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ANTH 501.01: Documentary Anthropological Research Methods

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ANTHROPOLOGY 501:
DOCUMENTARY ANTHROPOLOGICAL RESEARCH METHODS
Spring 2008
2:10-5:00pm – Thursday – Social Sciences 238

INSTRUCTOR: Richard A. Sattler
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OFFICE: Social Sciences 222
OFFICE HOURS: T/R 1:00-2:00pm
W 11:00-12:00am

Course Description:

The course examines the location, use, and value of written records in anthropological research. In particular we explore the locations and use of repositories and the nature of documentary resources for anthropological research. The course then concentrates on evaluation and uses of documentary sources, and skills needed for those processes.

Course requirements:

Your final grade will be based on three major criteria:

1. Active class preparation and participation (40 percent)
2. Research performance (50 percent)
3. Oral presentation (10 percent).

Your final grade will reflect your preparation and participation, regardless of research performance. Remember a C grade is considered failing in graduate school.

Discussion: Each student is required to read everything assigned for that particular discussion period and to attend class prepared to discuss critically all the assigned readings. Your ability to articulate and analyze the reading materials and the ideas of your classmates in an in-depth fashion will determine a portion of your grade. The professor on the basis of debate and critical thinking will evaluate this.

Writing Assignments: Each student is required to prepare and turn in two written assignments:

- 1) An **annotated bibliography** of no less than 30 sources about a historical topic. The bibliography is worth 20 percent of your final grade. The bibliography is due the day of your assigned oral presentation.
- 2) A **research paper**. You must choose a historical topic to research. You will determine topic, but the instructor must approve your topic. The paper is not a description, but a piece of analytical research that is theoretically and methodologically focused to sharpen your research skills. Ideally, the final paper should be a publishable piece. The project must be 20 to 25 typed pages, formatted in the American Anthropologist style. The paper will constitute 30 percent of your final grade. The paper is due the day of your assigned oral presentation.

Oral Presentation: Each student will provide a synthesis of your work, pointing out the major issues and problems. The presentation should open new directions for critical discussion and provide you with the opportunity to give your opinion. Ideally the presentation will be at least ten minutes in length, followed by class questions. You will be graded on presentation, organization, content, delivery style, and ability to respond to questions. The purpose of the oral presentation is to provide you with the experience of delivering a paper at a conference.

Evaluation:

At the end of the seminar, each student will be presented with a written evaluation in each of the above areas along with your final grade. There is no negotiation about your grade.

Extra Credit: For those of you who would like to insure yourself a superior grade, I recommend doing several extra credit projects. Select as many as the recommended readings you wish and write a critical review of the work(s), discussing the work's relevancy to historical anthropology as a mode of inquiry. The work must be at least five typed pages formatted in the American Anthropologist book review style. The assignment is due the last day of seminar. The extra credit assignment will be worth one third of an assignment grade. No late material will be accepted after the due date!

Academic Honesty: All students must practice academic honesty. Academic misconduct is subject to an academic penalty by the course instructor and/or a disciplinary sanction by the University. All students need to be familiar with the Student Conduct Code. The Code is available for review online at <http://www.umt.edu/SA/VPSA/index.cfm/page/1321>.

Required readings:

Barber, Russell J., and Frances F. Berdan. *The Emperor's Mirror: Understanding Cultures Through Primary Sources*. Tucson: University of Arizona Press, 1998.
Bloch, Marc. *The Historian's Craft*. New York: Knopf Publishing, 1953.
Galloway, Patricia. *Practicing Ethnohistory*. Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 2006.
Vansina, Jan. *Oral Tradition as History*. University of Wisconsin Press, 1985.
Yow, Valerie Raleigh. *Recording Oral History: A Guide for the Humanities and Social Sciences*. Walnut Creek, CA: Altamira Press, 2005.

On-Line Reserve Articles

PROVISIONAL COURSE OUTLINE

WEEK 1 INTRODUCTION & OVERVIEW

WEEK 2 WHY HISTORICAL ANTHROPOLOGY?

