Anthropology 391. Culture, History and Power.
Fall 2012
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In a cross cultural and inter-disciplinary perspective, the course will critically engage with historiographical debates on issues related to narrative, the history and politics of the archives, the politics of representation and the construction of facts. We will read works by Hayden White, E. P. Thompson, Reinhart Koselleck, Fernand Braudel, Carlo Ginzburg and Michel-Rolph Trouillot among others. Over the course of the semester we will also follow the debates in Subaltern Historians by scholars like Ranajit Guha, Dipesh Chakrabarty and Gyan Pandey. Regionally, the course will be broad. While most of the monographs will be on South Asia and the Middle East, there will be ample discussion of European, Latin American and African cases.

Requirements.
1. Attendance and participation in class discussion. Please come on time and attend regularly. I would appreciate prior notice if due to some unavoidable reason you will not attend a particular class. Also participate in class discussions, which means coming prepared to class and having done the readings. Each individual will bring a paragraph or a set of questions to class and hand it over to me (these will not be returned), but I will take it into account for the final grades.
2. Lead two class presentations. We will create groups that will present twice during the course of the semester.
3. Book review. There will be one book review assignment by the middle of the semester (details will be announced in class).
4. Final paper. A 15-20 page research paper will be due by the last class day. The topic and other parameters can be discussed during the course of the semester.

Books on Order.
Shahid Amin. Event, Methaphor, Memory
Carlo Ginzburg. The Cheese and The Worm
Assia Djebar. Fantasia
Nadia el Haj. Facts on the Ground
Timothy Mitchell. Colonising Egypt
Michael Taussig. Law in a Lawless Land
Michel-Rolph Trouillot. Silencing the Past.

All books are in the COOP bookstore.

There is also a course-pack available at Speedway (Dobie Mall).
Week One:
September 4

Introduction.

Week Two
September 11


E. P. Thompson. “Folklore, Anthropology and Social History”. The Indian Historical Review 1977. In course pack


Week Three
September 18


Michel Foucault. Society Must be Defended. Lectures from 1976.

**Week Four**

September 25

Hayden White. Historical Emplotment and the Problem of Truth.

Carlo Ginzburg. Just One Witness.

Martin Jay. Of Plots Witnesses and Judgments.


Samera Esmeir. Law, History, Memory. In Social Text, 75 Summer 2003.


**Week Five**

October 2


Gyan Prakash. “Writing Orientalist Histories of the Third World: Indian Historiography is Good to Think.” In Nicholas Dirks ed. Colonialism and Culture (University of Michigan Press: 1992)

**Recommended.**


**Week Six**
October 9


**Week Seven**
October 16


**Week Eight**
October 23

Carlo Ginzburg. Cheese and the Worm (Johns Hopkins Press)

**Week Nine**
October 30
**Week Ten**
November 6

**Week Eleven**
November 13

**Week Twelve**
November 20
Michael Taussig; *Law in Lawless Land*

**Week Thirteen**
November 27

**Week Fourteen**
December 4