

Anthro 315b, 1984
Rice Univ (Fischer)

Syllabus:

TRADITIONAL SOCIETIES
(Modernization of Myth & Tradition)

Introduction: Themes

I. Orality & Literacy

- Req: Auerbach, E. Mimesis: ch. 1 (Odyssey vs Bible)
Kelber, W. The Oral & the Written Gospel, pp. 46, 52, 56,
57-64, 94-104, 110.
Plato. Phaedrus, pp. 95-99.

- Suppl: Derrida, J. "Plato's Pharmacy" in Disseminations
Goody, J. The Domestication of the Savage Mind: ch. 1.
Levi-Strauss, C. The Savage Mind.
Vernant, J.P. "Mythical Aspects of Memory", "The River of
Ameles & the Melete Thanatou" in Myth & Thought among
the Greeks.

II. Political Economy & Total Phenomena

- Req: Mauss, Marcel. The Gift, pp. 1-45.
Detienne, M. "The Myth of the Honeyed Orpheus" in R.L.
Gordon, ed., Myth, Religion & Society.
- Suppl.: Adams, Robert Mc. "Anthropological Perspectives on Ancient
Trade". Current Anthropology, 15(3): 239-
Benet, . "Explosive Markets in the Berber Highlands" in
Polanyi, Arensberg, and Pearson, Trade in the Early Empires.
Finley, M.I. The World of Odysseus, pp. 121-23, 95-98, 61-66.
Polanyi, K. "Aristotle Discovers the Economy" in Polanyi,
Arensberg & Pearson.
Austin, M.M. & P. Vidal-Naquet. Economic & Social History
of Ancient Greece.
Weber, M. The Agrarian Sociology of Ancient Civilization.

Middle East: In Search of Coevalness

III. Decoding Modernist Literature

Req Dehlavi, J. "Towers of Silence" [film]
Hedayat, S. The Blind Owl.

Suppl.: Fischer, M. "Towards a Third World Poetics", sections
on "Towers of Silence" and The Blind Owl.

IV, Ritual & Purity

Req: Douglas, M. Purity & Danger,
Fischer, M. "The Yasna" in Zoroastrian Iran
Boyd, Darrow & Kotwal. "The Yasna" [film]

Suppl: Levi-Strauss, C. Naked Man, pp. 671-75.
Fischer, M. "Introduction to Ayatullah Khomeini's Risala
Towzih al-Masa'il"

V. Epics & Narrative Poetry

Req: Fischer, M. "The Shahnameh" in Zoroastrian Iran
Meeker, M. Literature & Violence in North Arabia: ch. 3-4.
[rec.: ch. 5, 6]

Suppl: Dede Korkut
David of Sassoun
Chadwick, N & V. Zhirmunsky. Oral Epics of Central Asia.
Meeker, M. 1975. "Mounted Pastoralism, The Genres of Heroism,
and the Turkish and Arab Ethnic Presence in the Near East."
Meeker, M. 198 . "

VI. Emotion, Possession, Rituals & Symbols

Req: Levi-Strauss, C. "The Efficacy of Symbols" in Structural Anthropology.
Crapanzano, V. The Hamadsha

Suppl: Abu-Lughod, Lila. "

Crapanzano, V. "Labid & Dawia" in Crapanzano & V. Garrison, ed.
Case Studies in Possession. Wiley.
Crapanzano, V. "Rite of Return: Circumcision in Morocco"
Danforth, L. "The Role of Dance in the Ritual Therapy of the
Anastenaria" Byzantine & Modern Greek Studies, vol. 5, 1979.
Danforth, L. "Power through Submission" in the Anastenaria" J.
of Modern Greek Studies, 1983.
Vidal-Naquet, P. "The Black Hunter & the Origin of the Athenian
ephebia. In Gordon, ed.

Greece: In Search of Structure

VII. Introduction

- Req: Hesiod. Works and Days, pp. 62-65.
Vernant, J.P. "Hesiod's Myth of the Races" in Myth & Thought among the Greeks.
Polanyi, K. "Aristotle Discovers the Economy" in Polanyi, Arensberg & Pearson.

