

# PROBLEMS IN EARLY MODERN HISTORY AND HISTORIOGRAPHY

HIST 620-301

Tuesday 2-5 p.m.

Lea Library, Van Pelt Library

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This seminar will be devoted to a critical examination of a series of notions that are fundamental today in historical writing. Such an approach will allow us to look at the mutations of historical research since the mid-twentieth century, to reflect on the relations between history and other disciplines (anthropology, sociology, literary criticism, history of art, etc.) and to analyze the models of intelligibility that frame historical interpretations. The seminar will read both methodological essays and historical case studies. It will deal with historiographical perspectives developed not only in the English speaking academic world but also in France, Spain, or Italy. Its aim is to propose a series of readings that can be considered as a part of the essential “library” necessary for any scholar working today in Humanities and Social Sciences.

## 1. January 9: **Introduction**

### 2. January 16: **History**

-Michel de Certeau, *The Writing of History*, New York, Columbia University Press, 1988, “The Historiographical Operation”, pp. 56-113.

-Hayden White, *Metahistory. The Historical Imagination in Nineteenth-Century Europe*, The Johns Hopkins University Press, 1973, “Introduction”, pp. 1-42.

-Hayden White, *Tropics of Discourse. Essays in Cultural Criticism*, The Johns Hopkins University Press, 1978, “Introduction”, pp. 1-25 and “The Historical Text as a Literary Artifact”, pp. 81-100.

-Carlo Ginzburg, *History, Rhetoric, and Proof*, Hanover and London, University Press of New England, 1999, “Introduction”, pp. 1-37, and “Lorenzo Valla and the ‘Donation of Constantine’”, pp. 54-70.

-Roger Chartier, *On the Edge of the Cliff. History, Language, and Practices*, Baltimore and London, The Johns Hopkins University Press, 1997, “History between Narrative and Knowledge”, pp. 13-27 (notes pp. 167-169).

### 3. January 23: **Memory**

-Paul Ricoeur, *Memory, History, Forgetting*, University of Chicago Press, 2004, Part Two, “History, Epistemology”.

-Mary Carruthers, *The Book of Memory. A Study of Memory in Medieval Culture*, Cambridge University Press, 1990, Chapter 4, "The Arts of Memory" and 5, "Memory and the Ethics of Reading", pp. 122-188.

-Fernando Bouza, *Communication, Knowledge, and Memory in Early Modern Spain*, University of Pennsylvania Press, 2004, Chapter 1 and 4.

-Yosef Yerushalmi, *Zakhor. Jewish History and Jewish Memory*, University of Washington Press, 1982. [**Reserve Van Pelt:** DS115.5 .Y47 1982]

#### 4. January 30: **Text**

-Stanley Fish, *Is there a Text in this Class? The Authority of Interpretive Communities*, Cambridge, Mass., and London, Harvard University Press, 1980 ("Introduction", pp. 1-17, and "Part Two: Interpretive Authority in the Classroom and in Literary Criticism", pp. 301-355).

-Stephen Greenblatt, *Shakespearean Negotiations. The Circulation of Social Energy in Renaissance England*, University of California Press, 1988, Chapter One, "The Circulation of Social Energy", pp. 1-20.

-Catherine Gallagher and Stephen Greenblatt, *Practicing New Historicism*, Chicago and London, The University of Chicago Press, 2000, Introduction, pp. 1-19, and "The Touch of the Real", pp. 20-48.

-D.F. McKenzie, *Bibliography and the Sociology of Texts*, Cambridge University Press, 1999, Chapter 1, "The book as expressive form" and Chapter 3, "The dialectics of bibliography now".

-Margreta de Grazia and Peter Stallybrass, "The Materiality of the Shakespearean Text", *Shakespeare Quarterly*, 44, 3, 1995, pp. 255-283.

#### 5. February 6: **Culture**

-Roger Chartier, "Cultural History", *International Encyclopedia of the Social and Behavioral Sciences*, Editors-in-Chief: Neil J. Smelser and Paul B. Baltes, Amsterdam, Elsevier, 2001, pp. 3075-3081.

-Carl Schorske, *Fin-de-Siècle Vienna. Politics and Culture*, Cambridge University Press, 1981, Introduction, pp. XVII-XXX.

-Pierre Bourdieu, "The Field of Cultural Production, or the Economic World Reversed", *Poetics* (Amsterdam), 12, no 4-5, 1983, pp. 331-356, or in Pierre Bourdieu, *The Field of Cultural Production: Essays on Art and Literature*, New York, Columbia University Press, 1993.

