

CULTURE AND DESIRE

Fall 2005
16:070:530 (523)
Tues. 2:15 -5:15pm
RAB 305

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CATALOGUE DESCRIPTION

Exploration of desire in social, political, and economic relations between dominant and oppressed groups in colonial/postcolonial worlds of 19th-21st centuries, emphasizing contemporary discourses of desire as explanatory anthropological models.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course tracks the history and use of concepts employed to understand the relationship of culture to desire. Specifically, it focuses on such notions as “the unconscious,” “repression,” “fetishism,” “transgression,” “exoticizing,” “fantasy,” “nostalgia,” “hope,” “longing,” and “imagination” as analytical categories used in both late 19th and late 20th/early 21st-century cultural criticism and anthropology. We compare the use of these concepts during these time periods to gain an understanding not only of the concepts themselves, but also of some of the significant issues and questions of each period. Emphasis will be placed on your imaginative engagement with these terms as a means of thinking through how you might draw on their analytical power in your own work and on how you might reformulate them given the questions that arise out of your own research context.

REQUIRED TEXTS

The following books are available at the Douglass Co-op Bookstore (1-800-929-2667), and are also on reserve in the Douglass library. The other readings for the course are on reserve there too and are also available on e-reserve (under my name, the author’s, or the course number).

Crapanzano, Vincent. *Imaginative Horizons: An Essay in Literary-Philosophical Anthropology* (Chicago University Press, 2004): IH

Hitchcock, Peter. *Imaginary States: Studies in Cultural Transnationalism* (University of Illinois Press, 2003).

Mascia-Lees, F. and P. Sharpe. *Taking a Stand in a Postfeminist World: Toward an Engaged Cultural Criticism* (SUNY Press, 2000): TS

Mueggler, Eric. *The Age of Wild Ghosts: Memory, Violence, and Place in Southwest China* (University of California Press, 2001).

Price, Richard. *The Convict and the Colonel* (Beacon, 1998).

Wilson, Ara. *The Intimate Economies of Bangkok*. (University of California Press, 2004).

Each class period will be divided into the following segments:

- Reading and discussion of critiques as a means of getting into the reading material (2:15-3:30pm)
- Break (3:30-3:45pm)
- In-class writing time in which you revise, expand, comment on, rethink, or expand your ideas in your critique based on the discussion in the previous segment (3:45-4:15pm)
- Discussion of your revised ideas (4:15-5:15pm).

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Weekly Reading Critiques and In-Class Writing

60% of grade

You are required to prepare weekly 2-3 page critiques of the reading material, which demonstrate your creative, critical integration and evaluation of ideas from each of the articles (or, when entire books are assigned, the application of the ideas from articles to an analysis and critique of the book). These critiques will be read in class and therefore should be particularly interesting, lively, and provocative. Your critiques will not be collected, but will be graded based on your presentation of them in class and on your refinement of them during in-class writing time. If you do not come prepared to class with your critique, you will receive a grade of zero for that day.

Class Discussion and Final Presentation

20% of grade

You are expected to participate actively in the discussion of the reading material in each class, demonstrating your knowledge of, and critical thinking about, the material covered. I expect participation above and beyond the reading of your critique in class. This grade will also be based on how carefully you listen and therefore respond to others' critiques and ideas. This grade will also be based on the quality of your final paper presentation, which should be in the form of a deliverable conference paper lasting no more than 15 minutes.

Final Paper

20% of grade

I'd like you to use this assignment to get experience writing the kind of paper one presents at professional meetings. This means the paper should be no more than eight double-spaced pages (not including abstract and references cited), so that it can be delivered in 15 minutes, the required time limit not only for the oral presentation for this class (see above), but also the standard amount of time given to session presenters at professional meetings. If you haven't written such a paper before, start looking for examples, asking members of the Department of Anthropology faculty for samples of ones they have given, for example, or finding annual meeting programs, and writing to

some presenters for a copy of their recent papers, especially if they're on a topic similar to yours. Be sure to get these from people you trust to have presented a good paper, and use them as a guide. Don't be fooled by the length. It is sometimes harder to write a good short paper, than a long one. NO late papers will be accepted. I will be happy to read one draft of your paper, but I must receive it electronically no later than 12pm on November 22. I prefer to receive all work electronically. It is your responsibility to make sure that I can open and download what you send (this suggests you may want to send me a "dummy" document of the approximate length of your paper early in the semester to ensure there are no glitches).

ATTENDANCE POLICY

Students are required to attend all class meetings (only one absence is allowable, and this only with a legitimate excuse such as serious illness). If you miss more than one class, you will jeopardize your standing in the course and will be asked to withdraw from it.

NOTE ON READING

I have tried to keep the weekly reading assignment under 135 pages. Toward the end of the course, however, you will be reading a few articles along with full-length ethnographies, which can bring the reading load to about 230 pages. Since the ethnographies are a faster read, I think this should be doable. I have indicated on the course outline the approximate number of pages of reading for each week.

