicine

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.

Francesca Rochberg, "Conditional, Inference, and Possibility in Ancient Mesopotamian Science," *Science in Context* 22 (2009) 5-25.

Francesca Rochberg, "If P, then Q: Form, Reasoning and Truth in Babylonian Divination," A. Annus ed., *The Interpretation of Signs in Antiquity* (Chicago: Oriental Institute Publications, 2009), pp. 19-27.

Manetti, *Theories of the Sign in Classical Antiquity*, Intro & ch. 1-3, ca. 50 pp.

Hippocrates, *Prognostics*, I, 1-8 (use any reliable edition--Loeb, Lloyd in Penguin, etc)

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)

Recommended:

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

Related material:

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

Francesca Rochberg, "Elements of the Babylonian Contribution to Hellenistic Astrology," *Journal of the American Oriental Society* 108 (1988) 51-62.

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

Week 2 (September 17): Plato and Aristotle

Manetti, *Theories of the Sign in Classical Antiquity*, ch. 4-5 (53-91)

Allen, *Inference from Signs*, Study I, pp. 1-86.

Use any reputable edition (e.g., Oxford, Loeb, etc.) for the following:

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

Aristotle, *Prior Analytics* II, 68b9- 70b (end)

**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),

Scott
Clare

Week 3 (September 24): Rationalism, Empiricism, Skepticism, Stoicism =120pp

Manetti, *Theories of the Sign in Classical Antiquity*, ch. 6, pp. 92-110.
Allen, *Inference from Signs*, Studies II-III, pp. 87-188.

Nick
Mark

Week 4 (October 1): From Philodemus's Epicureanism to Augustine =120+

Manetti, *Theories of the Sign in Classical Antiquity*, ch. 7-10 (pp. 111-68)
Allen, *Inference from Signs*, Study IV, pp. 191-253
Augustine, *On Christian Doctrine*, II, 2, 12-15.
Allan Marquand (=C. S. Peirce dissertator), "The Logic of the Epicureans,"
<http://www.cspeirce.com/menu/library/aboutcsp/marquand/marquand.htm>

Recommended:

Giovanna Cosenza, "Peirce and Ancient Semiotics," VS: quaderni di studi
semitici 50/51 (1988) 159-64 (Learn@UW)
R. A. Markus, "St. Augustine on Signs," in Markus, ed., *Augustine: A Collection of
Critical Essays* (Garden City, NY, 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.

Maddy
Mark

Week 5 (October 8): A Semiotician Writes Fiction I

Eco, *The Name of the Rose*, beginning to p. 305 (through Third Day)
Recommended: John Kirby, "The Name of the Rose as Semiotic Fiction," ch. ** in
his *Secrets of the Muses*

James
Nick

Week 6 (October 15): A Semiotician Writes Fiction II

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

Leber
James

Week 7 (October 22): Case Studies in Medieval Semiotics: Bacon and Ockham

Jan Pinborg, "Roger Bacon on Signs," in Albert Zimmermann, ed., *Erkenntnis im
Mittelalter*. Miscellanea Mediaevalia 13/1 (Berlin. 1981)—have offprint in
Lindberg

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 (October 29): *Semiotics and the Philosophy of Language I*

Eco, *Semiotics and the Philosophy of Language*, Introduction, ch. 1-3.

Week 9 (November 5): *Semiotics and the Philosophy of Language II*

Eco, *Semiotics and the Philosophy of Language*, ch. 4-6.

Week 10 (November 12): *Semiotics and the Philosophy of Language III*

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

Week 11 (November 19): Medical Semiotics (Medieval and Early Modern)

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), 31-48.

Nancy Siraisi, "Signs and Evidence: Autopsy and Sanctity in Late Sixteenth-Century Italy," in Siraisi, *Medicine and the Italian Universities, 0250-1600* (Leiden: Brill, 2001), 356-80.

Week 12 (November 26): Peirce and Abduction

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

Peter Skagestad, "C. S. Peirce: Discourse and Semiotic," in Chip Sills and George Jensen, eds., *The Philosophy of Discourse: The Rhetorical Turn in Twentieth-Century Philosophy* (Portsmouth, NH: Boynton-Cook/Heinemann, 1992), pp. 53-69.

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. =65 pp

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.

Week 13 (December 3): 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 14 (December 10): Up for grabs? One possibility: Semiotics of Art?

Marilyn Aronberg Lavin, *The Flagellation of Christ* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 197*)

Carlo Ginzburg, *The Enigma of Piero* (Nature article (2007), pp. 488-92 about David King's theory
My review of King in JHA

