

HUMA 889 Seminar in Interdisciplinary Studies 1, Winter 2013

**SEARCHING FOR THE PAST:
HOW CAN WE POSSIBLY KNOW HOW IT ACTUALLY WAS?**

Liberal Arts College Basement Seminar Room 2040 McKay Wed. 6 to 8:30
Dr. Virginia Nixon ginny3694@hotmail.com Phone extension 2582
Office 2040 McKay, basement. Please use the back door off the lane if a class is in progress in the Basement Seminar Room. My name is on the basement door.

HUMA 888: COURSE DESCRIPTION The intent of this seminar is to sharpen participants' ability to use historical method which for our purposes will be defined as posing a question about to "what happened in the past," reviewing the literature, and developing an original thesis in answer to the question, and supporting it by evidence .

The course is intended to develop skills in the following areas:

- a) recognizing underlying assumptions and ideological standpoints;
- b) assessing the roles of theoretical perspectives.
- c) acquiring familiarity with sources, methodologies and conventions used in different disciplines and periods;

We will look at four case studies, examining the works involved and the questions and discourses surrounding them..

Subject #1: Leonardo's da Vinci's *Virgin of the Rocks* What did Leonardo intend to say in this beautiful but puzzling painting? Renaissance scholars have not agreed on an answer.

Subject #2: Latin American baroque and classical music by mixed race composers of the 17th and 18th centuries. In recent decades musicologists and musicians have researched, performed, and recorded a wealth of secular and religious classical music composed by Latin American composers, some of them mulatto or mestizo. Unanimously enjoyed as extraordinarily beautiful, this music has nonetheless aroused controversy centering around Post-Colonial issues. Some critics have accused performers of misrepresenting the music. Who is right? To what extent? What criteria do we use to find our own positions?

Subject #3: Beethoven's Career. Where should we situate Beethoven with respect to the changing class structure of late 18th and early 19th c. Vienna? Some have seen him as an emblem of the rising bourgeoisie. Tia DeNora argues controversially that Beethoven's real supporters were Vienna's old upper aristocracy. Views on his popularity, and on the quality and nature of his music have varied over the past two centuries? Can we decide who's right?

Subject #4: Corridart was an eight-kilometer exhibit of artworks that was installed along Sherbrooke Street as part of the arts and cultural component of the 1976 Summer Olympics. Corridart included artworks that engaged with the history - and present state - of Montreal. Unfortunately few people got to Corridart because in a controversial decision, then Mayor Jean Drapeau had the exhibition torn down shortly after it went up. Most of the works were destroyed.[2] Why was Corridart demolished? How was the case reported in journalistic and critical literature?

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING

RESEARCH PAPER COMPONENT 70%

The research paper will propose and support an original thesis on a subject related to an aspect of the course content, topic to be chosen in consultation with the instructor.

Research Paper due at the end of the semester 14 - 18 pp.

Meetings with instructor

Research Paper Outline (form)

Interim Short Presentations on aspects of the Research Paper

Presentation of Draft of Research Paper

PARTICIPATION COMPONENT 30%

Attendance at class with reading assignments prepared

Active participation in discussions of readings

Reports on readings

Leading of one or more class segments

Feedback on presentations given by other students

SCHEDULE OF SEMINARS

Class sequence and readings may change over the course of the seminar.

JANUARY 9 LEONARDO DA VINCI: PART ONE

- a) Introduction to the course
- b) Students' research
- c) Introductory Description of the four subject areas..
- d) Discussion of readings.

Readings for this class

Reviews of the 2012 National Gallery Leonardo exhibition from the *Times Literary Supplement*, the *New York Review of Books*, and the *London Review of Books*. ONLINE REFERENCE WILL BE EMAILED

Syson, Luke, short excerpts, *Leonardo da Vinci: Painter at the Court of Milan*, London: National Gallery, 2012, HANDOUT. WEBSTER RESERVE

Bambach, Carmen C., short excerpts, *Leonardo da Vinci, Master Draftsman*, Yale University Press, 2003 HANDOUT. WEBSTER RESERVE

Vasari, Giorgio, Leonardo excerpt. *Lives of the Artists*, Penguin (1568) 1987. ONLINE www.efn.org/~acd/vite/VasariLives.html. WEBSTER LIBRARY

Jan. 16 LEONARDO DA VINCI: PART TWO.

