Anthropology/Folklore C262B. THEORIES OF TRADITIONALLITY AND MODERNITY
Katharine Young, Spring 2009. (Course # 02963)
Lectures: Thursday 9:00-12:00, Gifford Room, Kroeber Hall.
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Different aspects of culture change at different rates. We, as folklorists, have traditionally been interested in the bits that change slowly, that hold out against the perceived rhythms of modernity and that thereby display an edge, a marked difference between themselves and the felt fluidity of the present. We occupy the present as instability and experience stability as the past. Folk objects and events are not, of course, static; they are asynchronous. For that reason we perceive them as repositories of the past, as if in them, by them, time could be held still. Our interest in difference, in archaism, in resistance and holding out, has distracted us from following folklore dissecting out into the matrix of the ordinary, fast folklore, folklore cutting to the quick. Traditional genres of folklore – myths, legends, and folktales; proverbs, riddles, and metaphors; folksongs, folkdances, and folk rituals – positioned to keep culture in place, can also act as little insurrections against the order of things, creating new spaces of stability and instability as they move. Your mission, should you decide to accept it, is to trace out the aesthetic ecology, affective ecology, and somaesthetics of a piece of folklore as it moves between space and place; presence and affect; body and sense; past, present, and future.

CLASS DESIGN
The class will be divided into three groups:
- Aesthetes, affiliated with Part I, Aesthetic Ecologies;
- Empaths, affiliated with Part II, Affective Ecologies;
- Sensualists, affiliated with Part III, Somaesthetics.

One of you from each group will jointly present work by the following theorists from your particular perspective: Richard Wollheim, Barbara Kirshenblatt-Gimblett, Edward Casey, Jack Katz, Amy Shuman, Sigrid Norris, Maxine Sheets-Johnstone, and Susan Stewart. Each student will present two of the books and two of the articles.

Every student will be required to post a question about, comment on, or respond to one of the week’s readings in the bSpace forum by midnight, Saturday. Presenters will respond in their presentations to any posts directed to the readings for which they are responsible.

Two hours of each seminar will be devoted to our discussion a theory or theorist, usually initiated by your joint presentation. The third hour will be devoted to your assessment of the interconnections between these works and your own.

COURSEWORK
Posts to bSpace: Minimum of 10 (Skip weeks 1, 14, & 15). 10% of Grade.
Due weekly.
Three theoretical studies and a Prospective Framework:
- I, Theorize Objects and/or Spaces
  7 pages. 20% of Grade. Due Thursday, March 5th
- II, Theorize Emotions, Affects and/or Interactions
  7 pages. 20% of Grade. Due Thursday, April 9th
- III, Theorize the Body, Movement, and/or the Senses
IV: Speculate on how some set of the theories you have characterized might come to bear on your proposed dissertation work. Incorporate all or any of your three theoretical studies that are pertinent to this final framework of analysis.

20–25 pages, 30% of Grade. Due Wednesday, May 20th

BOOKS

Berkeley: University of California Press.

Edward Casey. 1993. *Getting Back into Place: Toward a Renewed Understanding of the Place-World.*
Bloomington: Indiana University Press.
1997. *The Fate of Place: A Philosophical History.*
Berkeley: University of California Press.

Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

Kathleen Stewart. 2007. *Ordinary Affects.*
Duke University Press.

Urbana: University of Illinois Press.

New York: Routledge.

Amsterdam: John Benjamins.

London: Routledge.

Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Susan Stewart. 1984. *On Longing: Narratives of the Miniature, the Gigantic, the Souvenir, the Collection.*
Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press.

Oxford: Berg.

