

**FALL 2012  
HIGR 200A:  
HISTORY AND THEORY**

**Instructor:** Frank Biess

Section 1: Wed 1pm-3.50pm, HSS 5086 (Section 1)

Section 2: Wed 5pm-7.50pm, HSS 6008 (Section 2)

**Course Description:**

This course provides an introduction to major theoretical approaches in the historical profession during the last several decades. The seminar is organized around a series of analytical concepts that have informed critical debates in historiography. We will analyze a particular concept each week, but then also consider how these analytical categories interacted. The readings consist of classical texts by major thinkers (Marx, Freud, Geertz, Foucault) as well as practical historiographical applications of these theoretical ideas. One goal of the seminar is to assess the ongoing relevance of these theoretical concepts for historians in the present and in the future (that is, for you!).

**Course Requirements.**

This will be a small, reading based course. Attendance and active participation are crucial. Each student will be responsible for introducing one set of readings. This presentation should not only entail a summary of the readings' main arguments but also offer a critical evaluation of their strengths and weaknesses as well as pose some questions for the discussion. Writing assignments consist of weekly response papers (starting in Week 2) that include a brief summary of one of the weekly readings (250-300 words) plus three discussion questions that emerge from the readings (also 250-300 words). These discussion questions should be fairly substantial, draw on all of the texts discussed in each week, and reflect a deep engagement with the issues raised in the readings. The reading questions should be posted on the course website by Tuesday evening, 8 pm. The final assignment consists of a review essay of 3-4 books, which were informed by one (or several) of the theoretical approaches discussed in the class. You should discuss the selection of these books with me but you can also consult with your advisors in your field. The essay should be 12-15 pages long, and should be sent to me via e-mail by Dec. 11, 4 pm.

**Course Readings:**

Students should purchase a copy of the following books. I ordered them for the UCSD bookstore, but they are also readily available on Amazon.com (sometimes also used for considerably less money). They will also be on reserve at Geisel Library. Additional readings will be available on e-reserve (password: "fb200")

Geoff Eley, *A Crooked Line. From Cultural History to the History of Society*

Sigmund Freud, *The Future of an Illusion*

Ruth Harris, *Lourdes. Body and Spirit in the Secular Age*

Dipesh Chakraparty, *Provincializing Europe. Postcolonial Thought and Historical Difference*  
Michel Foucault, *The History of Sexuality, Vol.1: An Introduction*  
Ann Stoler, *Race and the Education of Desire. Foucault's History of Sexuality and the Colonial Order of Things*  
Michel-Rolph Trouillot, *Silencing the Past: Power and the Production of History*  
Carolyn Steedman, *Landscape of a Good Woman. A Story of Two Lives*  
Lynn Hunt, *Inventing Human Rights: A History*  
Samuel Moyn, *The Last Utopia. Human Rights in History*

### **Schedule:**

#### **Week 1 (Oct 3): Introduction**

Geoff Eley, *A Crooked Line: From Cultural History to the History of Society* (Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press, 2005)

AHR Forum on "A Crooked Line," *American Historical Review* 113/2 (2008): 391-437.

AHR Forum on "Historiographical Turns in Critical Perspective," *American Historical Review* 117/3 (2012): 698-813

#### **Week 2 (October 10): Class**

Karl Marx, "Preface to a *Contribution to the Critique of Political Economy*," in Robert Tucker, *The Marx-Engels Reader* (New York, 1978), pp.3-8.

Karl Marx, "The German Ideology," Part 1, in *ibid.*, pp.146-200.

Karl Marx, "The Eighteenth Brumaire of Louis Napoleon," in *ibid.*, 594-617.

Eric Hobsbawm, "Marx and History," *New Left Review*, no. 143, February 1984

E.P., Thompson, *The Making of the English Working Class* (New York, 1966), "Preface," 9-14.

E. P. Thompson, "Time, Work-Discipline, and Industrial Capitalism," *Past and Present*, no. 38, December 1967

Geoff Eley/Keith Nield, "Farewell to the Working Class" and Responses, *International Labor and Working Class History* 57 (2000): 1-87.

#### **Week 3 (October 17): Culture**

Clifford Geertz, "Thick Description: Toward an Interpretive Theory of Culture" in idem., *The Interpretation of Culture. Selected Essays* (New York, 1973), 3-30.

William Sewell, "The Concepts of Culture," in Lynn Hunt and Victoria Bonnell, eds., *Beyond the Cultural Turn* (Berkeley: UC Press, 1997).