- a) Student presentations on the readings, and discussion

Readings for this class

Ames-Lewis, Francis, short excerpts "*Correspondence : Isabella and Leonardo the artistic relationship between Isabella d'Este and Leonardo da Vinci, 1500-1506*," Yale University Press, 2012 HANDOUT; WEBSTER RESERVE .

Bourdieu, Pierre excerpt TBA

Da Vinci, Leonardo, short excerpts from his writings. HANDOUT.

Foucault, Michel, Introduction and Chapter One, "The Discursive Regularities," *The Archaeology of Knowledge*, Routledge (1972), 2002. WEBSTER Online: www.marxists.org/reference/subject/philosophy/works/.../foucault.ht

Friesen, Ilse "Leonardo da Vinci's Unorthodox Iconography: The Madonna with the Cat," *Revue d'art canadienne / Canadian Art Review*, XVI, I, 1989, 19-28, JSTOR

Kemp, Martin, short excerpt, *Leonardo da Vinci: The Marvelous Works of Nature and Man*, Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1981. HANDOUT. WEBSTER RESERVE.

Lavin, Marilyn Aronberg, "Giovannino Battista: A Study in Renaissance Religious Symbolism," *The Art Bulletin*, Vol. 37, No. 2 (Jun., 1955), pp. 85-101 JSTOR

Jan. 23 MIXED RACE BAROQUE & CLASSICAL COMPOSERS IN LATIN AMERICA

- a) Presentation on the composers and their music (VN)
- b) Student presentations on the readings, and discussion

Readings for this class

Baker, Geoffrey, "Latin American Baroque: Performance as a Post-Colonial Act?" *Early Music*, Vol. 36, No. 3 (Aug., 2008), 441-448 JSTOR

CD notes excerpts. HANDOUT

Drew, Edward Davies, "Villancicos from Mexico City for the Virgin of Guadalupe," *Early Music*, Vol. 39, No. 2 (May 2011), 229-244 JSTOR

Katzew, Illona, *Casta painting : images of race in eighteenth-century Mexico*, Yale University Press, 2004, WEBSTER RESERVE

U-TUBE music selections. Titles to be announced.

Jan. 30 LATIN AMERICAN BAROQUE cont.

- a) Student Presentations on the readings, and discussion

Readings for this class

Baker, Geoffrey and Knighton, Tess, *Music and urban society in colonial Latin America*. Cambridge U. Press, 2011, Specific Essays TBA, TRY GOOGLE BOOKS ONLINE

Bhabha, Homi K., excerpts TBA *The Location of Culture*, London & New York : Routledge, 1994. PN 761 B53 1994 WEBSTER RESERVE

Budasz, Rogério, "Black Guitar-Players and Early African-Iberian Music in Portugal and Brazil," *Early Music*, Vol. 35, No. 1 (Feb., 2007), pp. 3-21 JSTOR

Burns, E. Bradford. ed, short excerpts, *A documentary history of Brazil*, New York, Knopf, 1966, F 2521 B8 HANDOUT WEBSTER RESERVE

Carrera, Magali Marie, *Imagining identity in New Spain : race, lineage, an the colonial body in portraiture and casta paintings*, U. Texas Press, 2003, pages TBA. WEBSTER RESERVE

Cervantes, Miguel de, "El celoso extremeño " ("The Jealous Extremaduran,") *Novelas Ejemplares* WEBSTER LIBRARY & ONLINE.

<http://www.gutenberg.org/files/14420/14420-8.txt> & in (Spanish Es.wikisource.org. . Don't use 18th & 19th c translations.

