

Humanities 195j
Fall 2002
Mon. 2:45-4:15 (sometimes longer)
and by Institute calendar
Humanities 202

Professor Liss
Humanities 214, x73541
Office Hrs: Mon. 11-12,
TTh 2:30-3:30

Humanities Institute Junior Fellows Seminar

The theme for the Fall 2002 Scripps College Humanities Institute is War and Peace. The program will consist of two symposia or panels, a small conference and a series of films.

Even as I prepare this syllabus, the problems of war and peace dominate the world we live in, reminding us of the precariousness of life and the pressures political turmoil. As unique as the current moment may feel—and commentators have regularly resorted to such hyperbolic statements about how things will never be and have never been the same—the realities of warfare and the struggles for peace dominated the 20th century, perhaps even fundamentally formed it. The Fall Institute program will provide us with an opportunity to explore some of these longer-term issues by reading and speaking with scholars who have dedicated their careers to them.

We hope to address a number of issues throughout the semester to examine the problems of violence, conflict, revolution, reconciliation and peace-making in different geographic, national, and international contexts. In particular, but still quite broadly, we are interested in the intersections of gender, ethnicity, political violence, colonialism and nationalism, the culture and politics of the nuclear age, the politics of pacifism and reconciliation, the comparison of state violence and movements for liberation. Perhaps by the end of the semester we will be able to read and think more critically about the news and commentary we hear around us and to work more constructively to build the kind of world in which we want to live.

Course requirements:

All fellows will participate in a seminar that accompanies the lecture and film series. We will read texts recommended or written by the speakers in preparation for their visits. Fellows are expected to attend the weekly seminar, the film series (scheduled for some Friday nights) and all other Institute events. Fellows will have opportunities to meet individually with the speakers.

Each student is expected to fulfill the following requirements throughout the semester:

- Read all of the assigned readings and come to class prepared to discuss them
- Write weekly, two-page reading responses (due at the beginning of class)
- Make an oral presentation on one week's assignment to initiate and focus discussion. This presentation includes summarizing the argument, presenting what is at stake (why does this argument matter?), and posing questions for discussion. In order for these presentations to be productive and helpful, you should be as

- clear as possible about what you think the author's main concerns are and about your own analysis or reactions to them.
- Interview one speaker during the semester and present a 3-4 page summary of that interview
 - Write a fifteen-page research paper on a topic of your choice related to the topics we discuss this semester. You must discuss your topic with me beforehand as noted in the schedule below. Students will present their work to the class at the end of the semester. Students may pursue a project in another format, equivalent in scope and rigor to a research paper, e.g. a video or an art project based on the readings and films for the semester. This alternative also needs to be discussed with me.

Schedule of meetings and readings:

We will meet regularly on Mondays to prepare for the Thursday Institute events. There are two times during the term when we will need to meet on Thursday instead (see Sept. 5 and Oct. 24 below).

Students are required to attend Institute events. For the most part these are once a month on Thursdays at 4:15 (ending by 6 p.m.) with follow-up discussions on Friday morning from 11:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. See the attached schedule of events.

The following readings are assigned based on what the speakers made available as of the first day of class. Changes or additions may be necessary. Readings for the first two symposia (through Fall break) are available at the Clark Humanities Museum.

Introduction

Sept. 5 (Thursday): Introduction: Why war? What peace?

Miriam Cooke, “~~WO~~-man, Retelling the War Myth” in Gendering War Talk
Frantz Fanon, “Preface” and Concerning Violence” in The Wretched of the Earth
John Keegan, “War in Human History” in A History of Warfare

Gender, Women and War

Sept. 9: Miriam Cooke, Intro., ch. 1 in Women Claim Islam, pp. 1-28

(a copy of her novel Hayati, My Life is in the Institute office)

Sept. 16: Cynthia Enloe, “Gender Makes the World Go Round,” Bananas, Beaches & Bases, pp. 1-18

Theresa Saliba, “Military Presences and Absences” and Susan Jeffords, “Afterword,” in Jeffords and Lauren Rabinovitz, eds. Seeing Through the Media: The Persian Gulf War, pp. 263-284, 301-321

Emily S. Rosenberg, “Rescuing Women and Children,” The Journal of American History 89 (September 2002):456-465

<http://www.historycooperative.org/journals/jah/89.2/rosenberg.html>>
(31 Aug. 2002).

Sept. 23: Jaqueline Siapno, “Counter-Mapping Gender and Development: External Evaluation Report of Program on ‘Transitional Development and Empowerment for Women, in Lautem and Ainaro Districts, East Timor’”
Selected readings on East Timor

The Bomb

Sept. 30: John Hersey, Hiroshima (1946)

Henry L Stimson, “The Decision to Use the Atomic Bomb” (1947)

Margot Henriksen, Dr. Strangelove’s America, Part II (ch. 3, 4, 5)

Oct. 7: Hugh Gusterson, “Nuclear Weapons and the Other in the Western Imagination” and “Telling a Nuclear Story”

(a copy of his book, Nuclear Rites, is in the Institute office)

Project topics due in class

Oct. 14: Jonathan Schell, et al., “End the Nuclear Danger,” selected readings from The Nation; “The Second Age of Nuclear Danger” (1999); “Living on the Brink, Again” (2001); and “Letters from Ground Zero” (2002)

Arundhati Roy, “The End of Imagination” (1998)

Bill Keller, “Nuclear Nightmares” (New York Times, May 26, 2002)

Terrorism or Liberation?

Oct. 21: Break

Oct. 24 (Thursday): Mark Juergensmeyer, Terror in the Mind of God, pp. xi-xvii, ch. 1, 2, 3, 4, 7, 10, 11

Oct. 28: Allen Feldman, “Violence and Vision: The Prosthetics and Aesthetics of Terror”; “On Cultural Anesthesia: From Desert Storm to Rodney King”; and “The Digital Miniature: Private Perceptions in a Public Space”
(a copy of his book, Formations of Violence, is in the Institute office)

Project outlines due in class

Nov. 4: Begona Aretxaga, "Playing Terrorist: Ghastly Plots and the Ghostly State" and “Terror as Thrill: First Thoughts on the ‘War on Terrorism’”
(a copy of her book, Shattering Silence, is in the Institute office)

Nov. 11: David Lloyd, “True Stories: Cinema, History and Gender”
Heather Zwicker, “Hollywood Hard Men: Good Guys and Terrorists”

Nov. 18: Review of conference

Nov. 25: Presentations

Dec. 2: Presentations
Project drafts due

Dec. 9: Presentations

Dec. 12: Reading day: Presentations, if necessary

Dec. 18: Final projects due by noon