

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY
UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA, CHAPEL HILL
Spring, 2009

Sociology of Culture

(SOCI 870)

Mondays, 1:30–4:00 Hamilton 151

Andrew Perrin

Office: Hamilton 159

Office hours: Wednesdays, 1:30–3:30, or by appointment

Phone: 962-6876

E-mail: andrew_perrin@unc.edu • <http://perrin.socsci.unc.edu>

COURSE OVERVIEW

Course Goals

1. To survey the literature in the sociology of culture, with an emphasis on current approaches to culture
2. To stimulate ideas for empirical work in cultural sociology
3. To offer cultural tools for application to empirical research

Requirements

1. Attendance and active participation in class discussions
2. One presentation of your current work for the class during the workshop period
3. An in-depth writing project related to cultural sociology

COURSE FORMAT

Readings and Discussion

Course meetings will generally alternate between “book weeks” and “article weeks.” On book weeks we will read a single book in its entirety and spend the first half of class discussing it. On article weeks we will read several related articles and spend the *entire* class discussing them.

Because of the sheer volume of great work in cultural sociology, it will be impossible to cover the field comprehensively or even talk about each reading separately at each class meeting. As you do the reading for the week, consider which pieces you think will be most fruitful for us to discuss in depth.

Snack Break

Each week, a student will be assigned to bring a small snack to help keep the class lively for the second half. I will provide snacks for the first class.

Workshop

During the second half of book-week classes, we will discuss the research work being carried out by two or three students in the class. Each student will present informally once during the course of the semester, and the rest of the class will provide insight and advice. This will underscore the class's workshop character.

READINGS AND RESOURCES

There will be a site for this course created at <http://blackboard.unc.edu>. We will use this course to post documents and seminar papers as well as for general discussion.

Sociology students taking this class may also be interested in joining the ongoing Cultural and Political Sociology Workshop at UNC. I will be happy to provide information. Also, students may be interested in joining the ASA Section on the Sociology of Culture, a vibrant intellectual home for cultural sociologists.

Most required readings that are not in the books listed below are available for download from the course readings site, <http://perrin.socsci.unc.edu/readings>, or via Blackboard. You will need a username and password to access the readings site; these will be provided in class.

The recommended readings listed under many class sessions are suggestions for further reading in the field. Students presenting on those dates, and those with particular interests in the areas, may find them useful.

Required Books

Shyon Baumann. *Hollywood Highbrow: From Entertainment to Art* (Princeton University Press, 2007).

David Grazian. *On the Make: The Hustle of Urban Nightlife* (University of Chicago Press, 2008).

Wendy Griswold. *Regionalism and the Reading Class* (University of Chicago Press, 2008).

Amy Hanser. *Service Encounters: Class, Gender, and the Market for Social Distinction in Urban China* (Stanford University Press, 2008).

Ann Swidler. *Talk of Love: How Culture Matters* (University of Chicago Press, 2001).

Robin Wagner-Pacifici. *Discourse & Destruction: The City of Philadelphia vs. MOVE* (University of Chicago Press, 1994).

COURSE SCHEDULE

January 12 Introduction and course organization

- **Lecture:** A history of, and agenda for, cultural sociology
- Adam Kuper, "Introduction: Culture Wars." pp. 1–20 in *Culture: The Anthropologists' Account*. (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1999)
- Jeffrey Alexander and Philip Smith. "The Strong Program in Cultural Sociology: Elements of a Structural Hermeneutics." pp. 11-26 in Alexander, *The Meanings of Social Life*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2003.
- Ann Swidler, "Culture in Action: Symbols and Strategies." *ASR* 51(April 1986): 273-286 <http://links.jstor.org/sici?sici=0003-1224%28198604%2951%3A2%3C273%3ACIASAS%3E2.O.CO%3B2-B>

January 19 Martin Luther King, Jr., Holiday

January 26 Contemporary Debates in Theory and Method

First half:

- Michael Schudson, "How Culture Works: Perspectives from Media Studies on the Efficacy of Symbols." *Theory and Society* 18:2 (Mar., 1989), pp. 153-180. <http://links.jstor.org/sici?sici=0304-2421%28198903%2918%3A2%3C153%3AHCWPFM%3E2.0.CO%3B2-G>
- Luc Boltanski and Laurent Thévenot, "The Sociology of Critical Capacity." *European Journal of Social Theory* 2:3 (1999): 359-377
- Nina Eliasoph and Paul Lichterman. "Culture in Interaction." *American Journal of Sociology* 108:4 (Jan2003), p735, 60p <http://search.epnet.com/direct.asp?an=10375843&db=afh>
- Lisa Wedeen, "Conceptualizing Culture: Possibilities for Political Science." *American Political Science Review* 96:4 (December 2002): 713-728. http://www.journals.cambridge.org/issue_AmericanPoliticalScienceReview/Vol96No04