Readings: Barber & Berdan, Ch. 1; Galloway, Ch. 1; Cohn, "History and Anthropology"; Krech, "The State of Ethnohistory"; Faubion, "History in Anthropology"; Silverman and Gulliver, "Historical Anthropology and the Ethnographic Tradition"; Rogers, "The Anthropological Turn in Social History"; Kertzer, Silverman, Rutman, & Plakans, "History and Anthropology: A Dialogue"

WEEK 3 GOING TO THE SOURCE(S)

Readings: Barber & Berdan, Pt III; Brettell, "Archives and Informants"; Pitt, "Major Sources of Documentary Material"; Pitt, "Reaching and Recording Data"; Mathur, "History and Anthropology in South Asia"; Enga., "Sources and Specific Techniques Used in African History"; Bradbury, "Historical Uses of Comparative Ethnography"; Galloway, "Introduction"

Field Trip to Archives, Mansfield Library (4th Floor), 2:00-4:00(?)pm

WEEK 4 DOCUMENTARY SOURCES

Readings: Barber & Berdan, Ch. 9-10; Bloch, Ch. III; Galloway, Ch. 3, 5-6.

WEEK 5 SPECIAL METHODS

Readings: Barber & Berdan, Ch. 3-6, 8, 11; Bloch, Ch. II; Galloway, Ch. 7-10, 12; Colwell-Chanthaphonh & Hill, Mapping History"; Ackerman, "Archaeoethnology, Ethnoarchaeology, and the Problems of Past Cultural Patterning";

WEEK 6 ORAL HISTORY: COLLECTING

Readings: Phillips, Ch. 6-7; Yow, Ch. 1-6.

WEEK 7 ORAL TRADITION: INTERPRETING

Readings: Van Sina, Ch 1-3, 7; Galloway, Ch. 13; Yow, Ch. 7-11.

WEEK 8 INTERPRETING THE EVIDENCE

Readings: Barber & Berdan, Ch. 7; Bloch, Ch. IV-V; Van Sina, Ch 4-5; Galloway, Ch. 2, 4, 18-19; Assman, "Flights from History: Reinventing Tradition between the 18th and 20th Centuries";

WEEK 9 MEANINGS OF THE PAST

Readings: Van Sina, 6; Hama & Ki-Zerbo, "The Place of History in African Society"; Vansina, Mauny, & Thomas, "Introductory Summary"; Vansina, "Knowledge and Perceptions of the African Past"; Rigby, "Time and Historical Consciousness"; Cohn, "Pasts of an Indian Village"; Barnes, "Time and Sense of History in an Indonesian Village"

WEEK 10

SPRING BREAK
No Classes

WEEK 11 UNCOVERING HIDDEN HISTORIES

Readings: ; Bloch, Ch. I; Galloway, Ch. 11; Assmann, "Flights from History"; Chretien, "Confronting the Unequal Exchange of the Oral and the Written"; Lewis, "To Turn as on a Pivot"; Muratorio, Amazonian Windows to the Past"; Schneider, "Introduction the analytic strategies of Eric Wolf";

WEEK 12 DECOLONIZING HISTORY

Readings: Berkhofer, "Cultural Pluralism Versus Ethnocentrism in the New Indian History"; Martin, "The Metaphysics of Writing Indian-White History"; Davis, "History and the People without Europe"; Leonard, "The Persistence of an Explanatory Dilemma in Contact Period Studies"; Ruane, "Colonialism and the Interpretation of Irish Historical Development"; Wolputte, "Subject Disobedience"; Willis, "The Indigeneous Critique of Colonialism: A Case Study"; Ahmad, "Some Remarks from the Third World on Anthropology and Colonialism: The Sudan"

WEEK 13 THEORY & INTERPRETATION I

Readings: Galloway, "Conjuncture and Longue Duree"; Guss, "Cimarrone, Theater, and the State"; Geertz, "Politics Past, Politics Present"; Lamana, "Beyond Exoticization and Likeness"; Obeyesekere, "Part I"; Ortner, "Patterns of History"; Sahlins, "Culture and Agency"; Sahlins, "Rationalities"; Strathern, "Struggles for Meaning";

WEEK 14 THEORY & INTERPRETATION II

Readings: Adas, "The Reconstruction of 'Tradition'"; Chernela, "Missionary Activity and Indian Labor"; Roseberry, "Anthropology, History, and Modes of Production"; Roseberry, "The Cultural History of Peasantries"; Susman, "Hunting for Histories"; Whitehead, "Ecological History and Historical Ecology"; Wilmsen, "Who Were the Bushmen?"; Wolf, "Introduction";

WEEK 15 PRESENTATIONS

FINALS WEEK PRESENTATIONS (If necessary)

May 8 (Thu): 1:10-3:10