

# **INTERDISCIPLINARY READINGS: ANTHROPOLOGY, HISTORY, SOCIOLOGY**

**HHS 217 – Professor Brian Dolan**

## **PART ONE: WHAT IS YOUR POINT?**

### **Week One: Introduction: How it works**

#### Readings

Appleby, Joyce, Lynn Hunt, and Margaret Jacob. *Telling the Truth about History*. New York and London: W.W. Norton & Company, 1994.

Geertz, Clifford. "From the Native's Point of View: On the Nature of Anthropological Understanding." *Bulletin of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences* 28, no. 1 (1974): 26-45.

Nye, RobertA. "The Bio-Medical Origins of Urban Sociology." *Journal of Contemporary History* 20, no. 4 (January 1, 1985): 659-675.

#### 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**

Geertz, Clifford. "Deep Play: Notes on the Balinese Cockfight." In *The Interpretation of Cultures*, 412-453. New York: Basic Books, 1973.

Geertz, Clifford. "Blurred Genres: The Refiguration of Social Thought." In *Local Knowledge: Further Essays in Interpretive Anthropology*, 19-35. New York: Basic Books, 1983.

Clifford, James. "On Ethnographic Authority." *Representations* no. 2 (Spring, 1983): 118-146.

Biersack, Aletta. "Local Knowledge, Local History: Geertz and Beyond." In *The New Cultural History*, edited by Lynn Hunt, 72-96. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1989.

### Keywords

Fact

Authority

Observation

Positivism

### **Week Three: On Narrative**

Marcus, G. E. and D. Cushman. "Ethnographies as Text." *Annual Review of Anthropology* 11, (1982): 25-69.

Richardson, Laurel. "Narrative and Sociology." *Journal of Contemporary Ethnography* 19, no. 1 (1990): 119-135.

Laqueur, Thomas. "Bodies, Details, and the Humanitarian Narrative." In *The New Cultural History*, edited by Lynn Hunt, 176-204. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1989.

Behar, Ruth. *The Vulnerable Observer: Anthropology that Breaks Your Heart*. Boston: Beacon Press, 1996.

## **PART TWO: HOW DID DISCIPLINES HAPPEN?**

### **Week Four: Forward-looking creations**

Scheper-Hughes, Nancy and Margaret M. Lock. "The Mindful Body: A Prolegomenon to Future Work in Medical Anthropology." *Medical Anthropology Quarterly* 1, no. 1 (Mar., 1987): 6-41.

Bloom, Samuel. *Word as Scalpel: A History of Medical Sociology*. Diane Pub Co., 2002.

Cooter, Roger. "After Death - After 'Life': The Social History of Medicine in Post-Postmodernity." *Social History of Medicine* 20, no. 3 (2007): 441-464.

Davis, Natalie Z. "Anthropology and History in the 1980s." In *The New History: The 1980s and Beyond*, edited by Theodore K. Rabb and Robert I. Rotberg, 267-275. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 1982.

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

Georges Canguilhem, *The Normal and the Pathological* (Zone, 1991), pp. 151-201.

Lorna Rhodes, *Total Confinement: Madness and Reason in the Maximum Security Prison* (University of California Press, 2004), Introduction and Chapter 3, "The Asylum of Last Resort".

Allan Young, "America's Transient Mental Illness: A Brief History of the Self-Traumatized Perpetrator", in J. Biehl, Byron Good, and Arthur Kleinman, eds, *Subjectivity: Ethnographic Investigations* (University of California Press, 2007).

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

Hacking, Ian. *The Social Construction of What?* (Harvard University Press, 2000)

Sahlins, Marshall. "Other Times, Other Customs: The Anthropology of History." In *Islands of History*, 32-72. London: University of Chicago Press, 1985.

Geertz, Clifford. "Distinguished Lecture: Anti Anti-Relativism." *American Anthropologist* 86, no. 2 (Jun., 1984): 263-278.

Melford Spiro, "Cultural Relativism and the Future of Anthropology", *Cultural Anthropology* 1 (1986), 259-286.

## **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:

Ian Hacking, *The Taming of Chance* (Cambridge University Press, 1990)

Theodore Porter, *Trust in Numbers* (Princeton University Press, 1996)

Theodore Porter, *The Rise of Statistical Thinking 1820-1900* (Princeton University Press, 1988)

On research subjects:

Jeremy Greene, *Prescribing by Numbers: Drugs and the Definition of Disease* (Johns Hopkins University Press, 2006)

Steven Epstein, *Inclusion: The Politics of Difference in Medical Research* (University of Chicago Press, 2007)

Background to Clinical Trials:

Stefan Timmermans and Marc Berg, *The Gold Standard: The Challenge of Evidence-Based Medicine and Standardization in Health Care* (Temple University Press, 2003)

## **Week Eight: Focus on the Categorization of the Body**

Case study: The Hungry Body

Key concepts:

Politics of philanthropy

Political categorization

Medicalization

The body:

Scheper-Hughes, Nancy and Margaret M. Lock. "The Mindful Body: A Prolegomenon to Future Work in Medical Anthropology." *Medical Anthropology Quarterly* 1, no. 1 (Mar., 1987): 6-41. (again)

Warwick Anderson, "The Third World Body", in Roger Cooter and John Pickstone, eds, *Medicine in the Twentieth Century* (Harwood Academic Publishers, 2000)

Nutrition and Hunger:

James Vernon, *Hunger: A Modern History* (Belknap Press, 2007)

Nancy Scheper-Hughes, *Death Without Weeping: The Violence of Everyday Life in Brazil* (University of California Press, 1993), chapter four: *Delirio de Fome: The Madness of Hunger*,” pp. 128-166.

Body Politics (Philanthropy and Politics):

William Easterly, *White Man’s Burden: Why the West’s Efforts to Aid the Rest Have Done So Much Ill and So Little Good* (Penguin, 2006) chapter two, “The Legend of the Big Push,” pp. 37-59.

**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:

James C. Scott, *Seeing Like a State: How Certain Schemes to Improve the Human Condition Have Failed* (Yale University Press, 1999)

Anna Tsing, *Friction: An Ethnography of Global Connection* (Princeton University Press, 2004)

Douglas Holmes and George Marcus, “Cultures of Expertise and the Management of Globalization: Toward the Re-Functioning of Ethnography”, in Aihwa Ong and Stephen Collier, eds, *Global Assemblages: Technology, Politics and Ethics as Anthropological Problems* (Wiley-Blackwell, 2004)

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.