

E660 The Arts in Practice and Theory
Instructor: Anya Peterson Royce
Fall Semester 2009, August 31-November 14
4-5:45TR in SB 138

This seminar will be an opportunity to examine the ways in which the arts have been embodied and embedded in the practice of social and cultural anthropology. Practice includes both the doing of it and the reflecting on it, or, ethnography and theory, if you wish. Some arts, visual and literary, for example, were embraced early by anthropologists because they were thought to be more readily and easily observable. Performing arts that were part of ritual behavior were attended to in that context; their examination in their own right and forms came later. The place of the arts within the larger field has shifted throughout its history both as a source of ethnographic data and as an aspect of human behavior that can illuminate our more general understanding.

Some of the topical areas to which examinations of the arts have contributed include identity, debates about authenticity, genre, creativity, diaspora, presentation and representation, aesthetics, embodiment, communication and meaning, interpretation, improvisation, performance, cultural tourism, festival, and ritual. Our readings and discussions will reflect these and others that you may select.

We will explore the importance of the arts as people practice them, and think about them through readings, films, observation, and experience. And we will examine the points at which the arts have commented on, directed, and contributed to theory and ethnographic practice. Some of the readings will be done by everyone; others will be read by two people and presented to the class orally and in a written summary. This will give us the opportunity to cover more material and for each participant to choose some material of special interest. We will also take advantage of guest speakers, scholars of the arts who are on campus.

The seminar will allow you to develop a research proposal in some area of the arts, an annotated bibliography in a topical area of your choice, or a 7000 word encyclopedia article. If you wish, you may focus on a particular ethnographic area for the major assignment of the class. You may also choose to use a medium other than text (or in combination with text) through which to explore a topic.

Readings will include:

Books:

Barber, Karin. 2008. *The Anthropology of Texts, Persons, and Publics*. Cambridge. ISBN-13: 978-0521546874

Brown, David H. 2003. *Santeria Enthroned: Art, Ritual, and Innovation in an Afro-Cuban Religion*. U of Chicago Press. ISBN 0226076105

Cohen, Abner. 1993. *Masquerade Politics: Explorations in the Structure of Urban Cultural Movements*. ISBN 0-520-0777838

Gilmore, Lee and Mark Van Proyen, eds. 2005. *Afterburn: Reflections on Burning Man*. U of New Mexico Press. ISBN 0826333990

Reed, Daniel. 2003. *Dan Ge Performance: Masks and Music in Contemporary Côte d'Ivoire (African Expressive Culture)* (Paperback). Indiana University Press. ISBN-13: 978-0253216120

Taylor, Julie. 1998. *Paper Tangos*. Duke. ISBN-13: 978-0822321910

Vogel, Shane. 2009. *The Scene of Harlem Cabaret: Race, Sexuality, Performance*. Chicago.

Wulff, Helena. 2007. *Dancing at the Crossroads: Memory and Mobility in Ireland*. Berghahn. ISBN 978-1-84545-590-3.

Books from which selections will be used (recommended)

Bauman, Richard and C. Briggs. 2003. *Voices of Modernity: Language Ideologies and the Politics of Inequality*. Cambridge Studies in the Social and Cultural Foundations of Language.

Michalowski, Raymond and Jill Dubisch. 2001. *Run for the Wall*. Rutgers University Press. ISBN 081352928X

Royce, Anya Peterson. 2004. *Anthropology of the Performing Arts: Artistry, Virtuosity, and Interpretation in Cross-Cultural Context*. Altamira Press. ISBN 0-7591-0224-4

Taymor, Julie and Eileen Blumenthal. 1999. *Julie Taymor: Playing with Fire*. Harry Abrams. ISBN 1-881390-22-5

In addition, there will be short articles assigned that will be available on e-reserves or Oncourse.