- Suppl: Adams, R. Mc. "Anthropological Perspectives on Ancient Trade" CA 1974.
Austin, M.M. & P. Vidal-Naquet. Economic & Social History of Ancient Greece.
Finley, M.I. The World of Odysseus.
Finley, M.I. Ancient Slavery & Modern Ideology.
Humphries, S.C. Anthropology and the Greeks.
Vernant, J. P. The Origins of Greek Thought.

VIII. Aphrodite & the Conceptualization of Women

- Req: Friedrich, Paul. The Meaning of Aphrodite. Chicago.
- Suppl: Bloom, Harold. "Sumerian Feminism" NYRB 13 October 1983.
Fischer, M. "On Changing the Concept & Position of Persian Women" in L. Beck & N. Keddie, ed. Women in the Muslim World, HUP 1978.
Fischer, M. "In Defense of Ayesha" New Society. 1978.
Pagel, Elaine. The Gnostic Gospels.
Vernant, J. P. "Hestia-Hermes: the Religious Expression of Space and Movement in Ancient Greece." in Myth & Thought.

IX. Mythic Codes

- Req: Detienne, M. The Gardens of Adonis. Harvester.
- Suppl: Detienne, M. Dionysos Slain. Johns Hopkins.

X. Funeral Games

- Req: Redfield, J. Nature and Culture in the Iliad. Chicago.

America: Recovery of Tradition & Creativity

XI. Introduction

Req: Levi-Strauss, C. "The Story of Asdiwal"
Basso, Keith. "The Wise Words of the Western Apache"

XII. Masks

Req: Levi-Strauss, C. The Way of the Masks. Washington.
Suppl: Fogelson, R.D. & A.R. Bell. "Cherokee Booger Mask Tradition"

XIII. Codes

Req: Hunt, Eva. The Transformation of the Hummingbird.

XIV. Modern Creativity

Levi-Strauss, C. Tristes Tropiques
Geertz, Clifford. "The Cerebral Savage"
Pace, David. Claude Levi-Strauss, The Bearer of Ashes. 1983.
Handelman Susan, The Slayers of Moses.
Sontag, Susan. "The Anthropologist as Hero"
Levi-Strauss, C. The Savage Mind.
Levi-Strauss, C. The Naked Man.
Ramsey, J. Reading the Fire.
Velie, A.R. Four Indian Literary Masters.

Anthropology 315b
Spring 1984
Rice University
Fischer

TRADITIONAL SOCIETIES:
Modernization of Myth & Tradition

I. Themes

A. Recovery of the Past & the Politics of Scholarship

- Danforth, Loring M. 1984. "The Ideological Context of the Search Continuities in Greek Culture" *J. of Modern Greek Studies*.
- Fabian, Johannes. 1983. Time & the Other: How Anthropology Makes its Object. Columbia Univ. Press.
- Fischer, M.M.J. 1982. "Islam and the Revolt of the Petit Bourgeoisie". *Daedalus*.
- Fischer, M.M.J. 1984. "Zoroastrian Iran: Competing Historical Horizons in Contemporary Consciousness" ms
- Jenkyns, Richard. 1980. The Victorians and Ancient Greece. Harvard.
- Laroui, Abdullah. 1974/1976. The Crisis of the Arab Intellectual. Traditionalism or Historicism. California.
- Said, Edward. 1978. Orientalism. Pantheon.
- Silk, M.S. & J.P. Stern. 1981. "Germany and Greece" in Nietzsche on Tragedy. Cambridge Univ. Press.
- Turner, Brian. 19 . Marx and the End of Orientalism.
- Wasserstrom, Robert. 1983. Class and Society in Central Chiapas. California.

B. Orality, Literacy, & Aesthetics

- Alter, Robert. The Art of Biblical Narrative. Basic Books, 1981.
- Auerbach, Erich. Mimesis. Princeton, 1953.
- Chadwick, N. & V. Zhirmunsky. Oral Epics of Central Asia. Cambridge 1940.
- Derrida, Jacques. "Plato's Pharmacy" in Disseminations. Chicago 1972/1981.
- Goody, Jack. The Domestication of the Savage Mind. Cambridge, 1977.
- Fischer, M.M.J. 1984. "Towards a Third World Poetics" ms
- Kelber, Werner. 1983. The Oral & the Written Gospel. Fortress.
- Levi-Strauss, Claude. 1962/66. The Savage Mind. Chicago.
- Plato. "Phaedrus"; "The Republic".
- Vernant, J-P. "Mythical Aspects of Memory", "The River of Ameles & the Melete Thanatou" in Myth and Thought among the Greeks. Routledge, Kegan, Paul, 1965/1983.
- Yates, E. The Art of Memory.

