

ATA 598
NEW PERSPECTIVES IN CULTURAL HISTORY
SPRING 2009

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Course Description:

Two major yet interrelated historiographical shifts have taken place in the last three decades. First, the discipline of history has become more interdisciplinary; and second, the discipline has pursued a substantial inquiry by treating various aspects of society previously ignored by conventional scholarship. Incorporating the methods and questions of other disciplines such as anthropology and sociology to produce a new understanding of elite and popular cultures, cultural history has been on the forefront of this recent historiographical shift. This seminar seeks to explore strategies and problems of interdisciplinary historical inquiry via exemplary studies of cultural history on a series of thematic issues. i.e. history through reading, conversation, consumerism, fairy tales, jokes, cats, and so on. The ultimate goal of the seminar is to provide an inspiration for seminar participants to imagine and develop new research topics in Ottoman/Turkish history. A workshop will be held at the end of the term where seminar participants will present their papers on a topic from Ottoman/Turkish cultural history. The program of the last workshop can be reached at:

http://www.ata.boun.edu.tr/Department%20Webpages/Student%20Activities/Atolye_598_Fall2004.htm

Course Requirements:

1. You are expected to do all assigned readings before the scheduled date of discussion. During each class, you are expected to engage actively in the discussion as it proceeds. This is a vital responsibility of each class member. At least once throughout the semester each of you will make a 15-20-minute presentation of the week's readings and lead the discussion in class. (30 %).
2. You will present your paper and comment on others' papers in the workshop that will be held at the end of the semester. (20 %).
3. You are required to write a seminar paper on the topic selected in consultation with the instructor. The optimum length for this paper is 20-25 double-spaced typed pages (about 5.000 words), including notes and bibliography. (50 %).

Course Schedule

Week 1: Introduction (No Class)

Week 2: History of Mentalités

Robert Darnton, "Intellectual and Cultural History," The Kiss of Lamourette: Reflections in Cultural History, 1990, pp. 191-218.

Roger Chartier, "Intellectual History and the History of Mentalités," Cultural History: Between Practices and Representations, 1988, pp. 19-52.

John E. Towes, "Intellectual History after the Linguistic Turn: The Autonomy of Meaning and the Irreducibility of Experience," American Historical Review, Vol. 92 (4), October 1987, pp. 879-907.

Joan W. Scott, "The Evidence of Experience," The Historic Turn in the Human Sciences (ed. Terence J. McDonald), 1999, pp. 379-406.

Week 3: Culture, Anthropology, History

Chandra Mukerji and Michael Schudson, "Introduction: Rethinking Popular Culture," Rethinking Popular Culture: Contemporary Perspectives in Cultural Studies, (eds.) Mukerji and Schudson, 1991, pp. 1-61.

Arif Dirlik, "Culturalism as Hegemonic Ideology and Liberating Practice." In The Postcolonial Aura, Third World Criticism in the Age of Global Capitalism, 1997, pp. 23-51.

Nicholas B. Dirks, "Is Vice Versa? Historical Anthropologies and Anthropological Histories," The Historic Turn in the Human Sciences (ed. Terence J. McDonald), Michigan, 1999, pp. 17-52.

Natalie Davis, "The Possibilities of the Past," Journal of Interdisciplinary History, xii: 2 (Autumn 1981), pp. 267-75.

Week 4: Geertz: Cultural Historians' New Guru

Clifford Geertz, "Thick Description: Toward an Interpretive Theory of Culture," The Interpretation of Cultures, 1973, pp. 3-30.

Clifford Geertz, "Deep Play: Notes on the Balinese Cockfight," The Interpretation of Cultures, 1973, pp. 412-453.

Aletta Biersack, "Local Knowledge, Local History: Geertz and Beyond," The New Cultural History, (ed.) Lynn Hunt, 1989 pp. 72-96.

William H. Sewell, "Geertz, Cultural Systems and History: From Synchrony to Transformation," The Fate of Culture: Geertz and Beyond, (ed.) Sherry B. Ortner, 1999, pp. 35-55.

Week 5: Darnton's "The Great Cat Massacre"

Robert Darnton, "Workers Revolt: The Great Cat Massacre of Rue Saint-Séverin," The Great Cat Massacre and Other Episodes of French Cultural History, 1985, pp. 75-104.

Roger Chartier, "Text, Symbols, and Frenchness," Journal of Modern History, 57 (1985), pp. 682-695.

Robert Darnton, "The Symbolic Element in History," Journal of Modern History, 58 (1986), pp. 218-234.

Dominic LaCapra, "Chartier, Darnton, and the Great Symbol Massacre," Journal of Modern History, 60 (1988), pp. 95-112.

James Fernandez, "Historians Tell Tales: Of Cartesian Cats and Gallic Cockfights," Journal of Modern History, 60 (1988), pp. 113-127.

Week 6: Revival of Narrative and Microhistory

Giovanni Levi, "On Microhistory," New Perspectives on Historical Writing, (ed.) Peter Burke, 1991, pp. 93-113.