ARTICLES/CHAPTERS


The Lure of the Local: Senses of Place in a Multicentered Society.
Ethnomimesis: Folklife and the Representation of Culture.
John Dorst. 1989. “Chadds Ford as a Site of Postmodernity:
The Poetics of Space, tr. Maria Jolas.
Yi-Fu Tuan. 1974. “From Cosmos to Landscape.” Topophilia:
A Study of Environmental Perception, Attitudes, and Values.
Landscape Narratives:
Christopher Tilley. 1994. “Space, Place, Landscape and Perception:
Phenomenological Perspectives.”
A Phenomenology of Landscape: Places, Paths and Monuments.
Oxford; Berg, 7-34.
Postmodernism or,

SEMINARS

Jan. 22nd Seminar I. Aesthetics
Grand Theory, Special Issue, Journal of Folklore Research
(10 pages).

Part I. AESTHETIC ECOLOGIES
Jan 29th Seminar 2. **Aesthetes**

**Readings:**

Feb. 5th Seminar 3. **Art**

**Readings:**

Feb. 12th Seminar 4. **Artifact**

**Readings:**
- “Objects of Ethnography” (62),
- “Confusing Pleasures” (46),
- “Disputing Taste” (23).
- **Supplements:**
  - Robert Cantwell. 1993. “The Empire of Ice Cream:
    - A Poetics of Recognition” (59)

Feb. 19th Seminar 5. **Space**

**Readings:**

**Supplements:**
- Gaston Bachelard. 1964.
  - “The House” (35)
  - “House and Universe” (38)
  - “Drawers, Chests and Wardrobes” (16)
  - “Corners” (12)
  - “The Phenomenology of Roundness” (10)
- Yi-Fu Tuan. 1974. “From Cosmos to Landscape.” (21)

Feb. 26th Seminar 6. **Locality**

**Readings:**
- Edward Casey. 1997. “Giving a Face to Place in the Present:
  - Bachelard, Foucault, Deleuze and Guattari, Derrida, Irigaray.” (45)
  - “Directions” (28),
  - “Dimensions” (35),
  - “Two Ways to Dwell” (36).
- Matthew Potteiger & Jamie Purinton. 1998. “Landscape Narrative” (40)
- Mary Hufford. Forthcoming. “The Ecstatic Ecology of Place Names” (51)

**Supplement:**
- Christopher Tilley. 1994. “Space, Place, Landscape and Perception:
  - Phenomenological Perspectives.” (28)
Part II. AFFECTIVE ECOLOGIES

March 5th Seminar 7. Empaths
“Mundane Metamorphoses” (36)
“Shameful Moments” (33)
“What is Crying?” (48)
Due: Objects and Spaces paper

March 12th Seminar 8. Emotion
“Introduction: Subversive Stories and the Critique of Empathy” (27)
*“Allegory and Parable as Subversive Stories” (18)
“Redemption and Empathy in Junk-Mail Narratives” (29)
“Speaking from Experience” (14)
Denise Riley. 2005. “Malediction” (20)

March 19th Seminar 9. Affect
Kathleen Stewart. 2007. Any 3 passages from Ordinary Affects. (c10)

Spring Break

April 2nd Seminar 10. Interaction
“Communication Modes” (47)
“Multimodal Transcription” (21)
Supplements: Norris, “Modal Density” (16)
*“Levels of Attention/Awareness” (33)
“Modal Density Foreground-Background Continuum...” (20)

Part III. SOMAESTHETICS

April 9th Seminar 11. Sensualists
*2008. Body Consciousness. (One of 6 chapters)
Due: Emotions, Affects, Interactions paper

April 16th Seminar 12. Movement
Readings: Maxine Sheets-Johnstone. 1999. “Consciousness: A Natural History” (47)
*“The Primacy of Movement” (46).
April 23rd  Seminar 13. **Body**
“The Miniature” (33)
“The Gigantic” (34)
“The Imaginary Body” (28)


April 30th  Seminar 14. **Senses**
Readings:  *David Howes. Empire of the Senses.* (One of 22 chapters)

May 7th  Seminar 15. **Ecologies**
Reading:  Katharine Young. Forthcoming. “Gestures, Intercorporeity, and the Fate of Phenomenology in Folklore.” (26)

Due:  Bodies, Movements, Senses paper

May 20th  Final Theory paper

*Asterisks indicate readings **required** only of presenters of the work in question, though recommended to all.*