-Lawrence W. Levine, *Highbrow / Lowbrow. The Emergence of Cultural Hierarchy in America*, Harvard University Press, 1988, Chapter One, "William Shakespeare in America" and Chapter Two, "The Sacralization of Culture", pp. 13-168.

#### 6. February 13: **Discourse**

-Roland Barthes, "The Death of the Author" and "The Reality Effect" in Barthes, *The Rustle of Language*, Berkeley and London, University of California Press, 1986, pp. 49-55 and pp. 141-148.

-Michel Foucault, *The Discourse on Language*, (1969), in Foucault, *The Archaeology of Knowledge and The Discourse on Language*, Pantheon Books, 1972, pp. 215-237.

- Michel Foucault, “What Is an Author?”, in Michel Foucault, *Language, Memory, Counter-Memory, Practice : Selected Essays and Interviews*, Edited by Donald F. Bouchard, Ithaca and London, Cornell University Press, 1977, pp. 113-138.
- Roger Chartier, “Foucault’s Chiasmus. Authorship between Science and Literature in the Seventeenth and Eighteenth Centuries”, in *Scientific Authorship. Credit and Intellectual Property in Science*, Edited by Mario Biagioli and Peter Gallison, New York and London, Routledge, 2003, pp. 13-31.

#### 7. February 20: **Practice**

- Richard Hoggart, *The Uses of Literacy. Aspects of Working-Class Life with Special Reference to Publications and Entertainments*, (1957), Transaction Publishers, 1998, Chapters 7, 8, and 9.
- Michel de Certeau, *The Practice of Everyday Life*, (1980), University of California Press, 1984, “General Introduction”, pp. XI-XXIV, Chapter III, “‘Making Do’: Uses and Tactics”, pp. 29-44, and Chapter XII, “Reading as Poaching”, pp. 165-176.
- “Forum: Critical Pragmatism, Language, and Cultural History : On Roger Chartier’s *On the Edge of the Cliff*”, *French Historical Studies*, 21, 1998, pp. 213-264 (Bonnie G. Smith, Jonathan Dewald, William H. Sewell Jr., and Roger Chartier).

#### 8. February 27: **Representation**

- Ernst Kantorowicz, *The King’s Two Bodies. A Study in Medieval Political Theology*, Princeton University Press, 1957, Chapter Iim, Shakespeare: King Richard II”, pp. 24-41, and Chapter VII, “3. *Dignitas non moritur*”, pp. 383-450.
- Louis Marin, *Portrait of the King*, University of Minnesota Press, 1988, “Introduction”.
- Roger Chartier, “The Powers and Limits of Representation”, in *On the Edge of the Cliff. History, Language, and Practices*, pp.90-103 (notes pp. 178-180).
- Probing the Limits of Representation. Nazism and the “Final Solution”*, Saul Friedlander ed., Harvard University Press, 1992, in particular Hayden White, “Historical Emplotment and the Problem of Truth”, pp. 37-53 and Carlo Ginzburg, “Just One Witness”, in *Probing the Limits of Representation*, pp. 82-96.

#### March 6: **Spring Break**

#### 9. March 13: **Microhistory**

- Giovanni Levi, “On Microhistory”, in *New Perspectives on Historical Writing*, Peter Burke (ed.), Polity Press, 1992, pp. 93-113.
- Carlo Ginzburg, *The Night Battles. Witchcraft and Agrarian Cults in the XVIth and XVIIth Centuries*, (1966), The Johns Hopkins University Press, 1992, Chapter 1 and Chapter 4.
- Giovanni Levi, *Inheriting Power. The Story of an Exorcist*, (1985), The University of Chicago Press, 1988, Introduction, Chapter 2 and Chapter 4.
- Jacques Revel, “Microanalysis and the Construction of the Social”,(1996), in *Histories. French Construction of the Past*, , Jacques Revel and Lynn Hunt (eds.), The New Press, 1995pp. 492-502.