COURSE OUTLINE

I. DISCOURSES OF DESIRE IN ANTHROPOLOGY AND CULTURAL CRITICISM

Sept 6 **Introduction**

Sept. 13 **Repression and Desire** (125 pp. of reading)

- Freud, Sigmund. 1989. "Some Psychological Consequences of the Anatomical Distinction between the Sexes." In *The Freud Reader*, edited by Peter Gay. Pp. 670-678.
- Theweleit, Klaus. 1989. "The Male and its Counterparts." In *Male Fantasies*. Pp. 3-92. (58 pp of actual reading)
- Foucault, M. 1978. "The Repressive Hypothesis." In *History of Sexuality: An Introduction, vol 1*. Pp. 17-35.
- Stoler, Ann. "The Education of Desire and the Repressive Hypothesis." In *Race and the Education of Desire*. Pp.165-195.

- Sangren, P. Steven. "Psychoanalysis and its Resistances in Michel Foucault's *The History of Sexuality: Lessons for Anthropology*." *Ethos* 32.1 (2004): 110-122.

Sept. 20 **Rethorizing the Unconscious: Desire and Looking** (77 pp. of reading)

- Benjamin, Walter. 1979. "A Small History of Photography." In *One Way Street and Other Writings*. Edmund Jephcott and Kingsley Shorter, trans. Pp. 240-257.
- Taussig, Michael. 1993. "Tactility and Distraction." In *Rereading Cultural Anthropology*, edited by George Marcus. Pp. 8-14.
- Mascia-Lees, F. E. and P. Sharpe. Chapter 2: "The Anthropological Unconscious." In TS: 43-54.
- Mascia-Lees, F. E. and P. Sharpe. Chapter 4: "An Oblique Look." In TS: pp. 57-78.
- Mascia-Lees, F. E. and P. Sharpe. Chapter 7: "Piano Lessons." In TS: pp. 103-113.
- Kulick, Don and Margaret Willson. "Rambo's Wife Saves the Day: Subjugating the Gaze and Subverting the Narrative in a Papua New Guinea Swamp." *Visual Anthropology Review* 10.2 (1994): 1-13.

Sept. 27 **Theorizing the Fetish I: Difference and Transgression** (135 pp. of reading)

- Freud, Sigmund. 1928. "Fetishism." vol. 21 in *Standard Edition of the Complete Psychological Works of Sigmund Freud*. Pp. 152-157.
- Freud, Sigmund. 1989. "Deviations in Respect to the Sexual Aims," from "Three Essays on the Theory of Sexuality." In *The Freud Reader*. Pp. 247-250.
- Matlock, Janet. 1993. "Masquerading Women, Pathologized Men: Cross-dressing, Fetishism, and the Theory of Perversion, 1882-1935." In *Fetishism as Cultural Discourse*, edited by Emily Apter and William Pietz. Pp. 31-61.
- McClintock, Anne. "Psychoanalysis, Race and Female Fetishism." In *Imperial Leather*. Pp. 181-203.

- Grosz, Elizabeth. 1993. "Lesbian Fetishism?" In *The Fetish as Cultural Discourse*. Pp.101-115.
- Fernbach, Amanda. 2002. "Fetishism at the Professional Dungeon: The Dominatrix and her Male Slave". In *Fantasies of Fetishism*. Pp. 182-230.
- Crapanzano, Vincent. Chapter 5: "The Transgressive and the Erotic." In *IH*: pp. 124-147.

Oct. 4 **Theorizing the Fetish II** (97 pp. of reading)

The Commodity Fetish

- Marx, K. 1894 "The Fetishism of Commodities and the Secret Thereof." Chapter 1, Section 4, In *Capital: A Critique of Political Economy*. You can download this from: <http://www.marxists.org/archive/marx/works/1867-c1/ch01.htm#S4>

Aligning the Sexual and Commodity Fetish

- Pietz, William:
 - "The Problem of the Fetish," part 1 Res 9 (1985): 5-17.
 - "The Problem of the Fetish," part 2 Res 13 (1987): 23-45.
 - "The Problem of the Fetish," part 3a Res 16 (1988): 105-23.
- Apter, Emily. 1993. "Introduction." In *The Fetish as Cultural Discourse*, edited by Emily Apter and William Pietz. Pp. 1-12.
- Mulvey, Laura. 1996. "Introduction." In *Fetishism and Curiosity*. Pp. 1-15.

Triangulating the Fetish

- Golan, Romy. "Triangulating the Surrealist Fetish." *Visual Anthropology Review* 10:1 (Spring 1994): 50-65.

