Department of Sociology  
University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill  
Spring, 2013

Sociology of Culture  
(SOCI 870)

Wednesdays, 1:00–3:30  Hamilton 151

Andrew Perrin  
Office: Hamilton 159  
Office hours: Mondays 1:00–2:30 pm, Wednesdays 9:30-11:00 am  
Phone: (919) 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 in social science

Requirements

1. Attendance and active participation in class discussions
2. One or more class periods in which you distribute a “seminar paper” ahead of time and lead discussion of the material for that period
3. An in-depth writing project related to cultural sociology

Auditors must attend and participate actively in class discussions and must do a seminar paper and discussion leadership one or more times, but do not need to write the final paper.

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 class discussing it and its implications. 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.
Readings and Resources

There will be a site for this course created at http://sakai.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 Sakai. 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


Steven J. Tepper. Not Here, Not Now, Not That (University of Chicago Press, ).


Course Schedule

January 9 Introduction and course organization

• Lecture: A history of, and agenda for, cultural sociology


January 16 Contemporary Debates in Theory and Method

First half:


Second half:

Recommended:
- Peter Wagner, “Power, Uncertainty, and Institution in Recent French Debates.” Journal of Political Philosophy 2(3): 270-289

January 23 Jennifer Lena, Banding Together

January 30 Art and Music

First Half:

Second Half:
Recommended:


February 6 Olav Velthuis, *Talking Prices: Symbolic Meanings of Prices on the Market for Contemporary Art*

February 13 Music and Literature

First Half:


Second Half:


Recommended:


February 20 Steven J. Tepper, *Not Here, Not Now, Not That*

February 27 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](http://muse.jhu.edu/journals/social_forces/v084/84.2perrin.pdf)


Second Half:


Recommended:


• Paul Lichterman, The Search for Political Community (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press 1996)


• Walsh, Talking About Politics

March 6 Robin Wagner-Pacifici, Discourse & Destruction

March 13 Spring Break

March 20 Collective and Collected Memory

First Half:


Second Half:

March 27 Politics, Institutions, Deliberation

First Half:

Second Half:

April 3 Body and Brain

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

First Half:

Second Half:
April 10 Cross-Culture

First Half:


Second Half:


April 17 Fred Wherry, The Philadelphia Barrio

April 24 Where do we go from here?

NOTE: Final papers due

First Half:


**Second Half:**


• Course evaluations