

Prof. Irina Livezeanu

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Office hours: Tuesday 3:30-5, or by appointment

“Text” from the Latin “texere” means to construct with elaborate care, plait (together), or weave. “Textus” then is a web, a woven fabric, or a structure. Cultural practices, new genres, architectural projects, etc. may also be texts. “Context” comes from the Latin “contextus” meaning “a whole of parts.”

Objectives

The goal of this course is to study texts of various kinds—written, painted, composed, photographed, overheard (obtained through surveillance), archived, digitally transmitted, censored, observed, designed—in the specific historical and intertextual context in which they were produced, exhibited, distributed and consumed.

This is the second in a sequence of two core courses in the “Texts and Contexts” graduate theme in the History Department. By reading the texts of Michel Foucault, Pierre Bourdieu, Edward Said, Benedict Anderson, Joan Scott and other authors we will grapple with a number of theoretical and methodological approaches to texts that have come to influence the work of historians and of practitioners of other kinds of cultural studies. We will see how such theories and methods have inspired and shaped scholarly projects by studying a number of monographic “cases.” The seminar will also discuss whether and how they may be further put to use. We begin with readings of (and about) several foundational texts that have had prolonged echoes in cultural fields in the past two decades, including but not limited to history. We continue with monographic studies that investigate and work with different types of texts, disciplines, and cultural phenomena including national identity and ideology, mentalités, historiography, maps, statistics, archives, religious and musical trends, digital sources, and art. We will give full attention to the mechanisms and power relations that allow texts, authors, styles, ideas and textual practices to emerge and operate in different genres, disciplines, and historical contexts.

Requirements

- Participation: attend class and do the readings in advance of each session, think about them critically, take notes, and contribute to the discussion. Think not only about the texts themselves, but also about ways that they intersect with your own research interests or with other work that you’ve read in this or other courses. Prepare in writing at least one question for discussion and at least one point of interest from or about connections among the weekly readings. Email these to me by Monday, 10 a.m.
- lead part of the seminar at least once during the term.

- present at least once on one or more “Further Readings” on the syllabus, or, after consulting with me, on a text that is not on the syllabus, but would be of interest to you and a valuable addition for the whole seminar.
- write three 700-1000 words reaction papers that summarize the week’s readings and address issues raised by them. You may emphasize one particular piece, but refer to all assigned texts. These papers should be emailed to seminar participants by Monday at 10 a.m. Please edit & proofread your paper thoroughly before sending.
- write a final paper (5000-6000 words) on a cultural or intellectual topic of your own choosing in which you use and/or critique two or more of the approaches or theories encountered in this course. Include all of the relevant literature that appears on the syllabus in addition to other bibliography you select. Please discuss your topic, approach and bibliography with me before beginning. Decide on your topic by March 2. Papers are due April 20.
- present you final paper to the class.

Evaluation

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|-------------------------|-----|
| Class discussion | 20% |
| Lead seminar discussion | 10 |
| Reaction papers | 25 |
| Presentations | 20 |
| Final Paper | 25 |

Late work will be docked 1/3 grade per day (e.g. A to A-) unless there is a legitimate reason for the lateness.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY:

All students are expected to adhere to the standards of academic honesty. Any student engaged in cheating, plagiarism, or other acts of academic dishonesty would be subject to disciplinary action. Any student suspected of violating this obligation for any reason during the semester will be required to participate in the procedural process, initiated at the instructor level, as outlined in the University Guidelines on Academic Integrity <http://www.provost.pitt.edu/info/ai1.html>.

DISABILITY SERVICES

If you have a disability for which you are or may be requesting an accommodation, please contact me and [Disability Resources and Services](#) (DRS), 140 William Pitt Union, (412) 648-7890, drsrecep@pitt.edu, early in the term. DRS will verify your disability and determine reasonable accommodations for this course.

CLASSROOM RECORDING

To ensure the free and open discussion of ideas, students may not record classroom lectures, discussion and/or activities without the advance written permission of the instructor, and any such recording properly approved in advance can be used solely for the student's own private use."

*There are many topics that I considered including but ultimately excluded because of the limited time at our disposal. The syllabus may be tweaked however, in response to student interests and suggestions.

