

Menchaca  
 Anth 391-31885/  
 LAS 391-39990/ MAS 392-40655

Fall 2018  
 T 2 to 5  
 SAC 5.118

## ORAL TRADITIONS AND HISTORY

Sep	4	Introduction
	11	The Historical Turn: The Construction of the Subject
	18	Theoretical Foundations in Oral Tradition and Oral History Studies
	25	Oral Traditions and Memory
Oct	2	Land Claims: Historical Memory and Indigenous Identity Student presentation-1
	9	Oral Testimonies Student presentation-1
	16	Life History or Autobiography? Student Presentation 1
	23	Auto-Ethnography Defined Student Presentations-2 <b>Paper Due</b>
	30	Auto/Ethnography, Photo-Ethnography and Oral History Film
Nov	6	Documenting Social Activism (Film)
	13	Contesting State Representations Student Presentation-2
	20	Thanksgiving-Whose Voice is in the Archive
	27	Whose Voice is in the Archive?: Historical Distortion Student Presentations-2
Dec	4	Oral Poetry and Oral History Student Presentations-2, <b>Paper due</b>

## Course Requirements

### Required Readings

You will be expected to read parts of the following books: Liffman, Huichol Territory and the Mexican Nation, Menchú /Burgos-Debray, I, Rigoberta Menchú, Dirks, Autobiography of an Archive: A Passage to India, Garcia and Castro, Blowout (electronic text), Behar, An Island Called Home: Returning to Jewish Cuba, and Gibbler, I Couldn't Even Imagine that they Would Kill US. These books are available in the University Co-op at 2246 Guadalupe St. You will also be required to read a few articles available in a class reader. The reader may be purchased at Jenn's Copy & Binding (512-482-0779, 2518 Guadalupe St.). The books are also available at PCL.

### Essays

Two essay papers are required (approximately 7 pages). Class readings and course lectures must be integrated in the conceptualization of the essays. I will provide topical questions.

### Presentation

Students are required to give a presentation. There are 3 options.

1. Select your own reading. The presentation can be based on an article, book, poetry, or music.
2. Present your analysis of an oral history interview or oral tradition research project. Your presentation may be based on an oral history that you will conduct for this course, or on current or past research (reflection). If you conduct an oral history interview for this class, it cannot be used for your thesis or dissertation. If you plan to use it for your thesis or dissertation you must have IRB approval.  
If you choose to present when an assigned essay is due, you may turn in your paper the following week.
3. An analysis of on-line web material.

### Attendance and Discussion Participation

Attendance is required. Participating in discussion is also required. Excessive absences or never participating in class discussion will lower your grade. Grade breakdown (grade distribution is required by university): 40% each paper, 10% presentation, and 10% class participation and attendance.

Paper			Presentation-Participation		
A	40	(100%)	A	10	(100%)
A-	37.2	(93%)	A-	9.3	(93%)
B+	35.6	(89%)	B+	8.9	(89%)
B	34.8	(87%)	B	8.7	(87%)
B-	33.2	(83%)	B-	8.3	(83%)
C+	31.6	(79%)	C+	7.9	(79%)

### Office Hours

Office hours will be held on Thursday 1pm to 3pm and by appointment (SAC 5.158).

## Anthropology 391

### Oral Traditions and History

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#### Location of Readings and Codes:

(T) Text/Bookstore	(L) Library	(S) Suggested only
(R) Reader	(P) For Presenter only	

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### The Historical Turn: The Construction of the Subject

- (R) Fabian, Johannes. 2012. Time and the Other: How Anthropology Makes its Object. New York: Columbia University Press. (1st ed. 1983) (Study suggestions: Chapter 1: Focus on the history of anthropology, do not become preoccupied with the discussion of time; **Read:** Forward, chapter 1.

### Theoretical Foundations in Oral Tradition and Oral History Studies

- (R) Vansina, Jan. 1985. Oral Tradition as Process. In Oral Tradition as History. Pp. 3-32. Madison, WI: The University of Wisconsin Press.<sup>1</sup>
- (R) Cole, Tim. 2015. (Re)Placing the Past: Spatial Strategies of Retelling Difficult Stories. The Oral History Review 42(1): 30-49.
- (T) Dirks, Nicholas. 2015. Autobiography of an Archive: A Passage to India. New York: Columbia University. Read: Introduction.

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<sup>1</sup> Suggested only, a succinct analysis of Vansina's methods: Vansina, Jan. 2009. Oral Tradition and Historical Methodology in Oral Tradition: A Study in Historical Methodology. Pp. xi-18. New Brunswick, NJ: Aldine Transaction.

Film: Lemon Grove Incident vc 6716

### Oral Traditions and Memory<sup>2</sup>

- (R) DeLugan, Robin M. 2013. Commemorating from the Margins of the Nation: El Salvador 1932, Indigeneity and Transnational Belonging. Anthropological Quarterly 86(4): 965-994.
- (R) Carbonette Yow, Ruth. 2015. Shadowed Places and Stadium Lights: An Oral History of Integration and Black Student Protest in Marietta, Georgia. The Oral History Review 42(1): 70-95.
- (R) Najera, Jennifer. 2018. Remembering Migrant Life: Family Collective Memory and Critical Consciousness in the Midcentury Migrant Stream. The Oral History Review 45(1): 1-21.