#### 10. March 20: **Global History**

- Fernand Braudel, “History and the Social Sciences : The Longue Durée”, (1958), in Braudel, *On History*, The University of Chicago Press, 1980, or in *Histories. French Construction of the Past* , pp. 115-145.
- Serge Gruzinski, *The Conquest of Mexico. The Incorporation of Indian Societies into the Western World, XVIth-XVIIIth Centuries*, Polity Press, 1993, Introduction, Chapter 1 and Chapter 2.
- Sanjay Subrahmanyam, “Connected Histories : Notes Towards a Reconfiguration of Early Modern Eurasia”, in *Beyond Binary Histories. Re-imagining Eurasia to c. 1830*, V. Lieberman (ed.), The University of Michigan Press, 1977, pp. 289-315.
- Sanjay Subrahmanyam, “On World Historians in the Sixteenth Century”, *Representations*, 91, 2005, pp. 26-57.
- Carlo Ginzburg, *Ecstasies. Deciphering the Witches’ Sabbath*, Pantheon Books, 1991, “Introduction” and “Conclusion”.

#### 11. March 27: **Meaning**

- Clifford Geertz, “Deep Play: Notes on the Balinese Cockfight”, in *Interpretive Social Science. A Reader*, Edited by Paul Rabinow and William M. Sullivan, Berkeley, University of California Press, 1979, pp. 181-223.
- Robert Darnton, *The Great Cat Massacre And Other Episodes in French Cultural History*, New York, Basic Books, 1984, Chapter 2, “Workers Revolt: The Great Cat Massacre of the Rue Saint-Séverin”, pp. 75-104.
- Forum : Roger Chartier, “Texts, Symbols, Frenchness”, *Journal of Modern History*, 57, 1985, pp. 682-695, Robert Darnton, “The Symbolic Element in History”, *JMH*, 58, 1986, pp. 218-234, Dominick LaCapra, “Chartier, Darnton, and the Great Symbol Massacre”, *JMH*, 60, 1988, pp. 95-112, and James Fernández, “Historians Tell Tales : Of Cartesian Cats and Gallic Cockfights”, *JMH*, 60, 1988, pp ; 113-127.
- Gabrielle Spiegel, “History, Historicism, and the Social Logic of the Text in the Middle Ages”, *Speculum. A Journal of Medieval Studies*, 65, 1990, pp. 59-86.
- Forum : John E. Toews, “Intellectual History after the Linguistic Term: The Autonomy of Meaning and the Irreducibility of Experience”, *American Historical Review*, Vol. 92, 1987, pp. 879-907, David Harlan, “Intellectual History and the Return of Literature”, *AHR*, 94, 1989, pp. 581-609, David A. Hollinger, “The Return of the Prodigal : The Persistence of Historical Knowing”, *AHR*, 94, 1989, pp. 610-621, Joyce Appleby, “One Good Turn Deserves Another : Moving Beyond the Linguistic”, *AHR*, 94, 1989, pp. 1326-1332.

#### 12. April 3<sup>rd</sup>: **Habitus**

- Erwin Panofsky, *Gothic Architecture and Scholasticism*, Meridian Books, 1957  
[Reserve Van Pelt: A540 P195]
- Norbert Elias, *The Civilizing Process*, Blackwell Publishers, 2000, Volume II, Part Four: Synopsis: Towards a Theory of the Civilizing Processes, pp. 363-447
- Pierre Bourdieu, *Pascalian Meditations*, Chapter 4 and Chapter 6.

#### 13. April 10: **Gender**

- Joan Scott, "Women's History", in *New Perspectives on Historical Writing*, Polity Press, 1992, pp. 42-66.
- Natalie Zemon Davis, *Women on the Margins. Three Seventeenth-Century Lives*, Harvard University Press, 1995, Prologue and Chapter 2, "Marie de l'Incarnation. New Worlds", pp. 63-139.
- Joan Scott, *Only Paradoxes to Offer. French Feminists and the Rights of Man*, Harvard University Press, 1996, Chapters 1 and 2.
- Cécile Dauphin and alii, "Women's Culture and Power", in *Histories. French Construction of the Past*, pp. 618-630.

14. April 17: **Writing**

- Jacques Derrida, *Of Grammatology*, Johns Hopkins University Press, 1976, First Part, Chapter 1 and Chapter 3.
- Jack Goody, *The Domestication of the Savage Mind*, Cambridge University Press, 1977, Chpters 1, 4, and 5.
- Armando Petrucci, *Public Lettering: Script, Power, and Culture*, University of Chicago Press, 1993, "Introduction" and Chapter 9.
- Anthony Grafton, *Forgers and Critics: Creativity and Duplicity in Western Scholarship*, Princeton University Press, 1990, Chapters 1 and 2.
- Anthony Grafton, *The Footnote: a Curious History*, Harvard University Press, 1997  
**[Reserve Van Pelt: PN171.F56 G73 1997]**