INTERDISCIPLINARY READINGS: ANTHROPOLOGY, HISTORY, SOCIOLOGY

HHS 217 – Professor Brian Dolan

PART ONE: WHAT IS YOUR POINT?

Week One: Introduction: How it works

Readings


Discussion topics

Pre-circulated student Questionnaire
How do historians work?
How do anthropologists work?
How do sociologists work?

Keywords

Objectivity
Point of View
Representation
Teleology
Contingency

Week Two: Observation, Anecdote, Data


Keywords
Fact
Authority
Observation
Positivism

Week Three: On Narrative


PART TWO: HOW DID DISCIPLINES HAPPEN?

Week Four: Forward-looking creations


**Week Five: The Classics & Fashions (Classification)**


**Week Six: The Classics & Fashions (Constructivism & Relativism)**


**PART THREE: CASE STUDIES**

Student-led presentations and reading assignments
Week Seven: Focus on Quantifying Data.
Case study: Assessing Clinical Trial Data.

Key concepts:
One / many relationship
Thinking with numbers
Probability / risk assessment / social demography
Standardization

On statistics:

On research subjects:

Background to Clinical Trials:

Week Eight: Focus on the Categorization of the Body
Case study: The Hungry Body

Key concepts:
Politics of philanthropy
Political categorization
Medicalization

The body:

Nutrition and Hunger:


Body Politics (Philanthropy and Politics):


**Week Nine: Focus on Regionalization**

Case study: How to think between the local and the global

Key Concepts:
Local/Global
Marginalization
Metrology

**The Effects of the Global on the Local:**


Alix Cooper, *Inventing the Indigenous: Local Knowledge and Natural History in Early Modern Europe* (Cambridge University Press, 2007)

**PART FOUR: DRAWING THINGS TOGETHER?**
Week Ten: Making the connections: “So what?”

Presentations.