

CONF 695 – 005: POPULAR NARRATIVES OF WAR AND PEACE

FALL TERM 2009

INSTRUCTOR: RICH RUBENSTEIN

SYLLABUS AND SCHEDULE OF ASSIGNMENTS

General matters

This course is offered on Wednesdays at 4:30-7:10 in Room 253 of the Original Building. The **instructor** is Prof. Richard Rubenstein, who can be reached via telephone at 703-993-1307 or 703-400-7674 (cell) or via email at rrubenst@gmu.edu. His office is Room 646 Truland, and office hours are by appointment. He is available to discuss either course-related matters or other matters of interest to students.

The **purposes** of the course are to familiarize ourselves with the types, structures, psychological dimensions, and social roles of popular narratives; to explore narratives of war and peace in US history/culture; to compare these with narratives of war and peace in other societies; and to investigate the potential of narrative analysis for peacemaking practice. In the course of these studies, we will do research, practice making oral and written seminar-type presentations, and write research papers exploring some aspect of the topic in depth.

With regard to course content, the **structure** of the seminar is as follows:

We begin with three short books that will provide some theoretical foundations for our inquiry into popular narratives: one on the basic elements of narrative and two on historical memory. Then, using materials drawn from US historical experience, we discuss influential narratives of war and peace in American culture. While this study is taking place, students will be researching narratives of war and peace in the US and non-American cultures. We then study these comparatively, using student presentations as well as assigned articles as learning materials. Finally, we turn to questions of conflict resolution practice raised by our study, focusing on processes that may be useful in dealing with cultural violence.

The **methods** used to teach this course will be those of a graduate seminar, including lectures, discussions, media productions, and student presentations. Students are expected to attend each class thoroughly prepared to discuss the assigned readings. **Grades** will be based on a short midterm take-home exam (25%), a brief class presentation and short paper summarizing the student's independent research (25%) and a final research paper (50%). Please see the schedule below for relevant dates and deadlines.

ALL STUDENTS ARE EXPECTED TO BE FAMILIAR WITH THE UNIVERSITY STANDARDS REGARDING PLAGIARISM. IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS AT ALL ABOUT THESE STANDARDS, PLEASE SPEAK TO THE INSTRUCTOR.

There will be one or two guest lectures in this course.

Required and recommended readings

Required books are as follows (for order of readings and other details, please see the schedule below). These are all available at the Arlington Campus Bookstore:

David Herman. *Basic Elements of Narrative*, Wiley-Blackwell, 2009

Paul Connerton. *How Societies Remember*. Cambridge University Press, 1989

Norman Mailer, *Why Are We In Vietnam?* Picador Books, 2000

Eviatar Zerubavel. *Time Maps: Collective Memory and the Social Shape of the Past*, University of Chicago Press, 2003

NOTE: Master's students may choose to read either Connerton or Zerubavel. Doctoral students and those interested in historical memory should read both books

Required articles (available on e-reserves or as noted):

Sami Adwan and Dan Bar-On, "Shared History Project: A PRIME Example of Peace-Building under Fire," *International Journal of Politics, Culture, and Society*, Vol. 17, No. 3 (Spring, 2004), pp. 513-521

John Brown, "Our Indian Wars Are Not Over Yet; Ten Ways to Interpret the War on Terror as a Frontier Conflict," available via e-mail

David Campbell, "Imagining America," from *Writing Security* (1992), 105-152

Roberta L. Coles, "Peaceniks and Warmongers' Framing Fracas on the Home Front: Dominant and Opposition Discourse Interaction in the Persian Gulf Crisis." *The Sociological Quarterly*, Vol. 39, No. 3 (Summer, 1998), pp. 369-391

Jason C. Flanagan, "Woodrow Wilson's 'Rhetorical Restructuring': The Transformation of the American Self and the Construction of the German Enemy," *Rhetoric and Public Affairs*, Vol. 7 No. 2 (Summer 2004), 115-148
<http://muse//jhu.edu>

Johan Galtung, "Cultural Violence." *Journal of Peace Research*, Vol. 27, No. 3 (Aug., 1990), pp. 291-305

Michael H. Hunt, "The Hierarchy of Race," from *Ideology and U.S. Foreign Policy* (1987), 46-91

"ICAR Program on History, Memory, and Conflict" (2009)

Robert L. Ivie, "Savagery in Democracy's Empire," *Third World Quarterly*, Vol. 26 No. 1 (2005), 55-65

S. Ayse Kadayifci-Orellana. Selection from *Standing on an Isthmus: Islamic Narratives of War and Peace* (2007)

Melchin and Picard, "Insight Mediation," from *Transforming Conflict Through Insight* ((2008), 76-101

Richard E. Rubenstein, "Reasons To Kill: Book Proposal," and "Why Americans Fight," *Dynamics of Asymmetric Conflict* (Winter 2009), both available via email

