Claude Lévi-Strauss at 100

History 294—Anthropology 375
Spring 2009
Tuesdays 7:10-9:00

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Office Hours
Tuesday 4:00-5:30
Thursday 4:00-5:30
...or by appointment

Required Books
Claude Lévi-Strauss. Myth and Meaning
Claude Lévi-Strauss. Tristes Tropiques
Claude Lévi-Strauss. The Story of Lynx
Claude Lévi-Strauss. The Jealous Potter
Claude Lévi-Strauss. The View from Afar
Claude Lévi-Strauss. The Way of the Masks
Claude Lévi-Strauss. Totemism
Claude Lévi-Strauss. The Savage Mind
Claude Lévi-Strauss. The Elementary Forms of Kinship
Claude Lévi-Strauss. Structural Anthropology I
Claude Lévi-Strauss. Structural Anthropology II
Claude Lévi-Strauss. The Raw and the Cooked
Claude Lévi-Strauss. From Honey to Ashes
Claude Lévi-Strauss. The Origin of Table Manners
Claude Lévi-Strauss. The Naked Man


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Claude Lévi-Strauss’s (1908-) career has spanned a century that has seen two world wars, a changing university system in France and abroad, and the development of anthropology as a discipline that examines the other even as it focuses on the anthropologist’s own society. Lévi-Strauss’s intellectual influence has been extraordinary, and we will study his writings from his early works to his later work on structural anthropology and mythology. In particular, we will take a historical look at the vibrant and perplexing century in which Lévi-Strauss lived and worked, and the changing ways that the disciplines of history, anthropology, comparative literature, and philosophy have engaged the study of culture.

Evaluation
Attendance/participation 25%
Weekly Discussion Notes/Logs (15) 25%
Short Assignments 50%

Class attendance and participation is expected. More than one absence will significantly affect your grade. Late assignments will be penalized.

All coursework is due by 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, May 6th
History 294
Claude Lévi-Strauss at 100
Spring 2009

Read Before the Seminar Begins—January 20, 2009
Lévi-Strauss. *Myth and Meaning*
Lévi-Strauss. *Tristes tropiques* (first half of the book)

Week I (January 20)
Lévi-Strauss. *Myth and Meaning*
An Introduction
Meeting of Myth and Science
Primitive' Thinking and the 'Civilized' Mind
Harelips and Twins: The Splitting of a Myth
When Myth Becomes History
Myth and Music

*Summary Review Due by 5:00 p.m. on Friday, January 23*

Week II (January 27)
Lévi-Strauss. *Tristes tropiques*
An End to Journeying
Travel Notes
The New World
The Earth and Its Inhabitants
Caduveo
Bororo
Nambikwara
Tupi-Kawahib
The Return

*Summary Review Due by 5:00 p.m. on Friday, January 30*

Week III (February 3)
Lévi-Strauss. *The View from Afar*
Preface
Part I - The Innate and the Acquired
1. Race and Culture
2. The Anthropologist and the Human Condition
Part II - Family, Marriage, Kinship
3. The Family
4. An Australian "Atom of Kinship"
5. Cross-Readings
6. On Marriage between Close Kin
Part III - The Environment and Its Representation
7. Structuralism and Ecology
8. Structuralism and Empiricism
9. The Lessons of Linguistics
10. Religion, Language, and History: Concerning an Unpublished Text by Ferdinand de Saussure
11. From Mythical Possibility to Social Existence
Part IV - Beliefs, Myths, and Rites
12. Cosmopolitanism and Schizophrenia
13. Myth and Forgetfulness
14. Pythagoras in America
15. An Anatomical Foreshadowing of Twinship
16. A Small Mythico-Literary Puzzle
17. From Chrétien de Troyes to Richard Wagner
18. A Note on the Tetralogy
   Part V - Constraint and Freedom
19. A Meditative Painter
20. To a Young Painter
21. New York in 1941
22. A Belated Word about the Creative Child
23. Reflections on Liberty

Summary Review Due by 5:00 p.m. on Friday, February 6<sup>th</sup>

**Week IV (February 10)**
Lévi-Strauss. *The Jealous Potter*

Introduction
A Jivaro Myth
Pottery, a "Jealous Art"
Goatsucker Myths in South America
Potters' Kilns and Cooking Fire
Goatsucker Myths in North America
Oral Greediness and Anal Retention
The Sloth as Cosmological Symbol
In Quest of Zoemes
Levels of the World
Excrement, Meteors, Jealousy, Dismembered Body
California Demiurges as Jealous Potters
Myths in the Form of Klein's Bottle
The Nature of Mythic Thought
A Jivaro Version of Totem and Taboo