### Land Claims: Historical Memory and Indigenous Identity

- (R) Liffman, Paul. 2014. Huichol Territory and the Mexican Nation: Indigenous Ritual, Land Conflict and Sovereignty Claims. Tucson: University of Arizona Press (2011, 1<sup>st</sup> ed). Read: Skip chapter 7.

### Oral Testimonies

- (R) Clifford, James. 1988. Identity in Mashpee. In The Predicament of Culture: Twentieth-Century Ethnography, Literature, and Art. Pp. 277-346. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press.
- (R) Stephen, Lynn. 2012. Testimony in Truth Commissions and Social Movements in Latin America. In Pushing the Boundaries of Latin American Testimony: Meta-Morphoses and Migrations. Louise Detwiler and Janis Breckenridge, eds. Pp. 109-130. New York: Palgrave/McMillan.

### Life History or Autobiography?

- (T) Menchu, Rigoberta/Burgos-Debray, Elizabeth (ed). 2010. I, Rigoberta Menchú. New York: Verso. (1984, 1<sup>st</sup>, ed.).

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<sup>2</sup> Fabian, Johannes. 2007. Forgetful Remembering: A Colonial Life in the Congo. In Memory Against Culture. Pp. 77-91. Durham: Duke University Press.

### Autoethnography Defined<sup>3</sup>

- (R) Buzard, James. 2003. On Auto-Ethnographic Authority. The Yale Journal of Criticism 16(1): 61-91.

### Student Presentations and **Paper due**

#### Autoethnography, Photo-Ethnography, and Oral History

- (T) Behar, Ruth. 2007. An Island Called Home: Returning to Jewish Cuba. New Brunswick, NJ: Rutgers University Press. (**Reading suggestion:** Half the book is composed of photographs. May skip: Part IV: In the Provinces).

#### **Film: Adio Kerida, Goodbye Dear Love DVD 6842 Fine Arts.**

#### Documenting Social Activism: Combining Academic Autobiography and Life History

- (T) Garcia, Mario and Sal Castro. 2011. Blowout!: Sal Castro and the Chicano Struggle for Educational Justice. Chapel Hill, NC: The University of North Carolina Press.

(Oral History Film: Chicano: History of the Mexican American Civil Rights Movement, Volume 3: Taking Back the Schools).

#### Contesting State Representations

- (R) Gibbler, John. 2017. I Couldn't Even Imagine that they Would Kill US: An Oral History of the Attacks Against the Students of Ayotzinapa. San Francisco, CA: City Lights Publishers.  
(Reading suggestions: The testimonies from 1 to 82: provide repeated discussions of the students' backgrounds (1-50) and commandeering the buses (51-82)-(**may skip some testimonies**); 82 –100: the attack, and testimonies of those who escaped; 100-107: attacking the soccer team bus by mistake; other witnesses (important); 107-160: more information on the attack and non-student testimonies, reporters; 160-184: the next day and the federal investigation begins; 184-211: parents (**may skip some testimonies**); 213-257: Afterwards, Gibbler-Why the cover up (**do not skip**).

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<sup>3</sup> Reed-Danahay, Deborah, ed. 1997. Introduction. In Auto/Ethnography: Rewriting the Self and the Social. Pp. 1-20. New York: Berg.

### Thanksgiving-Whose Voice is in the Archive?

- (R) Ruelle-Orihuela, Krisna and Cristina Soriano. 2016. Remembering the Slave Rebellion of Coro: Historical Memory and Politics in Venezuela. Ethnohistory 63(2):327-350.

We will discuss attendance for this week.

### Whose Voice is in the Archive?: Historical Distortion<sup>4</sup>

- (R) Dirks, Nicholas. 2015. Autobiography of an Archive: A Passage to India. New York: Columbia University. Chapters: 1 (critical inspection of archives), 4-6 (what the archives tell us how colonials authorities reinforced local hierarchies), 12-15 (decolonization of knowledge).

### Oral Poetry and Oral History

- (R) Cariou, Warren 2016. Life-Telling: Indigenous Oral Autobiography and the Performance of Relation. Biography 39(3): 314-327.
- (R) Taussig, Michael. 1996. The Construction of America: The Anthropologist as Columbus. In Culture/Contexture Explorations in Anthropology and Literary Studies. Valentine Daniel and Jeffrey M. Peck, eds. Pp. 323-356. Berkeley, CA: University of California Press.
- (R) Honey, Michael. 2014. "Sharecroppers" Troubadour: Can we Use Songs and Oral Poetry as Oral History? The Oral History Review 41(2): 217-228.

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<sup>4</sup> Trouillot, Michel-Rolph. 2015. Silencing the Past. New York: Beacon Press, 1<sup>st</sup> edition 1995. Chapter 1 and 3.