Second half:

- Wendy Griswold, "A Methodological Framework for the Sociology of Culture." *Sociological Methodology* 17(1987): 1-35. <http://links.jstor.org/sici?sici=0081-1750%281987%2917%3C1%3AAMFFTS%3E2.0.CO%3B2-6>
- Ron Jepperson and Ann Swidler, "What Properties of Culture Should We Measure?" *Poetics* 22 (1994): 359-371 [http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/0304-422X\(94\)90014-0](http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/0304-422X(94)90014-0)
- John W. Mohr, "Measuring Meaning Structures." *Annual Review of Sociology* 24 (1998): 345-370. <http://arjournals.annualreviews.org/doi/abs/10.1146/annurev.soc.24.1.345>
- Ronald Breiger, "A Tool Kit for Practice Theory." *Poetics* 27 (2000); 91-115.
- Andrew Perrin, "Who's Afraid of Linear Regression?" *Culture* 18:3 (Spring, 2004) <http://www.ibiblio.org/culture/newsletter/cult183.pdf>, and replies at <http://www.ibiblio.org/culture/newsletter/cult191.pdf>

Recommended:

- John Levi Martin, "What Is Field Theory?" *American Journal of Sociology* 109:1 (Jul2003). <http://search.epnet.com/direct.asp?an=11652039&db=afh>
- Eviatar Zerubavel, "Lumping and Splitting: Notes on Social Classification." *Sociological Forum* 11 (1996): 421-33.
- William H. Sewell, Jr. "A Theory of Structure: Duality, Agency, and Transformation," *AJS* 98:1 (July, 1992): 1-29 <http://links.jstor.org/sici?sici=0002-9602%28199207%2998%3A1%3C1%3AATOSDA%3E2.0.CO%3B2-9>
- Peter Wagner, "Power, Uncertainty, and Institution in Recent French Debates." *Journal of Political Philosophy* 2(3): 270-289
- Shalom H. Schwartz, "Mapping and interpreting cultural differences around the world." pp. 43-73 in Henk Vinken, Joseph Soeters, and Peter Ester, eds. *Comparing Cultures: Dimensions of Culture in a Comparative Perspective*. (Leiden: Brill, 2004).

February 2 Grazian, *On the Make*

February 9 Authenticity, Taste, and Genre

First Half:

- Howard S. Becker, "Art As Collective Action." *American Sociological Review* 39:6 (Dec., 1974), pp. 767-776. <http://links.jstor.org/sici?sici=0003-1224%28197412%2939%3A6%3C767%3AAACA%3E2.0.CO%3B2-Z>
- Babon, Kim. "Composition, coherence, and attachment: The critical role of context in reception." *Poetics* 34 (2006): 151-179. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.poetic.2006.01.003>
- Eck, Beth. "Nudity and Framing: Classifying Art, Pornography, Information, and Ambiguity." *Sociological Forum* 16:4 (December, 2001): 603-632. <http://www.springerlink.com/content/t175114104u37816/>
- Nicola Beisel, "Morals Versus Art: Censorship, The Politics of Interpretation, and the Victorian Nude." *American Sociological Review* 58:2 (Apr., 1993), pp. 145-162. <http://links.jstor.org/sici?sici=0003-1224%28199304%2958%3A2%3C145%3AMVACTP%3E2.0.CO%3B2-9>

Second Half:

- DiMaggio, Paul. 1987. "Classification in Art." *American Sociological Review* 52: 440- 455. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/2095290>
- Paul DiMaggio. 1991. "Cultural Entrepreneurship in Nineteenth-Century Boston: The Creation of an Organizational Base for High Culture in America." Pages 374-397 in *Rethinking Popular Culture*, edited by Chandra Mukerji and Michael Schudson. Berkeley, CA: University of California Press.
- Hayagreeva Rao, Philippe Monin, and Rodolphe Durand. "Institutional Change in Toque Ville: Nouvelle Cuisine as an Identity Movement in French Gastronomy." *American Journal of Sociology*, 108:4 (Jan2003), p795, 49p, 7 charts. <http://search.epnet.com/direct.asp?an=10375850&db=afh>
- Tuchman, Gaye, and Harry Gene Levine. "New York Jews and Chinese Food." *Journal of Contemporary Ethnography* 22 (1993): 382-407.