Summary Review Due by 5:00 p.m. on Friday, February 13<sup>th</sup>

**Week V (February 17)**
Lévi-Strauss. *The Story of Lynx*

Preface
   Part One: On the Side of the Fog
1. An Untimely Pregnancy
2. Coyote, Father and Son
3. The Dentalia Thieves
4. A Myth to Go Back in Time
5. The Fateful Sentence
6. A Visit to the Mountain Goats
   Part Two: Breaks through the Clouds
7. The Child Taken by the Owl
8. Jewels and Wounds
9. The Son of the Root
10. Twins: Salmon, Bears, and Wolves
11. Meteorology at Home
12. Jewels and Food
13. From the Moon to the Sun
14. The Dog Husband
   Part Three: On the Side of the Wind
15. The Capture of the Wind
16. Indian Myths, French Folktales
17. The Last Return of the Bird-Nester
18. Rereading Montaigne
19. The Bipartite Ideology of the Amerindians

Summary Review Due by 5:00 p.m. on Friday, February 20<sup>th</sup>
Week VI (February 24)
Lévi-Strauss. *The Savage Mind*

Preface
The Science of the Concrete
The Logic of Totemic Classification
Systems of Transformations
Totem and Caste
Categories, Elements, Species, Numbers
Universalization and Particularization
The Individual as a Species
Time Regained
History and Dialectic

*Summary Review Due by 5:00 p.m. on Friday, February 27th*

Week VII (March 3)
Lévi-Strauss. *The Elementary Structures of Kinship*

*Introduction*
Nature and Culture
The Problem of Incest
*Part One: Restricted Exchange*
1. The Bases of Exchange
The Universe of Rules
Endogamy and Exogamy
The Principle of Reciprocity
Dual Organization
The Archaic Illusion
Alliance and Descent
The Marriage of Cousins
Matrimonial Exchange
2. Australia
The Classical Systems
The Murngin System
Harmonic and Disharmonic Regimes
Appendix to Part One
*Part Two: Generalized Exchange*
1. Simple Formula of Generalized Exchange
The Givers of Wives
Exchange and Purchase
External Limits of Generalized Exchange
Internal Limits of Generalized Exchange
2. The Chinese System
Granet’s Theory
The Chao Mu Order
Matrilateral Marriage
Oblique Marriage
Peripheral Systems
3. India
Bone and Flesh
Clans and Castes
Asymmetric Structures
Cycles of Reciprocity
*Conclusion*
The Transition to Complex Structures
The Principles of Kinship

*Summary Review Due by 5:00 p.m. on Friday, March 6th*
Week VIII—Spring Break

Week IX (March 19)—Note Special Thursday Meeting
Claude Lévi-Strauss. The Way of the Masks

Part I
The Enigma of a Mask
The Salish Swaihwé
The Kwakiutl Xwéxwé
Meeting the Dzonokwa
Dzonokwa Myths
The Clue to the Mystery
In Search of Wealth
The Origin of Copper
Coppers, Women, and Frogs
Earthquakes and Cylinder Eyes
The Nature of a Style

Part II
Beyond the Swaihwé
Social Organization of the Kwakiutl
Hidden Traces of a Mask

Claude Lévi-Strauss. Totemism

Introduction
The Totemic Illusion
Australian Nominalism
Functionalist Theories of Totemism
Toward the Intellect
Totemism From Within

Summary Review Due by 5:00 p.m. on Friday, March 20th

Week X (March 24)
Lévi-Strauss. Structural Anthropology I

Introduction: History and Anthropology

Part One: Language and Kinship
Structural Analysis in Linguistics and in Anthropology
Language and the Analysis of Social Laws
Linguistics and Anthropology
Postscript to Chapters III and IV

Part Two: Social Organization
The Concept of Archaism in Anthropology
Social Structures of Central and Eastern Brazil
Do Dual Organizations Exist?

