## REPRESENTATION

Anthropology 391 / Women's and Gender Studies 393 Prof. Pauline Turner Strong Spring 2012

## **SYLLABUS**

COURSE DESCRIPTION This seminar considers theories of representation current in anthropology, gender studies, and other disciplines as well as a variety of representational practices, especially the representation of collective selves and others in ethnographic narratives, collections, and displays. Among topics to be confronted are the politics and poetics of representation; representation and historical memory; the relationship of representation to colonialism, objectification and appropriation; postmodern and postcolonial crises of representation; and contemporary experiments in representation.

## REQUIREMENTS AND EVALUATION

This seminar requires attentive, critical, and timely reading of the required texts, active participation in class discussions, and participation in a collective experiment in representation. This experiment will take the form of one or more projects prepared for public consumption, e.g. an exhibition, performance, video, or website. The topic of the experiment will be decided collectively early in the semester. Each student will also be responsible for cofacilitating at least two class discussions, preparing and presenting a formal project proposal, and completing a formal written evaluation of the class's experiment in representation.

The final grade will be comprised of seminar participation and facilitation (30%), project proposal (10%), project evaluation (20%), and work on project (40%).

**TEXTS** The following texts are required, in addition to the course packet.

- Berlant, Lauren. Cruel Optimism. Duke University Press, 2011.
- Clifford, James. *The Predicament of Culture: Twentieth-Century Ethnography, Literature, and Art.* Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1988.
- Greenblatt, Stephen. Marvelous Possessions: The Wonder of the New World. University of Chicago Press, 1991.
- Lonetree, Amy, *Decolonizing Museums: Representing Native America in Ethnographic and Tribal Museums.* University of North Carolina Press, 2012.
- Stewart, Susan. On Longing: Narratives of the Miniature, the Souvenir, the Gigantic, the Collection. Johns Hopkins University Press, 1984.
- Sturken, Marita. Tangled Memories: The Vietnam War, the AIDS Epidemic, and the Politics of Remembering. University of California Press, 1997.
- Yoneyama, Lisa. *Hiroshima Traces: Time, Space, and the Dialectics of Memory*. University of California Press, 1999.
- Young, James. The Texture of Memory: Holocaust Memorials and Meaning. Yale University Press, 1994.

# **COURSE SCHEDULE**

#### Introduction

- 1/14 Introduction to the concept of representational practices and technologies. Preliminary analysis of the Texas State Museum.
- 1/21 Martin Luther King holiday

# Representation in Social, Cultural, and Semiotic Theory I: "They Must Be Represented"

1/28 Karl Marx, "The Eighteenth Brumaire of Louis Bonaparte." In *The Marx-Engels Reader*, ed. Tucker, pp. 594-617. New York: Norton. **[CP]** 

Edward W. Said, "Introduction." In *Orientalism*, pp. 1-28. New York: Random House. [CP]

Gayatri Spivak, "Can the subaltern speak?" In *Marxism and the Interpretation of Culture*, ed. C. Nelson and L. Grossberg, pp. 271-313. Urbana: University of Illinois Press, 1988. Rpt., Patrick Williams and Laura Chrisman, eds. *Colonial Discourse and Post-Colonial Theory: A Reader*. New York: Columbia University Press, 1994. **[CP]** 

John D. Kelly and Martha Kaplan, "They Cannot Represent Themselves: Colonial Communities in Fiji, 1936 to 1947." In Kelly and Kaplan, *Represented Communities: Fiji and World Decolonization*, pp. 82-112. University of Chicago Press, 2001. **[CP]** 

# Representation in Social, Cultural, and Semiotic Theory II: Order, Classification, and the Limits of Representation

Peirce, D.S., "Some Consequences of Four Incapacities" [1868], in *Charles S. Peirce: Selected Writing*, ed. Philip P. Wiener, pp. 39-72. Dover, 1958.