Ann-Louise Shapiro, "Fixing History: Narratives of World War I in France," *History and Theory*, Vol. 36, No. 4 (Dec. 1997), 111-130

Schwalbe, Silcock, and Keith, "Visual framing of the early weeks of the U.S.-led invasion of Iraq: applying the master war narrative to electronic and print images." *Journal of Broadcasting & Electronic Media*, Sept, 2008 , available at http://www.entrepreneur.com/tradejournals/article/185385932_5.html

Harry G. West, "Girls with Guns: Narrating the Experience of War of Frelimo's 'Female Detachment'," *Anthropological Quarterly*, Vol. 73, No. 4 (Oct. 2000), 180-194

Winslade and Monk, "A Narrative Approach to Mediation" (2000)

"Women's Narratives, War, and Peace-Building," from *Critical Half* (2007)

Recommended Books (available at Arlington Campus Bookstore or from instructor):

Jerome Bruner, *Acts of Meaning*, Harvard University Press, 1992

Gabbay and Kazah. *One Land, Two Stories: Narratives of Israel and Palestine*, ISIME Press, 2008

William A. Gamson, *Talking Politics*. Cambridge University Press, 1992

S. Ayse Kadayifci-Orellana. *Standing on an Isthmus: Islamic Narratives of War and Peace*, Lexington Books, 2007

Michael J. Shapiro, *Violent Cartographies: Mapping Cultures of War*. University of Minnesota Press, 1997

Anthony Smith. *Chosen People. Sacred Sources of National Identity*. Oxford, 2003

Winslade and Monk, *Narrative Mediation*, Jossey-Bass, 2000

Schedule of classes and assignments

Aug. 31: Introduction to course. Read Rubenstein, "Reasons to Kill: Book Proposal"

Sep. 7: LABOR DAY HOLIDAY. Read Herman for discussion in next class, and think about how the forms of narrative that he describes are used in war or peace stories familiar to you

Sep. 14: Narrative structures and functions. Discuss Herman, *Basic Elements of Narrative*

Sep. 21: Historical memory. For this class read EITHER Connerton, *How Societies Remember* OR Zerubavel, *Time Maps*. (Doctoral students and those with special interest in this topic read both.) Again, think about how war and peace are captured in historical memory and what narrative transformations this entails

Sep. 28: Complete discussion of historical memory. Discuss "ICAR Program on History, Memory, and Conflict" (available via email)

Oct. 5: American narratives of war and peace. Discuss Campbell, "Imagining America." See movie: *High Noon* (1952) BEGIN RESEARCH ON NARRATIVES OF WAR AND PEACE IN NON-AMERICAN SOCIETIES

Oct. 13: (NOTE HOLIDAY SHIFT OF DAY TO TUESDAY) Narratives of self-defense and evil enemies: discuss Hunt, "The Hierarchy of Race"; Brown, "Our Indian Wars Are Not Over Yet"; Rubenstein, "Why Americans Fight"

Oct. 19: MIDTERM EXAM DISTRIBUTED IN CLASS. Narratives of humanitarian intervention and moral crusade. Discuss Flanagan, "Woodrow Wilson's 'Rhetorical Restructuring'"; Coles, "Peaceniks and Warmongers Framing Fracas on the Home Front"; Schwalbe, Silcock, and Keith, "Visual Framing"; Ivie, "Savagery in Democracy's Empire"

Oct. 26: RETURN MIDTERM EXAM. No reading assigned. Discuss "You can't negotiate with those people" – the impossibility of non-military solutions in narratives of war. For next class, read Mailer, *Why Are We In Vietnam?*

Nov. 2: Gender and narratives of war and peace: discuss Mailer, *Why Are We In Vietnam?* CLASS PRESENTATIONS BY GROUP A

Nov. 9: Complete discussion of Mailer. Discuss West, "Girls with Guns"; "Women's Narratives, War, and Peace-Building." CLASS PRESENTATIONS BY GROUP B

Nov. 16: Narratives of war and peace in non-American societies. Discuss Ann-Louise Shapiro, "Fixing History." CLASS PRESENTATIONS BY GROUP C

Nov. 23: PROPOSALS FOR FINAL PAPERS DUE. Discuss selection from Kadayifci-Orellana, *Standing on an Isthmus: Islamic Narratives of War and Peace*. CLASS PRESENTATIONS BY GROUP D

Nov. 30: Implications for conflict resolution practice: discuss Galtung, "Cultural Violence" and Adwan and Bar-on, "Shared History Project"

Dec. 7: Implications for conflict resolution practice: discuss Winslade and Monk, "Narrative Mediation," and Melchin and Picard, "Insight Mediation." Course wrap-up

Dec. 14: FINAL PAPERS ARE DUE AT ICAR OFFICE BY 5:00 PM