February 16 Griswold, *Regionalism and the Reading Class*

February 23 Art, Music, and Literature

First Half:

- Jennifer C. Lena and Richard A. Peterson, "Culture as Classification: Types and Trajectories of Music Genres." *ASR* 73:5 (October 2008). <http://www.ingentaconnect.com/content/asoca/asr/2008/00000073/00000005/art00001>
- Richard Peterson and Roger Kern, "Changing Highbrow Taste: From Snob to Omnivore." *ASR* 61:5 (October, 1996): 900-907. <http://links.jstor.org/sici?sici=0003-1224%28199610%2961%3A5%3C900%3ACHTFST%3E2.0.CO%3B2-Y>
- Bryson, "'Anything But Heavy Metal': Symbolic Exclusion and Musical Dislikes." *American Sociological Review*, Vol. 61, No. 5. (Oct., 1996), pp. 884-899. <http://links.jstor.org/sici?sici=0003-1224%28199610%2961%3A5%3C884%3A%22BHMSE%3E2.0.CO%3B2-0>
- Josée Johnston and Shyon Baumann, "Democracy versus Distinction: A Study of Omnivorousness in Gourmet Food Writing." *AJS* Volume 113 Number 1 (July 2007): <http://www.journals.uchicago.edu/doi/abs/10.1086/518923>

Second Half:

- T.J. Dowd, K. Liddle, K. Lupo and A. Borden. "Organizing the Musical Canon: The Repertoires of Major U.S. Symphony Orchestras, 1842 to 1969." *Poetics* 30 (1-2): 35-61. [http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S0304-422X\(02\)00007-4](http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S0304-422X(02)00007-4)
- Stamatov, Peter. 2002. "Interpretive Activism and the Political Uses of Verdi's Operas in the 1840s" *American Sociological Review* 67: 345-366. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/info/3088961>
- Deresiewicz, William. "The Salome factor: how the sexualization of concert dance helped end a golden age." *American Scholar* 74.2 (Spring 2005): 112(5). <http://find.galegroup.com/itx/infomark.do?&contentSet=IAC-Documents&type=retrieve&tabID=T002&prodId=GRGM&docId=A131762273&source=gale&srcprod=GRGM&userGroupName=uncbrcr&version=1.0>
- Glynn, Mary Ann. 2002. "Chord and Dischord: Organizational Crisis, Institutional Shifts, and the Musical Canon of the Symphony." *Poetics* 30: 63-85. [http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S0304-422X\(02\)00004-9](http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S0304-422X(02)00004-9)
- Victoria Johnson. "What Is Organizational Imprinting? Cultural Entrepreneurship in the Founding of the Paris Opera." *AJS* Volume 113 Number 1 (July 2007): <http://www.journals.uchicago.edu/doi/abs/10.1086/517899>

Recommended:

- Richard A. Peterson, "Why 1955? Explaining the Advent of Rock Music." *Popular Music* 1990. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/info/852886>

March 2 Baumann, *Hollywood Highbrow*

March 9 Spring Break

March 16 Memory and Narrative

First Half:

- Howard Schuman and Jacqueline Scott, "Generations and Collective Memories." *American Sociological Review*, Vol. 54, No. 3 (Jun., 1989), pp. 359-381 <http://www.jstor.org/stable/2095611>
- Larry J. Griffin. "'Generations and Collective Memory' Revisited: Race, Region, and Memory of Civil Rights." *American Sociological Review* Aug 2004. Vol. 69, Iss. 4; p. 544 <http://www.jstor.org/stable/info/3593064>
- Tilly, "The Trouble With Stories," in Bernice A. Pescosolido and Ronald Aminzade, "The social worlds of higher education: handbook for teaching in a new century" (Thousand Oaks: Pine Forge Press, 1999)
- Paul DiMaggio, "Culture and Cognition." *Annual Review of Sociology* Aug 1997, Vol. 23: 263-287. <http://arjournals.annualreviews.org/doi/pdf/10.1146/annurev.soc.23.1.263>

Second Half:

- Olick & Robbins, "Social Memory Studies: From 'Collective Memory' to the Historical Sociology of Mnemonic Practices." *Annual Review of Sociology* 24(1998): 105-140. <http://soc.annualreviews.org/cgi/reprint/24/1/105.pdf>
- Lyn Spillman, "When Do Collective Memories Last?" *Social Science History*; Winter 1998, 22:4, p445. <http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=aph&AN=9352669&site=ehost-live>
- Robin Wagner-Pacifici and Barry Schwartz. "The Vietnam Veterans Memorial: Commemorating a Difficult Past." *The American Journal of Sociology* 97:2 (Sep., 1991), pp. 376-420. <http://links.jstor.org/sici?sici=0002-9602%28199109%2997%3A2%3C376%3ATVVMCA%3E2.0.CO%3B2-1>
- Hiro Saito, "Reiterated Commemoration: Hiroshima as National Trauma." *Sociological Theory* 24:4 (December, 2006). <http://www.blackwell-synergy.com/doi/abs/10.1111/j.1467-9558.2006.00295.x>
- Rivera, Lauren A.. "Managing 'Spoiled' National Identity: War, Tourism, and Memory in Croatia." *American Sociological Review*, Volume 73, Number 4, August 2008 , pp. 613-634. <http://www.ingentaconnect.com/content/asoca/asr/2008/0000073/0000004/art00005>

March 23 Hanser, *Service Encounters*

March 30 Political culture

First Half:

- Perrin, Andrew J. "Political Microcultures: Linking Civic Life and Democratic Discourse." *Social Forces* 84:2 (December, 2005), 1049-1082. http://muse.jhu.edu/journals/social_forces/v084/84.2perrin.pdf
- Ronald Jacobs, "Civil Society and Crisis: Culture, Discourse, and the Rodney King Beating," *AJS* 101:5 (March, 1996), 1238-1272. <http://links.jstor.org/sici?sici=0002-9602%28199603%29101%3A5%3C1238%3ACSACCD%3E2.0.CO%3B2-H>
- Nina Eliasoph, "'Close to Home': The Work of Avoiding Politics." *Theory and Society* 26:5 (Oct., 1997), pp. 605-647. <http://links.jstor.org/sici?sici=0304-2421%28199710%2926%3A5%3C605%3A%22THTWO%3E2.0.CO%3B2-H>
- Jeffrey C. Alexander and Philip Smith. "The Discourse of American Civil Society: A New Proposal for Cultural Studies." *Theory and Society* 22:2 (Apr., 1993), pp. 151-207. <http://links.jstor.org/sici?sici=0304-2421%28199304%2922%3A2%3C151%3ATDOACS%3E2.0.CO%3B2-L>

Second Half:

- Marc W. Steinberg, "The Dialogue of Struggle: The Contest over Ideological Boundaries in the Case of London Silk Weavers in the Early Nineteenth Century." *Social Science History* 18:4 (Winter, 1994): 505-541. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/info/1171253>
- Richard Biernacki, "Labor As an Imagined Commodity." *Politics & Society* 29:2 (June, 2001): 173-206 <http://pas.sagepub.com/cgi/content/abstract/29/2/173>

- Peter Bearman and Katherine Stovel, “Becoming a Nazi: A Model for Narrative Networks.” *Poetics* 27 (2000): 69–90 [http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S0304-422X\(99\)00022-4](http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/S0304-422X(99)00022-4)
- Patricia Ewick and Susan Silbey, “Narrating Social Structure: Stories of Resistance to Legal Authority.” *American Journal of Sociology* 108:6 (May, 2003): 1328–1372. <http://www.journals.uchicago.edu/doi/abs/10.1086/378035>

Recommended:

- Nina Eliasoph, *Avoiding Politics: How Americans Produce Apathy in Everyday Life* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press 1998)
- Paul Lichterman, *The Search for Political Community* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press 1996)
- Myra Marx Ferree, William Anthony Gamson, Jürgen Gerhards, and Dieter Rucht. *Shaping Abortion Discourse: Democracy and the Public Sphere in Germany and the United States*. (Cambridge University Press, 2002)
- Walsh, *Talking About Politics*

April 6 Wagner-Pacifi, *Discourse & Destruction*

Note: Prof. Perrin will be out of town so we will need to reschedule this meeting.