Durkheim and Mauss, "On some primitive forms of classification: Contribution to the study of collective representations" [1903]. Translated as *Primitive Classification*. University of Chicago Press, 1963. **[CP]** 

Michel Foucault, *The Order of Things: An Archaeology of the Human Sciences*, pp. 46-77, 217-49. Random House, 1970. **[CP]** 

Tony Bennett, "The Exhibitionary Complex." Ch. 3 in *Culture/Power/History*, ed. Nicholas B. Dirks, Geoff Eley, and Sherry B. Ortner. Princeton University Press, 1994. **[CP]** 

Webb Keane, Signs of Recognition: Powers and Hazards of Representation in an Indonesian Society, chapter 1 (pp. 1-28, 237-40). University of California Press, 1997. [CP]

Colebrook, Claire, "Beyond Representation and Structure," in *Understanding Deleuze*, pp. 1-14. Allen & Unwin, 2002. **[CP]** 

## Representation in Social, Cultural, and Semiotic Theory III: Reproduction and Simulation

Walter Benjamin, "The Work of Art in the Age of Mechanical Reproduction," *Illuminations*, pp. 217-51. Schocken Books, 1969. **ICP1** 

David Harvey, *The Condition of Postmodernity*, pp. 1-65, 240-307, 346-59. Blackwell, 1990. **[CP]** Jean Baudrillard, "The Precession of "Simulacra," *Simulacra and Simulation*, pp. 1-42. University of Michigan Press, 1994. **[CP]** 

Guy Debord, The Society of the Spectacle, pp. 11-34. Zone Books, 1995. [CP]

Stefan Helmreich, "Replicating Reproduction in Artificial Life: Or, the Essence of Life in the Age of Virtual Electronic Reproduction." In *Reproducing Reproduction*, ed. Sarah Franklin and Helena Ragoné. University of Pennsylvania Press, 1998. **[CP]** 

Michael Taussig. "His Master's Voice." In <u>Mimesis and Alterity: A Particular History of the Senses</u>. Routledge, 1993. **[CP]** 

#### Sites of Representation I: Exploration, Colonial, and Travel Literature

2/18 Stewart, On Longing.

- 2/25 Greenblatt, Marvelous Possessions.
  - Pauline Turner Strong, "Captivity in White and Red: Convergent Practice and Colonial Representation on the British-Amerindian Frontier, 1606-1736," in *Crossing Cultures*, ed. Daniel Segal (1992), 33-104 **[CP2]**.
  - Pauline Turner Strong, "Fathoming the Primitive," Australian Aborigines in Four Explorers' Journals, 1697-1845," *Ethnohistory* 33(1986): 175-94. **[CP2]**

#### Sites of Representation II: Ethnographic Narratives and Displays

- James Clifford, *The Predicament of Culture*, chapters 1, 3, 9, 10 ("On Ethnographic Authority," "On Ethnographic Self-Fashioning," "Histories of the Tribal and Modern," and "On Collecting Art and Culture").
  - Donna Haraway, "Teddy Bear Patriarchy," Social Text 4, no. 2 (1984). Rpt., Primate Visions: Gender, Race, and Nature in the World of Modern Science. Routledge, 1989. [CP2]
  - Fred Myers, "Representing Culture: The Production of Discourse(s) for Aboriginal Acrylic Paintings," *Cultural Anthropology* 6 (1991): 26-62. Reprinted in George E. Marcus, ed., <u>Rereading Cultural Anthropology</u>, pp. 319-45. Durham and London: Duke University Press, 1992. [CP2]
  - Pauline Turner Strong, "Exclusive Labels: Indexing the National 'We' in Commemorative and Oppositional Exhibitions," *Museum Anthropology* 21, no. 1 (1997): 42-56. **[CP2]**
  - Pauline Turner Strong, "Representational Practices." In *A Companion to the Anthropology of North American Indians*, pp. 341-359. Ed. Thomas Biolsi. Malden, MA and Oxford, UK: Blackwell Publishers, 2004. **[CP2]**

#### 3/11 SPRING BREAK

# Sites of Representation III: Historical Memory and the Representation of Trauma

- 3/18 Young, Texture of Memory
- 3/25 Sturken, *Tangled Memory*

Richard Flores, "Memory-Place, Meaning, and the Alamo," *American Literary History* 1993: 428-45. **[CP2]** 

- 4/1 Yoneyama, *Hiroshima Traces*
- 4/8 Lauren Berlant, Cruel Optimism

#### **Contested Representation and Self-Representation**

- 4/15 Pauline Turner Strong, "The Mascot Slot: Cultural Citizenship, Political Correctness, and Pseudo-Indian Sports Symbols. *Journal of Sport and Social Issues* 28, no. 1 (2004): 79-87.
  - James Clifford, "Four Northwest Coast Museums," in *Routes: Travel and Translation in the Late Twentieth Century* (1997). **[CP2]**
  - Amy Lonetree, Decolonizing Museums
- 4/22 Preparation of collective experiment in representation
- 4/29 Completion of collective experiment in representation; course-instructor survey
- 5/6 Evaluation of collective experiment in representation due