Anthropology 391. Culture, History and Power.
Fall 2012
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In a cross cultural and inter-disciplinary perspective, the course will critically engage with historiographical debates on issues related to narrative, the history and politics of the archives, the politics of representation and the construction of facts. We will read works by Hayden White, E. P. Thompson, Reinhart Koselleck, Fernand Braudel, Carlo Ginzburg and Michel-Rolph Trouillot among others. Over the course of the semester we will also follow the debates in Subaltern Historians by scholars like Ranajit Guha, Dipesh Chakrabarty and Gyan Pandey. Regionally, the course will be broad. While most of the monographs will be on South Asia and the Middle East, there will be ample discussion of European, Latin American and African cases.

Requirements.
1. Attendance and participation in class discussion. Please come on time and attend regularly. I would appreciate prior notice if due to some unavoidable reason you will not attend a particular class. Also participate in class discussions, which means coming prepared to class and having done the readings. Each individual will bring a paragraph or a set of questions to class and hand it over to me (these will not be returned), but I will take it into account for the final grades.
2. Lead two class presentations. We will create groups that will present twice during the course of the semester.
3. Book review. There will be one book review assignment by the middle of the semester (details will be announced in class).
4. Final paper. A 15-20 page research paper will be due by the last class day. The topic and other parameters can be discussed during the course of the semester.

Books on Order.
Shahid Amin. Event, Methaphor, Memory
Carlo Ginzburg. The Cheese and The Worm
Assia Djebar. Fantasia
Nadia el Haj. Facts on the Ground
Timothy Mitchell. Colonising Egypt
Michael Taussig. Law in a Lawless Land
Michel-Rolph Trouillot. Silencing the Past.

All books are in the COOP bookstore.

There is also a course-pack available at Speedway (Dobie Mall).

Week One:
September 4

Introduction.

Week Two
September 11

Hayden White. The Value of Narrativity in the Representation of Reality and The Question of Narrative in Contemporary Historical Theory. In The Content of Form (Johns Hopkins University Press: 1987).

E. P. Thompson. "Folklore, Anthropology and Social History". The Indian Historical Review 1977. In course pack

Harry Harootunian. Introduction and Chapter 2. In History's Disquiet (Columbia University Press: 2000).

William Sewell. Theory, History and Social Science. In Logics of History (University of Chicago Press: 2005).

Ranajit Guha. The Small Voice in History. In Subaltern Studies IX. Introduction. In Subaltern Studies Reader (University of Minnesota Press 1997)

Week Three
September 18

Reinhart Koselleck. Selections from Futures Past. (Columbia University Press: 2004).

Fernand Braudel. Selections from On History (University of Chicago Press: 1980).

Hayden White. The Historical Text as Literary Artifact. In Tropics of Discourse (The Johns Hopkins University Press: 1978) and Storytelling, Historical and Ideological.

Michel Foucault. Society Must be Defended. Lectures from 1976.

Gyan Pandey. Chapters 3 (Historians' History) In Remembering Partition (Cambridge University Press: 2001).

Week Four
September 25

Hayden White. Historical Emplotment and the Problem of Truth.

Carlo Ginzburg. Just One Witness.

Martin Jay. Of Plots Witnesses and Judgments.

All in Saul Friedlander ed. Probing the Limits of Representation: Nazism and the "Final Solution". (Harvard University Press: 1992)

Samera Esmeir. Law, History, Memory. In Social Text, 75 Summer 2003.

Achille Mbembe. Necropolitics. Public Culture. 15(1), 2003.

Carlo Ginzburg and Joan Scott, Articles and Replies in Questions of Evidence pp 290-324 and 363-400 (University of Chicago Press: 1994).

Week Five
October 2

Gyan Pandey. Chapter 4 (the Evidence of the Historian). In Remembering Partition (Cambridge University Press: 2001).

Rienhart Koselleck. Chapters 1-2. In The Practice of Conceptual History (Stanford University Press: 2002)

Dipesh Chakrabarty. Chapters 1 (Postcoloniality and the Artifice of History) and 3 (Translating Life-Worlds into Labor and History). In Provincializing Europe (Princeton University Press:2000).

Uday Mehta. Strategies: Liberal Conventions and Imperial Exclusions. In Liberalism and Empire (University of Chicago Press: 1999).

Gyan Prakash. "Writing Orientalist Histories of the Third World: Indian Historiography is Good to Think." In Nicholas Dirks ed. Colonialism and Culture (University of Michigan Press: 1992)

Recommended.

Rosalind O'Hanlon and David Washbrook. "After Orientalism: Culture, Criticism and Politics in the Third World." In CSSH, 1992.

Gyan Prakash: Repsonse to O'Hanlon and Washbrook. In CSSH, 1992.

Week Six
October 9

Ranajit Guha. Discipline and Mobilize. In Partha Chatterjee and Gyan Pandey eds. Subaltern Studies VII (Oxford University Press: 1992).

Timothy Mitchell. Chapters 1 (Can the Mosquito Speak) and 7 (The Object of Development). In Rule of Experts (University of California Press: 2002)

Dipesh Chakrabarty. The Death of History? Historical Consciousness and the Culture of Late Capitalism. In Public Culture 4(2), 1992.

Gyan Pandey. By Way of Introduction. In Remembering Partition (Cambridge University Press: 2001).

Ranajit Guha. Chandra's Death. In Ranajit Guha ed. A Subaltern Studies Reader (University of Minnesota Press: 1997)

Week Seven
October 16

Susan Buck-Morss. The City as Dreamworld and Catastrophe. In October 73 Summer 1995.

Stoler, Ann Laura. Imperial Debris: Reflections on Ruins and Ruination. Cultural Anthropology 23(2), 2008.

Nancy Rose Hunt. An Acoustic Register, Tenacious Images and Congolese Scenes of Rape and Repetition. In Cultural Anthropology 23(2), 2008.

Benjamin, Walter. Theses on the Philosophy of History. In Illuminations (Schocken Books, New York).

Kamran Asdar Ali. Progressives and "Perverts": Partition Stories and Pakistan's Future. *Social Text* . Fall, #108.

Week Eight
October 23
Carlo Ginzburg. Cheese and the Worm (Johns Hopkins Press)

Week Nine
October 30
Shahid Amin: Event, Metaphor, Memory (University of California Press:1995).

Week Ten
November 6
Michel-Rolph Trouillot: Silencing the Past (Beacon Press: 1995). Remaining Sections, and North Atlantic Fictions: Global Transformations, 1492-1945.

Week Eleven
November 13
Assia Djebar. Fantasia (Quartet Books: 1993)

Week Twelve
November 20
Michael Taussig; Law in Lawless Land

Week Thirteen
November 27
Nadia El Haj. Facts on the Ground (University of Chicago Press).

Week Fourteen
December 4
Timothy Mitchell. Colonising Egypt (University of California Press) (Final Paper Due).