C. The Political Economy of Traditional Societies

- Adams, Robert Mc. 1974. "Anthropological Perspectives on Ancient Trade". Current Anthropology, 15(3): 239-
- Austin, M.M. & P. Vidal-Naquet. 1972/77. Economic & Social History of Ancient Greece. Univ. Of Calif.
- Engels, Donald. 1978. Alexander the Great & the Logistics of the Macedonian Army. Univ. of California.
- Finley, M.I. 1954. The World of Odysseus. Viking Press.
- Finley, M.I. 1980. Ancient Slavery & Modern Ideology. Viking Press.
- Finley, M.I. 1981. Economy & Society in Ancient Greece. Chatto & Windus.
- Humphries, S.C. 1978. Anthropology & the Greeks. RKP.
- Ibn Khaldun. 1 /19 . The Muqaddamah. Princeton.
- Lombard, Maurice. 1971/75. The Golden Age of Islam. American Elsevier.
- Mauss, Marcel. . The Gift.
- Polanyi, Karl, K. Pearson, & C. Arensberg. . Trade in the Early Empires.
- Weber, Max. 19 /19 . The Agrarian Sociology of Ancient Civilization. Economy & Society.

II. Societies

A. Middle East

- Arbab-Shirani, Sa'id. 1975. Shapes of a Myth: Literary Transformations of the Joseph Figure. Ph.D. diss. Princeton.
- Baghban, Hafizullah. 1976. The Context & Concept of Humor in Magadi Theater. Ph.D. diss. Indiana.
- Boyce, Mary. 1977. A Persian Stronghold of Zoroastrianism. Oxford.
- Boyce, Mary. 1979. Zoroastrians: Their Religious Beliefs and Practices. RKP.
- Boyce, Mary, 197 - A History of Zoroastrianism. E.J. Brill.
- Boyce, M. 1967. "Bib Shahrbanu & the Lady of Pars". BSOAS 30:30-44.
- Boyce, M. 1955. "The Indian Fables in the Letter of Tansar" Asia Major ns V: 50-58.
- Boyce, M. 1957. "The Parthian Gosan & Iranian Minstrel Tradition" JRAS, 10-45.
- Boyce, M. 1955. "Zariades & Zarer" BSOAS 17:463-77.
- Boyce, M. 1968. "Middle Persian Literature" Handbuch der Orientalistik ed., B. Spuler I, v. ii. E.J. Brill.
- Burton, John. 1977. The Collection of the Qur'an. Cambridge.
- Chadwick, N. & V. Zhirmunsky. Oral Epics of Central Asia. Cambridge 1940.
- Crapanzano, Vincent. 1973. The Hamadsha: A Study in Moroccan Ethnopsychiatry. California.
- Crapanzano, V. 1975. "Saints, Jnun, and Dreams: An Essay in Moroccan Ethnopsychiatry." Psychiatry, vol. 38.
- Crapanzano, V. 19 . "Labiid and Dawia" in Crapanzano and V. Garrison, ed. Case Studies in Possession. Wiley.
- Crapanzano, V. 198 . "Rite of Return: Circumcision in Morocco" in