Robert Darnton, "Workers Revolt. The Great Cat Massacre of the Rue Saint-Severin," in idem., *The Great Cat Massacre and other Episodes in French Cultural History* (New York: Basic Books, 1984), 75-104.

Marshall Sahlins, "Captain James Cook; or, the Dying Good" in idem., *Islands of History* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1985), 104-35.

Gananath Obeyesekere, *The Apotheosis of Captain Cook. European Mythmaking in the Pacific*, xiii-xv, 3-22, 49-73, 102-119.

Marshall Sahlins, *How Natives Think, about Captain Cook, for example*, (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1995), 17-84.

#### **Week 4 (October 24): Religion**

Sigmund Freud, *The Future of an Illusion*

Dipesh Chakrabarty, *Provincializing Europe. Postcolonial Thought and Historical Difference*, pp.47-113

Ruth Harris, *Lourdes. Body and Spirit in the Secular Age*, 3-82, 246-366.

#### **Week 5 (October 31): Gender**

Joan Scott, "Gender: A Useful Category of Historical Analysis," *American Historical Review* 91/5 (1986): 1053-75.

Laura Lee Downs, "If "Woman" is Just an Empty Category, Then Why Am I Afraid to Walk Alone at Night? Identity Politics Meets the Postmodern Subject," *Comparative Studies in Society and History* 35/2 (1993) 414-37

Joan Scott, "The Tip of the Volcano," *ibid.*, 438-44

Laura Lee Downs, "Reply to Joan Scott," *ibid.*, 444-51

AHR Forum: Revisiting "Gender: A Useful Category of Historical Analysis" *American Historical Review* 113/5 (2008): 1344-1430

Tobi Ditz, "The New Men's History and the Peculiar Absence of Gendered Power: Some Remedies from Early American Gender History," *Gender and History* 16/1 (2004):1-30.

#### **Week 6 (November 7) Sexuality**

Michel Foucault, *The History of Sexuality, An Introduction. Vol. I*

Helmut Puff, "After the History of (Male) Homosexuality," in Scott Spector et al, ed., *After the History of Sexuality. German Genealogies with and Beyond Foucault* (New York: Berghahn Books, 2011), 17-30.

Margot Canaday, *The Straight State. Sexuality and Citizenship in 20<sup>th</sup> Century America* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2009), pp. 1-18, 91-136.

### **Week 7 (November 14): Race**

Ann Stoler, *Race and the Education of Desire. Foucault's History of Sexuality and the Colonial Order of Things*

Michael Omi and Howard Winant, "On the Theoretical Status of the Concept of Race" in C. McCarthy and W. Crichlow, eds., *Race Identity and Representation in Education* (New York: Routledge, 1993), 3-10.

Paul Gilroy, "The Crisis of 'Race' and Raciology," in idem. *Against Race. Imagining Political Culture Beyond the Color Line* (Cambridge, Mass, 2000), 11-53.

### **Week 8 (November 21): Emotions**

Carolyn Kay Steedman, *Landscape for a Good Woman. A Story of Two Lives*

Peter and Carol Stearns, "Emotionology. Clarifying the History of Emotions and Emotional Standards," *American Historical Review* 90/4 (1985): 813-36.

William Reddy, "Against Constructionism: The Historical Ethnography of Emotions," *Current Anthropology* 38/3 (1997): 327-51.

Barbara Rosenwein, "Worrying about Emotions in History," *American Historical Review* 107/3 (2002)

### **Week 9: (November 28): (Post)colonialism**

Michel-Rolph Trouillot, *Silencing the Past: Power and the Production of History*, pp. 1-108

Ranjit Guha, "On Some Aspects of the Historiography of Colonial India," in Vinayak Chaturvedi, *Mapping Subaltern Studies and the Postcolonial*, ed. Vinayak Chaturvedi (London: Verso, 2000), pp. 1-7

Partha Chatterjee, "The Nation and its Peasants," in *ibid.*, 8-23

Dipesh Chakrabarty, *Provincializing Europe. Postcolonial Thought and Historical Difference*, 3-46.

Frederick Cooper, "Modernity," in idem., *Colonialism in Question. Theory. Knowledge. History*, 113-149

**Week 10: (December 5): Rights**

Lynn Hunt, *Inventing Human Rights: A History*.

Samuel Moyn, *The Last Utopia. Human Rights in History*,

Makau Mutua, *Human Rights. A Political and Cultural Critique*, (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2002), 1-9, 39-70.