April 13 Cross-Culture

First Half:

- Rick Fantasia. “Fast Food in France.” *Theory and Society* 24:2 (Apr., 1995), pp. 201-243. <http://links.jstor.org/sici?sici=0304-2421%28199504%2924%3A2%3C201%3AFFIF%3E2.0.CO%3B2-B>
- Rick Fantasia. “Culture in Rebellion: The Appropriation and Transformation of the Veil in the Algerian Revolution.” in Johnston and Klandermans, eds. *Social Movements and Culture*. New York: Routledge, 1995.
- Adam Gopnik, “Like a King: How to have a baby in France.” *The New Yorker* January 31, 2000.
- Janssen, Susanne; Kuipers, Giseline; Verboord, Marc. “Cultural Globalization and Arts Journalism: The International Orientation of Arts and Culture Coverage in Dutch, French, German, and U.S. Newspapers, 1955 to 2005.” *American Sociological Review*, 73:5, October 2008, 719–740. <http://www.ingentaconnect.com/content/asoca/asr/2008/00000073/00000005/art00002>
- Myra Marx Ferree, “Resonance and Radicalism: Feminist Framing in the Abortion Debates of the United States and Germany.” *American Journal of Sociology* 109:2 (September, 2003): 304–344. <http://www.journals.uchicago.edu/AJS/journal/issues/v109n2/070143/070143.web.pdf>

Second Half:

- Michèle Lamont and Virag Molnar, “The Study of Boundaries in the Social Sciences.” *Annual Review of Sociology* 2002. <http://soc.annualreviews.org/cgi/reprint/28/1/167.pdf?ijkey=080Q69x0hutyA&keytype=ref&siteid=arjournals>
- Anna C. Korteweg, “The Construction of Gendered Citizenship at the Welfare Office: An Ethnographic Comparison of Welfare-to-Work Workshops in the United States and the Netherlands.” *Social Politics: International Studies in Gender, State & Society* 2006 13(3):314-340 <http://sp.oxfordjournals.org/cgi/content/abstract/13/3/314>
- Abigail Saguy, “Sexual Harassment in France and the United States” in Lamont and Thévenot, *Rethinking Comparative Cultural Sociology* (Cambridge University Press, 2000)
- Omar Lizardo and Sara Skiles, “Highbrow omnivorousness on the small screen?: Cultural industry systems and patterns of cultural choice in Europe.” *Poetics* 37:1 (February, 2009): 1–23. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.poetic.2008.10.001>

Recommended: Ronald Inglehart and Wayne E. Baker, “Modernization, Cultural Change, and the Persistence of Traditional Values.” *American Sociological Review*, 65:1 (Feb., 2000), pp. 19-51. <http://links.jstor.org/sici?sici=0003-1224%28200002%2965%3A1%3C19%3AMCCATP%3E2.0.CO%3B2-E>

April 20 Swidler, *Talk of Love: How Culture Matters*

April 27 Where do we go from here?

NOTE: Final papers due

First Half:

- Melissa J. Wilde. "How Culture Mattered at Vatican II: Collegiality Trumps Authority in the Council's Social Movement Organizations." *American Sociological Review* 69: 4 (August 2004), 576. <http://www.ingentaconnect.com/content/asoca/asr/2004/00000069/00000004/art00006>
- Frederick Wherry, "Trading Impressions: Evidence from Costa Rica." *The ANNALS of the American Academy of Political and Social Science*, 610:1, 217–231 (2007). <http://ann.sagepub.com/cgi/content/abstract/610/1/217>
- Donald MacKenzie and Yuval Millo. "Constructing a Market, Performing Theory: The Historical Sociology of a Financial Derivatives Exchange." *American Journal of Sociology* 109:1, (Jul2003). p107, 39p. <http://search.epnet.com/direct.asp?an=11652037&db=afh>

Second Half:

- Stephen Vaisey, "Socrates, Skinner, and Aristotle: Three Ways of Thinking About Culture in Action." *Sociological Forum* 23:3 (September, 2008), 603–613. <http://www3.interscience.wiley.com/journal/120840878/abstract>
- Ann Swidler, "Comment on Stephen Vaisey's 'Socrates, Skinner, and Aristotle: Three Ways of Thinking About Culture in Action.'" *Sociological Forum* 23:3 (September, 2008), 614–618. <http://www3.interscience.wiley.com/journal/120840884/abstract>
- Stephen Vaisey, "Reply to Ann Swidler." *Sociological Forum* 23:3 (September, 2008), 619–622. <http://www3.interscience.wiley.com/journal/120840879/abstract>
- Richard Ned Lebow, "If Mozart had Died at Your Age: Psychologic Versus Statistical Interence." *Political Psychology* Volume 27 Issue 2, Pages 157 - 172. <http://www3.interscience.wiley.com/journal/118627944/abstract>
- Course evaluations