- David of Sassoun. E.T. A Tolegian. N.Y. 1961.
Dede Korkut.
Dehlavi, Jamil. "Towers of Silence" [film]
Firdausi. 1010. Shahnameh. [E.T. A.G. & E. Warner, 1905-25.]
Fischer, M.M.J. 1973. Zoroastrian Iran between Myth and Praxis.
Ph.D. diss., Univ. of Chicago.
Fischer, M.M.J. 1980. Iran: From Religious Dispute to Revolution. Harvard.
Fischer, M.M.J. 1984. "Towards a Third World Poetics: Seeing through
Short Stories and Films in the Iranian Culture Area" Knowledge
and Society.
Fischer, M.M.J. 1984. Zoroastrian Iran: Competing Historical
Horizons in Contemporary Consciousness. ms.
Goldziher, I. Muslim Studies.
Hanaway, William L. 1970. Persian Popular Romances Before the Safavid
Period. Ph.D. diss, Columbia Univ.
Hedayat, Sadeq. The Blind Owl, 1937. E.T. 1957.
Hillmann, Michael. 19 . 'The Blind Owl' Forty Years After. Texas CMES.
Hillmann, Michael, ed. Major Voices in Contemporary Persian Literature.
Literature East & West, Volume XX (1976). June 1980.
Hillmann, Michael, ed. 1982. Literature & Society in Iran.
Iranian Studies, Volume XV.
Maguire, Marcia. 1973 Rustam and Isfandiar in the Shahnameh.
Ph.D. diss., Princeton.
Maguire, M. 1974. "Fate in Firdausi's Rustam va Suhrab" in P.
Chelkowski, ed., Studies in Art & Literature of the Near East. N.Y.U.
Nöldeke, T. 1896-1904. "Das Iranische Nationalepos" in Grundriss der
Iranischen Philologie. Strassburg: Verlag Trübner; E.T. 1927 by
Bogdanov, Journal of the K.R. Cama Institute, Bombay.
Meeker, Michael. 1979. Literature & Violence in North Arabia. Cambridge.
Mills, Margaret. 1978. Oral Narrative in Afghanistan. Ph.D., Harvard.
Page, Mary Ellen. 1977. Naqqali & Ferdowsi: Creativity in the
Iranian National Tradition. Ph.D., Penn.
Pitt-Rivers, Julian. 19 . The Fate of Schechem. Cambridge.
Wansborough, John. 1977. Quranic Studies: Sources and Methods of
Scriptural Interpretation. Oxford.

B. Greece

- Austin, M.M. & P. Vidal-Naquet. 1972/77. Economic & Social History
of Ancient Greece. Univ. of Calif.
Danforth, Loring M. 1978. The Anastenaria. Ph.D., Princeton.
Danforth, L. M. 1979. "The rôle of Dance in the Ritual Therapy of
the Anastenaria" Byzantine & Modern Greek Studies, vol. 5
Danforth, L. M. 1983. "Power through Submission in the Anastenaria"
J. of Modern Greek Studies, vol. 1.
Danforth, L. M. 1983. "Tradition & Change in Greek Shadow Theater"
J. of American Folklore, vol 96, no. 381.
Detienne, Marcel. 1972/77. The Gardens of Adonis: Spices in Greek
Mythology. Harvester.

- Detienne, Marcel. 1977/79. Dionysus Slain. Johns Hopkins.
Detienne, M. & J.P. Vernant. 1974/78. Cunning Intelligence in Greek Culture & Society. Harvester.
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Finley, M.I. 1980. Ancient Slavery & Modern Ideology. Viking.
Finley, M.I. 1981. Economy & Society in Ancient Greece. Chatto & Windus.
Friedrich, Paul. 1978. The Meaning of Aphrodite. Chicago.
Gordon, R.L., ed. 1981. Myth, Religion & Society: Structuralist Essays by M. Detienne, L. Gernet, J.-P. Vernant, & P. Vidal-Naquet. CUP.
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Plato. c. 370 B.C. "Phaedrus", The Republic.
Redfield, James M. 1975. Nature & Culture in the Iliad. Chicago.
Spatz, Lois, 1982. Aeschylus. Boston: Twayne.
Simon, Bennet. 1978. Mind & Madness in Ancient Greece. Cornell.
Vernant, Jean Pierre. 1962/82. The Origins of Greek Thought. Cornell.
Vernant, J.P. 1965/83. Myth & Thought Among the Greeks. RKP
Vernant, J.P. 1974/80. Myth & Society in Ancient Greece. Harvester.
Dubois, Page. 19 . History, Rhetorical Description & the Epic.
D.S. Brewer, Biblio.
Segal, Charles. 1982. Dionysiac Poetics & Euripedes' Bacchae. Princeton.