Books

- Michel Foucault, *Discipline and Punish* Vintage Books, 2nd ed
Pierre Bourdieu, *The Field of Cultural Production* Columbia Univ Press, 1993
Andy McHoul and Wendy Grace, *A Foucault Primer* New York, NYU Press 1997
Benedict Anderson, *Imagined Communities* Revised ed. Verso 2006
Edward Said, *Orientalism* Vintage, 1979
Bonnie Smith, *The Gender of History: Men Women and Historical Practice* Harvard Univ. Press, 2000.
Partha Charterjee, *The Nation and Its Fragments* Princeton University Press, 1993
Katherine Verdery, *Secrets & Truths: Ethnography in the Archive of Romania's Secret Police*. Central European Univ. Press 2014
Cristina Vatulescu, *Police aesthetics: literature, film, and the secret police in Soviet times* Stanford Univ. Press 2012
Lara Putnam, *Radical Moves: Caribbean Migrants and the Politics of Race in the Jazz Age* Univ. of North Carolina Press 2013
Carlo Ginzburg, *The Cheese and the Worms: the Cosmos of a Sixteenth-Century Miller*. Johns Hopkins Univ. Press; Reprint edition. 2013
Valerie Kievelson, *Cartographies of tsardom: The Land and Its Meanings in Seventeenth-Century Russia*, Cornell. 2006
Elizabeth Childs, *Vanishing Paradise: Art and Exoticism in Colonial Tahiti*. Univ of California Press, 2013

SCHEDULE

Jan 5 **Introductions**

Jan 12 **Foucault**

Michel Foucault, *Discipline and Punish*

Patricia O'Brien, "Michel Foucault's History of Culture" [courseweb]

Introduction to *The Archeology of Knowledge*

<http://foucault.info/documents/archaeologyOfKnowledge/>

[Andy McHoul and Wendy Grace, *A Foucault Primer*] Use as a reference and aid as needed

Jan 19 MLK Day No Class

Jan 26 Bourdieu (guest Marius Lazar)

Pierre Bourdieu, *The Field of Cultural Production*: Editor's Introduction, 1-25;
Ch 1: 29-73; ch 3: 112-141, ch 6-7: 176-211; ch 8-9: 215-253

Rogers Brubaker, "Rethinking classical theory" in D.L. Swartz and V.L. Zolberg, eds.
After Bourdieu [courseweb]

JACOB POMERANTZ

Feb 2 class cancelled

Feb 10 Said

Edward Said, *Orientalism*

Further reading:

Maria Todorova, *Imagining the Balkans*, "Introduction"

Milica Bakic-Hayden, "Nesting Orientalisms: the Case of the Former Yugoslavia,"
Slavic Review, 12/1995, Volume 54, no. 4

Andrew Hammond, "Typologies of the East: On Distinguishing Balkanism and
Orientalism" *Nineteenth-Century Contexts*, 06/2007, Vol 29, no. 2

STEPHANIE MAKIN

Feb 17 Nation, Ethnicity, Community

Benedict Anderson, *Imagined Communities*

Further reading:

Jeremy King, "Nationalization of East Central Europe: Ethnicism, Ethnicity, and
Beyond," in Bucur and Wingfield, eds., *Staging the Past* [courseweb]

Tara Zahra, "Imagined Noncommunities: National Indifference as a Category of
Analysis" *Slavic Review* (2010) vol 69, no 1 pp. 93 – 119

ADAM BRODE

Feb 23 Gender

Bonnie Smith, *The Gender of History: Men, Women, and Historical Practice*

Further reading:

Joan Scott, "Gender: a Useful Category of Historical Analysis," *AHR* 91/5 1986: 1053-75
AHR Forum "Revisiting 'Gender: A Useful Category of Historical Analysis'" *AHR*
113/5 Dec 2008

Feb 23

March 2 The Digital & Transnational Revolution (Guest Lara Putnam)

Lara Putnam, "The Transnational and the Text-Searchable: Digitized Sources and the
Shadows They Cast"

Lara Putnam, *Radical Moves: Caribbean Migrants and the Politics of Race in the Jazz
Age*

Further reading:

Ian Milligan, "Illusionary Order: Online Databases, Optical Character Recognition,
and Canadian History, 1997–2010" *The Canadian Historical Review*, Vol. 94,
no. 4, December 2013, pp. 540-569

Ted Underwood, "Theorizing Research Practices We Forgot to Theorize Twenty Years Ago" *Representations*, Vol. 127, No. 1 (Summer 2014), pp. 64-72

Shalini Puri, "Finding the Field: Notes on Caribbean Cultural Criticism, Area Studies, and the Forms of Engagement" *Small Axe*, Vol. 17, no. 2, July 2013, pp. 58-73

SIMON BROWN

March 16 Colonial & Postcolonial Studies

Partha Chatterjee, *The Nation and Its Fragments*

Further reading:

Ann Stoler, "Sexual Affronts and Racial Frontiers: European Identities and the Cultural Politics of Exclusion in Colonial Southeast Asia" *Comparative Studies in Society and History*, vol. 34, no. 3. (Jul., 1992), pp. 514-551

Rosane Rocher, "British Orientalism in the Eighteenth Century: the Dialectics of Knowledge and Government" in Carol Bckenridge and Peter van der Veer, eds., *Orientalism and the Postcolonial Predicament: Perspectives on South Asia*

BETHANY WADE

JACOB POMERANTZ

March 23 Art, Empire, Museum

Elizabeth Childs, *Vanishing Paradise: Art and Exoticism in Colonial Tahiti*

Carl Schorske, *Fin-de Siècle Vienna: Politics and Culture* "Introduction," pp. xvii-xxx & ch 5 "Gustav Klimt: Painting and the Crisis of the Liberal Ego," pp. 208-278

Further reading:

Thomas Ort "Cubism's Sex: Masculinity and Czech Modernism, 1911-1914" *Austrian History Yearbook*, 2013

Donna Haraway, "Teddy Bear Patriarchy: Taxidermy in the Garden of Eden, New York City, 1908-1936," *Social Text* no. 11 (Winter, 1984-1985), pp. 20-64

Tapati Guha-Thakurta, "Recovering the Nation's Art" in Partha Chatterjee, ed. *Texts of Power: Emerging Disciplines in Colonial Bengal* pp. 63-92 [courseweb]

JACOB POMERANTZ

ARTAN HOXHA

March 30 Maps (Guest Madalina Veres)

Valerie Kivelson, *Cartographies of Tsardom: the land and its meanings in seventeenth-century Russia*

Palmira Brummett, "Imagining the Early Modern Ottoman Space, from World History to Piri Rice," in Virginia Aksan and Daniel Goffman, eds., *The early modern Ottomans: remapping the Empire* 15-58 [courseweb]

Further reading:

Steven Seegel, *Mapping Europe's Borderlands: Russian Cartography in the Age of Empire*

Holly Case, *Between States*, maps ch. [courseweb]

ADAM BRODE

BETHANY WADE

April 6 Statistics

S.J. Woolf, "Statistics and the Modern State," *Comparative Studies in Society and History*, vol. 31, no. 3 (July 1989): 588-604

Silvana Patriarca, "Statistical Nation Building and the Consolidation of Regions in Italy," *Social Science History* Vol. 18, No. 3 (Autumn, 1994), pp. 359-376

Ferenc Gyuris, "Human Geography, Cartography, and Statistics: A Toolkit for Geopolitical Goals in Hungary until World War II." *Hungarian Cultural Studies*. e-Journal of the American Hungarian Educators Association, Volume 7 (2014).
<http://ahea.net/e-journal>

Further reading:

Silvana Patriarca, *Numbers and Nationhood: Writing Statistics in Nineteenth-Century Italy*

Alain Desrosieres, *The Politics of Large Numbers: A History of Statistical Reasoning*, Introduction, ch 1, 2, 5, 6

NICOLE COFFINEAU

April 13 Inquisition, normalization, mentalités

Carlo Ginzburg, *The Cheese and the Worms*

Paulina Bren, *The Greengrocer and His TV*

Further reading:

Czeslaw Milosz, *The Captive Mind*

Dominick LaCapra, "The Cheese and the Worms": The Cosmos of a Twentieth Century Historian" *History & Criticism* pp. 45-69 [courseweb]

Vaclav Havel, "The Power of the Powerless"

http://www.vaclavhavel.cz/showtrans.php?cat=clanky&val=72_aj_clanky.html&yp=HTML

SIMON BROWN

April 20 Communism & the Secret Police

Katherine Verdery, *Secrets & Truths: Ethnography in the Archive of Romania's Secret Police*

Cristina Vatulescu, "Arresting Biographies: the Personal File in the Soviet Union and Romania" in *Police aesthetics: literature, film, and the secret police in Soviet times*, pp. 27-54 [courseweb]

Further reading:

Cristina Vatulescu, *Police aesthetics: literature, film, and the secret police in Soviet times*

Jochen Hellbeck, *Revolution on My Mind: Writing a Diary under Stalin*

Timothy Garton Ash, *The File*

Stephen Brockman, "Literature and the Stasi" in *Literature and German Reunification*

Irina Paperno, *Stories of the Soviet Experience: memoirs, diaries, dreams*

ARTAN HOXHA

April 23 Presentations of papers & sociability

April 24 Final Papers Due