Oct. 11 **Consuming Desire** (144 pp. of reading)

- Mankekar, Purnima. "Dangerous Desires: Television and Erotics in Late 20th Century India." In *The Journal of Asian Studies* 63.2 (May 2004): 403-431. This can be downloaded from: <http://www.aasianst.org/catalog/mankekar.pdf>
- Curtis, Debra. "Commodities and Sexual Subjectivities: A Look at Capitalism and Its Desires." *Cultural Anthropology* 19.1 (February 2004):95-121.
- Mascia-Lees F. and P. Sharpe. "The Female Body in Postmodern Consumer Culture: Subjection and Agency at the Mall" in *TS*: pp. 117-142.
- Pinch, Adela. 1998. "Stealing Happiness: Shoplifting in Early Nineteenth-Century England. In *Border Fetishisms*, edited by Patricia Spyer. Pp. 122-149.
- Freidman, Jonathan. "Consuming Desires: Strategies of Selfhood and Appropriation." *Cultural Anthropology* 6.2 (1991). Pp. 154-163.

- Schein, Louisa. 2001. Chinese Consumerism and the Politics of Envy: Cargo in the 1990s? In *Whither China? Intellectual Politics in Contemporary China*. Edited by Xudong Zhang. Pp. 285-314.

II: ANTHROPOLOGIES OF DESIRE

Oct. 18 **(Commodity) Fetish Ethnographies: Beads, Gold, Magic Money and Value**
(103 pp. of reading)

- Foster, Robert. 1998. "Your Money, Our Money, The Government's Money." In *Border Fetishisms*, edited by Patricia Spyer. Pp. 60-90.
- Charnon-Deutsch, Lou. "Racial Fetishism in the Nineteenth-Century Illustrated Magazine." This is on reserve, but you can also get it on-line: <http://www.sinc.sunysb.edu/Publish/hiper/num1/art/lou.htm>
- Graeber, David. "Beads and Money: Notes toward a Theory of Wealth and Power." *American Ethnologist* 23.1 (1996): 4-24.
- Spyer, Patricia. "The Eroticism of Debt: Pearl Divers, Traders, and Sea Wives in the Aru Islands, Eastern Indonesia." *American Ethnologist* 24.3 (1997): 515-538.
- Moors, Annelies. 1998. "Wearing Gold." In *Border Fetishisms*, edited by Patricia Spyer. Pp. 208-223.

Oct. 25 **Longing and Nostalgia** (14 pp. of article reading, 217 of book)

- Stewart, Kathleen. "Nostalgia: A Polemic." *Cultural Anthropology* 3:3 (1988): 227-241.
- Price, Richard: *The Convict and the Colonel*. Beacon Press, 1998.

Recommended Reading:

- William, Bissell. "Engaging Colonial Nostalgia." *Cultural Anthropology* 20:2 (May 2005): 215-248.

Nov. 1 **Domestic Desire: The Politics of Intimacy** (35 pp. of article reading, 195 of book reading)

- Friedman, Sara. "The Intimacy of State Power." *American Ethnologist* 32.3 (2005): 312-327.
- Mascia-Lees F. and P. Sharpe. "Courting the 19th Century: Object, Image, and Desire." In TS: pp. 79-91.
- Saab, A. Joan. 2005. "Gucci Babies: From the Madonna and Child to Madonna and Children." *American Popular Culture*.
- Wilson, Ara. 2004. *The Intimate Economies of Bangkok*.

III. ANTHROPOLOGIES OF THE IMAGINATION

- Nov. 8 **Hope** (37 pp. of article reading, 140 pp. of book reading)
- Crapanzano, Vincent. "Introduction" and Chapter 4, "Hope. In IH: pp. 1-12 and 97-123.
 - Myasaki, Hirokazu. 2001. *The Method of Hope: Anthropology, Philosophy, and Fijian Knowledge*.
- Nov. 15 **The Work of Imagination** (25 pp. of article reading, 200 pp. of book reading)
- Appadurai, Arjun. 1996. "Here and Now." In *Modernity at Large: Cultural Dimensions of Globalization*. Pp. 1-26.
 - Hitchcock, Peter. 2003. *Imaginary States: Studies in Cultural Transnationalism*, **selections**.
- Nov. 22 change to Wednesday class: no class
- Nov. 29 no class: AAAs
- Dec. 6 **Imaginative Horizons: Inhabiting Fantasy/Dreaming Community** (there are 3 weeks to do this reading: 73 pp. of article reading, 320 pp. of book reading)
- Crapanzano, Vincent. Chapters 1-2: "Imaginative Horizons" and "The Between." In IH: pp. 13-65.
 - Weiss, Brad. "Thug Realism: Inhabiting Fantasy in Urban Tanzania." *Cultural Anthropology* 17.1 (2002): 93-124.
 - Mueggler, Eric. 2001. *The Age of Wild Ghosts: Memory, Violence, and Place in Southwest China*.
- Dec. 13 **Student Presentation of Final Papers**
****FINAL PAPER DUE IN CLASS****