C. America

- Basso, Keith. 1976. "Wise Words of the Western Apache" in Basso & Selby, ed. Meaning in Anthropology. New Mexico.
Bricker, Virginia. 1981. The Indian Christ, The Indian King. Texas.
Carrasco, David. 1982. Quetzalcoatl & The Irony of Empire. Chicago.
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Levi-Strauss, C. 1963. Tristes Tropiques. Atheneum.
Levi-Strauss, C. 1964/69. The Raw & the Cooked. Harper & Row.
Levi-Strauss, C. 1973. From Honey to Ashes. Harper & Row.
Levi-Strauss, C. 1968/78. The Origin of Table Manners. Harper & Row.
Levi-Strauss, C. 1971/81. The Naked Man. Harper & Row.
Ortiz, Alfonso. 1969. The Tewa World: Space, Time, Being & Becoming in a Pueblo Society. Chicago.
Radin, Paul. 1956. The Trickster. Schocken.
Reichel-Dolmatoff, Gerardo. 1968/71. Amazon Cosmos. Chicago.
Speck, Frank & Leonard Broom. 1951. Cherokee Dance & Drama. Okla.
Tedlock, Dennis. 1983. The Spoken Word & the Work of Interpretation. Pa.
Velie, Alan R. 1982. Four Indian Literary Masters: N. Scott Momaday, James Welsh, Leslie Marmon Silko, Gerald Vizenor. Okla.
Hunt, Eva. 1977. The Transformation of the Hummingbird. Cornell.
Levi-Strauss, C. 1975-79/82. The Way of the Masks. Washington.
Ramsey, Jarold. 1983. Reading the Fire: Essays in the Traditional Indian Literature of the Far West. Nebraska.
Maybury-Lewis, David. 19 . Dialectical Societies. Harvard.

First Essay

1. How do parables, myths and surrealist stories work? Define these terms (from the reading or a dictionary) and illustrate how they work with an example each we have read or discussed.
2. What are memory and tradition? Discuss using any two examples we have read or discussed.
3. Now that you've had a chance to think about "Towers of Silence" and The Blind Owl, how might they be illumined by what you have seen and learned about the yasna and the Shahnameh?
4. For Iranians the epic tradition constitutes a philosophical idiom in the form of parables in which one can reflect upon not only nationalism, kingship, heroism, honor, marriage strategies, religion, ethics, ultimate versus immediate reward or punishment, and parental-filial relations, but also on the passions, the results of anger, jealousy, ambition, zealotry, lust for power, obedience, loyalty, and so on; and upon hypostatization of desires for long life, invulnerability, omnipotence, and the like.
Explain how this is so, taking two examples of the list above.
5. How do rituals work? Consider the yasna, the circumcision in Morocco, the rites of the ephebia in ancient Greece, and the Hamadsha curing ceremony. Discuss using two of these four examples.
6. How is honor achieved among the beduin, and how is sadness used among Persians. Discuss the sense of personal strength achieved in these two modes, drawing on Meeker and either the film "Gav" or the Karbala story. [Further reading, if you like: P. Bourdieu, "The Sense of Honor" in his Algeria 1960, or also in J. Peristiany, ed. Honor and Shame; the Karbala story is outlined in M. Fischer, Iran: From Religious Dispute to Revolution, pp 13-27, 170-176, 183, 204-06, 235]
7. What is Zoroastrianism? Describe its basic doctrines, the nature of God, and something about its ritual structure. [Further reading: M. Boyce, Zoroastrians, their Beliefs & Customs; M. Boyce, A Zoroastrian Stronghold in Persia.]
8. Read Dr. Ali Shariati's account of the Hajj [on reserve]. Compare the way it instills purpose to the way the rituals of Muharram (the Karbala story) instills purpose among Shi'ite Muslims.
9. Compare the idioms of honor and masculinity among Moroccans (Crapanzano), Beduin (Meeker), and Persians (the film "Qaisar" in Fischer "Towards a Third World Poetics").

Instructions: Read all the questions think about how you would answer them. Choose one question to answer in written form. Length: 5 - 10 pages. Due: Thurs., March 15.

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