Leslie Peirce, Morality Tales: Law and Gender in the Ottoman Court of Aintab, 2003.

Week 7: Public Opinion (Conversation)

Robert Darnton, "An Early Information Society: News and the Media in Eighteenth-Century Paris," American Historical Review, vol. 105 (1), February 2000, pp. 1-35.

Arlette Farge, Subversive Words: Public Opinion in Eighteenth-Century France, 1995, pp. 22-36; 55-77.

Sheila Fitzpatrick, "Conversations and Listeners," Everyday Stalinism, 1999, pp. 164-189.

Cengiz Kırılı, "Coffeehouses: Public Opinion in the Nineteenth Century Ottoman Empire," in *Public Islam and the Common Good*, (eds.) Armando Salvatore and Dale F. Eickelman, Brill Academic Publishers, May 2004, pp. 75-97.

Week 8: Public Opinion (Reading)

Natalie Zemon Davis, "Printing and the People," Rethinking Popular Culture: Contemporary Perspectives in Cultural Studies, (eds.) Mukerji and Schudson, 1991, pp. 65-96.

Robert Darnton, "History of Reading," New Perspectives on Historical Writing, (ed.) Peter Burke, 1991, pp. 140-167.

Robert Darnton, "What is the History of Books?" The Kiss of Lamourette: Reflections in Cultural History, 1990, pp. 107-135.

Roger Chartier, "Figures of the 'Other': Peasant Reading in the Age of the Enlightenment," Cultural History: Between Practices and Representations, 1988, pp. 151-171.

Roger Chartier, "Do Books Make Revolutions?" The Cultural Origins of the French Revolution, 1991, pp. 67-91.

Week 9: Everyday Life

Alf Lüdtke, "Introduction: What is the History of Everyday Life and Who are Its Practitioners?" The History of Everyday Life, (ed.) Alf Lüdtke, 1995, pp. 3-40.

Harry Harootunian, "Shadowing History: National Narratives and the Persistence of the Everyday," *Cultural Studies*, 18 (2004), pp. 181-200.

James C. Scott, "Everyday Forms of Resistance," Everyday Forms of Peasant Resistance, (ed.) Forrest D. Colburn, 1989, 3-33.

Necmi Erdoğan, "Devleti İdare Etmek: Mâduniyet ve Düzenbazlık," Toplum ve Bilim, 83, 1999-2000, pp. 8-31.

Week 10: Subversive Tales, Jokes, Proverbs

Jack Zipes, Fairy Tales and the Art of Subversion, 1983, select chapters.

Robert Darnton, "Peasants Tell Tales: The Meaning of Mother Goose," The Great Cat Massacre and Other Episodes of French Cultural History, 1985, pp. 9-72.

Mary Douglas, "Jokes," Rethinking Popular Culture: Contemporary Perspectives in Cultural Studies, (eds.) Mukerji and Schudson, 1991, pp. 291-310.

Natalie Zemon Davis, "Proverbial Wisdom and Popular Errors," *Society and Culture in Early Modern France*, pp. 227-267.

Week 11: Culture of Consumption

Ann Bermingham, "Introduction: The Consumption of Culture: Image, Object, Text," The Consumption of Culture, 1600-1800, (ed.) Ann Bermingham and John Brewer, 1995, 1-20.

Elizabeth B. Frierson, "Cheap and Easy: The Creation of Consumer Culture in Late Ottoman Society," Consumption Studies and the History of the Ottoman Empire, 1550-1922: An Introduction, (ed.) Donald Quataert, 2000, pp. 243-260.

John Berger, "The Suit and the Photograph," Rethinking Popular Culture: Contemporary Perspectives in Cultural Studies, (eds.) Mukerji and Schudson, 1991, pp. 424-431.

Nancy Mickelwright, "Personal, Public, and Political (Re)Constructions: Photographs and Consumption," Consumption Studies and the History of the Ottoman Empire, 1550-1922: An Introduction, (ed.) Donald Quataert, 2000, pp. 261-287.

Roland Barthes, "Written Clothing," Rethinking Popular Culture: Contemporary Perspectives in Cultural Studies, (eds.) Mukerji and Schudson, 1991, pp. 432-445.

Week 12: The Ottoman Empire

Suraiya Faroqhi, Subjects of the Sultan: Culture and Daily Life in the Ottoman Empire, 2000. (Osmanlı Kültürü ve Gündelik Yaşam: Ortaçağdan Yirminci Yüzyıla: Tarih Vakfı Yayınları)

Cemal Kafadar, "Self and Others," The Diary of a Dervish in Seventeenth-century Istanbul and First-person Narratives in Ottoman Literature," Studia Islamica, LXIX (1986), pp. 191-218.

Cemal Kafadar, "Mütereddid Bir Mutassavvıf: Üsküplü Asiye Hatun'un Rüya Defteri 1641-43," Topkapı Sarayı Yıllığı, 5 (1992), pp. 168-222.