

070.667 – Encountering Experience

Johns Hopkins University, Fall 2011, Macaulay 400, Thursdays 2-4 PM

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One among anthropology's many peculiarities is its commitment to experience as a matter of method: how could something as elusive and capricious as experience of another living world yield concepts of enduring significance and value? Reading in this seminar between anthropology and philosophy, we will examine experience as concept, object, and mode of anthropological inquiry.

Coursework. All required texts will be available either at the campus bookstore or through library reserve (password PAN667). Be prepared to discuss them closely, to share a one-page response via e-mail no later than Wednesday night each week, and to take turns opening class discussion. You will also be asked to pursue an anthropological experience, and to try to convey this once in writing (10-12pp).

Some horizons of experience

September 1

Ralph Waldo Emerson, "Experience"

Friedrich Nietzsche, *Daybreak* 119

Walter Benjamin, "Experience and Poverty"

Michel Foucault, from an interview with D. Trombadori

in philosophical anthropology:

September 8

Martin Jay, "Experience and Epistemology: The Contest Between Empiricism and Idealism," from *Songs of Experience*

Wilhelm Dilthey, "The Construction of the Historical World in the Human Studies" and "Fragments for a Poetics"

Victor Turner, "Dewey, Dilthey, and Drama," and excerpts from *On the Edge of the Bush: Anthropology as Experience*

world,

September 15 / 29

Michael Jackson, *At Home in the World*

William James, *Essays in Radical Empiricism*

art,

October 6 / 13

Robert Desjarlais, *Counterplay: An Anthropologist at the Chessboard*

John Dewey, *Art as Experience*

life,

October 20 / 27

Tim Ingold, *Being Alive: Essays on Movement, Knowledge, Description*

Henri Bergson, *Two Sources of Morality and Religion*

vision,

November 3 / 10

Amira Mittermaier, *Dreams that Matter*

Maurice Merleau-Ponty, *The Visible and the Invisible*

sensation.

November 17 / December 1

Claude Levi-Strauss, *The Way of the Masks*

Gilles Deleuze, *Francis Bacon: The Logic of Sensation*

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