Wade, Peter, Rethinking "Mestizaje": Ideology and Lived Experience," *Journal of Latin American Studies*, Vol. 37, No. 2 (May, 2005), pp. 239-257 JSTOR

Feb. 6 BEETHOVEN'S CAREER AND RECEPTION

- a) Presentation on Beethoven and his music (VN)
- b) Student presentations on the readings, and discussion

Readings for this class

DeNora, Tia, *Beethoven and the construction of genius : musical politics in Vienna, 1792-1803*, University of California Press ELECTRONIC RESOURCE MCGILL LIBRARY. WEBSTER RESERVE TRY GOOGLE BOOKS ONLINE

Reviews of DeNora, Tia, *Beethoven and the construction of genius* HANDOUT
U-TUBE music selections. Titles to be announced.

Feb. 13 BEETHOVEN'S CAREER AND RECEPTION cont.

- a) Student presentations on the readings, and discussion
- b) Students' research reports

Readings for this class

Campos, Rémy "Aimer Beethoven: Les années d'apprentissage d'Henri-Frédéric Amiel, amateur de musique genevois (1840-1860)," *Revue de Musicologie*, T. 88, No. 1 (2002), pp. 9-42 JSTOR

Chua, Daniel K. L. "Beethoven and the heroic: Beethoven's Other Humanism," *Journal of the American Musicological Society*, Vol. 62, No. 3 (Fall 2009), pp. 571-645 JSTOR

Knittel, K.M., "Wagner, Deafness, and the Reception of Beethoven's Late Style," *Journal of the American Musicological Society*, Vol. 51, No. 1 (Spring, 1998), pp. 49-82 JSTOR

Knittel, "Late', Last, and Least: On Being Beethoven's Quartet in F Major, op. 135, *Music & Letters*, Vol. 87, No. 1 (Jan., 2006) (pp. 16-51). JSTOR

Short Texts by Bettina von Arnhem, James Power, E.M. Forster etc. HANDOUT

Feb. 20 NO CLASS: READING WEEK

Feb. 27 BEETHOVEN'S CAREER AND RECEPTION cont.

- a) Student presentations on the readings, and discussion
- b) Students' research reports

Readings for this class

Adorno, Theodore, selections TBA TOD

Barry, Barbara R., "In Adorno's Broken Mirror: Towards a Theory of Musical
Reproduction," *International Review of the Aesthetics and Sociology of
Music*, Vol. 40, No. 1 (Jun., 2009), pp. 81-98 JSTOR

Mar. 6 THE CORRIDART EXHIBITION OF 1976

- a) Presentation on Corridart (VN)
- b) Student presentations on the readings, and discussion
- c) Students' research reports

Readings for this class

Choquette, Pascale, excerpts, *Corridart: d'un événement culturel à une affaire
juridique : analyse des textes journalistiques et du jugement de l'affaire
Corridart, 1975-1988*, M.A. thesis, U. de Sherbrooke, 1996, 842 pp.

Concordia Archives, P119. Corridart collection. 1976-1981. 45 cm text. doc. ca
850 photographs. ca 10 artists' sketches. 6 architectural drawings. 2
videocassettes. 2 sound recordings. 1 artifact CONSULTATION BY
APPOINTMENT Hall Bldg. Room 1015 Tel.: 514.848.2424 (ext. 7775)

Gauvin, Kim Louise, *Corridart revisited : excavating the remains*, M.A. thesis,
Concordia University, 1996, N 6547 M65G38 ONLINE CONCORDIA
SPECTRUM

Descoteaux, Louise, *Corridart: La censure*, M.A. thesis, Université du Québec à
Montréal, 1993

McConathy, Dale, "Corridart: Instant Archaeology in Montreal," (206/207)
artscanada, July/August 1976 pp. 36-53

Paikowsky, Sandra, *Corridart Revisited*, Concordia Art Gallery, 2001 N 6547
M6C677 WEBSTER RESERVE

Mar. 13 TBA.

- a) Student presentations on the readings, and discussion
- b) Students' research reports

Mar. 20 Presentation and discussion of research paper drafts

Mar. 27 Presentation and discussion of research paper drafts

Apr. 3 Presentation and discussion of research paper drafts

Apr. 10 Presentation and discussion of research paper drafts