Part Three: Magic and Religion
The Sorcerer and His Magic
The Effectiveness of Symbols
The Structural Study of Myth
Structure and Dialectics

Part Four: Art
Split Representation in the Art of Asia and America
The Serpent with Fish inside His Body

Part Five: Problems of Method and Teaching
Social Structure
Postscript to Chapter XV
The Place of Anthropology in the Social Sciences and Problems Raised in Teaching It

Summary Review Due by 5:00 p.m. on Friday, March 27th
Week XI (March 31)
Lévi-Strauss. *Structural Anthropology II*

*Part One - Perspective Views*
- The Scope of Anthropology
- Jean-Jacques Rousseau, Founder of the Sciences of Man
- What Ethnology Owes to Durkheim
- The Work of the Bureau of American Ethnology and Its Lessons
- Comparative Religions of Nonliterate Peoples

*Part Two - Social Organization*
- The Meaning and Use of the Notion of Model
- Reflections on the Atom of Kinship

*Part Three - Mythology and Ritual*
- Structure and Form: Reflections on a Work by Vladimir Propp
- The Story of Asdiwal
- Four Winnebago Myths
- The Sex of the Sun and Moon
- Mushrooms in Culture: Apropos of a Book by R. G. Wasson
- Relations of Symmetry Between Rituals and Myths of Neighboring Peoples
- How Myths Die

*Part Four - Humanism and the Humanities*
- Answers to Some Investigations
- Scientific Criteria in the Social and Human Disciplines
- Cultural Discontinuity and Economic and Social Development
- Race and History

Summary Review Due by 5:00 p.m. on Friday, April 3rd

Week XII (April 7)
Lévi-Strauss. *The Raw and the Cooked*

*Part One*
- Theme and Variations
- Bororo Song
- Ge Variations

*Part Two*
- The “Good Manners” Sonata
- A Short Symphony

*Part Three*
- The Fugue of the Five Senses

*Part Four*
- Well-Tempered Astronomy

*Part Five*
- Rustic Symphony in Three Movements

Summary Review Due by 5:00 p.m. on Friday, April 10th
Week XIII (April 14)
Lévi-Strauss. *From Honey to Ashes*

*Part One: The Dry and the Damp*
- The Dialogue Between Honey and Tobacco
- The Arid Beast
- The Story of the Girl Mad About Honey, Her Base Seducer and Her Timid Husband

*Part Two: The Feast of the Frog*
- Variations 1, 2, 5
- Variations 4, 5, 6

*Part Three: Summer in Lent*
- Starry Night
- Noises in the Forest
- The Return of the Bird-Nester

*Part Four: The Instruments of Darkness*
- Din and Stench
- The Harmony of the Spheres

Summary Review Due by 5:00 p.m. on Friday, April 17th

Week XIV (April 21)
Lévi-Strauss. *The Origin of Table Manners*

*Part One: The Mystery of the Woman Cut into Pieces*
- At the Scene of the Crime
- A Clinging Half

*Part Two: From Myth to Novel*
- The Days and the Seasons
- The Daily Round

*Part Three: The Canoe Journey to the Moon and the Sun*
- Exotic Love
- The Stars and their Courses

*Part Four: Exemplary Little Girls*
- On Being a Young Lady
- The Porcupine’s Instructions

*Part Five: A Wolfish Appetite*
- The Embarrassment of Choosing
- A Dish of Tripe Mandan Style

*Part Six: An Even Balance*
- Groups of Ten
- Three Adornments

*Part Seven: The Rules of Good Breeding*
- A Susceptible Ferryman
- A Short Treatise on Culinary Anthropology
- The Moral of the Myths

Summary Review Due by 5:00 p.m. on Friday, April 24th

Week XV (April 28)
Lévi-Strauss. *The Naked Man*

*Part One: Family Secrets*
- The Hidden Child
- Foolish Women and Wise Virgins

*Part Two: Echo Effects*
- Part Three: Scenes from Private Life
- The Lewd Grandmother
- In Death as in Life

*Part Four: Scenes of Provincial Life*
- …These Twin Mirrors
- Soluble Fishes
The Market Place
The Noisy Scullion
The Proper Use of Excrement
   Part Five: Bitter Knowledge
The Visit to the Sky
The Two Blind Hags
Cosmopolitanism and Exogamy
   Part Six: Going Back to the Sources
Fire and Rain
Junctions
   Part Seven: The Dawn of Myths
Binary Operators
One Myth Only

Summary Review Due by 5:00 p.m. on Friday, May 1st

Week XVI (May 5)
Presentations and Review

   All Late Work Due by May 6th at 5:00 p.m.
   No exceptions (see my late assignment policy).