

# Quotidian from the Perspective of Social Historical Sciences

## Syllabus

### Lucy Brown

**Course overview:** In short, this course examines everyday life through various theoretical approaches, mainly in perspective of historical social sciences and anthropology. This topic incorporates several key themes; the everyday context of symbolic interaction and dramaturgy, places, non-verbal communication, fashion, consumption, things and violence. We will also study how social identities are formed and maintained. With the help of some major authors, we will begin to study the form and content of “everydayness” and where it sits within sociological scholarship.

### Course Requirements:

Each student will be required to attend all lessons unless substantial justification is given for their non-attendance. If a student does not attend a lesson, then they should submit a 1500-2000 word summary of the lesson’s key reading and/or the topic of that class. This may apply to a maximum of half the lessons after which the student will fail the course.

The student is also required to participate in discussion based on the assigned readings during each lesson. One student in each lesson will be asked to present four to five questions related to the required reading which will be used to facilitate class discussion. The teacher will assign each student their class reading topic at the beginning of the semester and the questions should be submitted by email to the teacher for review no later than 24hrs before the lesson. If teaching occurs online during the semester then students must have their cameras activated unless reasonable justification otherwise is given. Should the student not meet these requirements (especially if they have not done the reading) they will be required to submit a summary paper as above.

The final paper or essay (3500-4000 words) can be theoretically and empirically oriented. It should analyse aspects of “everydayness” on the macro- and micro-level of behaviour (interactions, performance, trends to stigmatization, signs, fashion...). Possible essay topics can be selected from the class content listed below and the student’s proposed research questions should be submitted to the teacher at the earliest possible opportunity to assess whether the subject is appropriate.

### 1/ Introduction.

Everyday life in an interdisciplinary context. From macro- to microhistory. Anthropology of experience.

#### Required reading:

George Iggers: From Macro- to Microhistory: The History of Everyday Life. In: *Historiography of the 20th Century* (1997).

Devorah Kalekin-Fishman: Sociology of Everyday Life in *Current Sociological Review*, 61 (5-6) pp.714-732. (2013)

**Recommended reading:**

Victor Turner: *From Ritual to Theatre: The Human Seriousness of Play*. New York: PAJ Publications 1982.

Victor Turner and Edward Bruner: *The Anthropology of Experience*, especially: Intro, Chapters 2, 3, 8 and 15 (1986)

John Brewer: *Macrohistory and the Histories of Everyday Life* (2010)

**2/ Tuning terms:**

Everyday life, practices, habitus (Bourdieu), critical study of quotidian routines, rules, spaces and objects.

**Required reading:**

Mike Featherstone: *Undoing Culture. Globalization, Postmodernism and Identity*. London: Sage 2000. Chapter 4 „The Heroic Life and Everyday Life“, pp. 54-73.

Ben Highmore: *Everyday Life and Cultural Theory: An Introduction*. London: Routledge 2002. Chapter 7, ‘Henry Lefebvre’s Dialectics of Everyday Life’ pp.113-145

**Recommended reading:**

Ben Highmore: *Everyday Life and Cultural Theory: An Introduction*. London: Routledge 2002.

Michael Gardiner: *Critiques of Everyday Life* (2000)

Pierre Bourdieu: *Outline of a Theory of Practice* (1977)

**3/ Preliminary considerations.**

Liminality – according to Victor Turner (The Ritual Process: Structure and Anti-structure). General liminality. Anthropology and sociology of experiences.

Victor Turner: Frame, Flow and Reflection. Bricolage (Claude Lévi-Strauss) as a structural improvisation.

**Required reading:**

Victor Turner: *The Ritual Process: Structure and Anti-Structure*. New York: Cornell University Press. 1966 Chapter 3, ‘Liminality and communitas’ pp.94-131

Thomas Hylland Eriksen: *Ethnicity and Nationalism: Anthropological Perspectives*, New York: Pluto Press, 1994, Chapter 4, pp.70-95

**Recommended reading:**

Claude Lévi-Strauss: *The Savage Mind*, London: George Weidenfeld and Nicolson Ltd, 1966

Victor Turner: ‘Frame, Flow and Reflection: Ritual and Drama as Public Liminality’, *Religious Studies*, Vol. 6, No.4, 1979, pp.465-499

Victor Turner: *The Forest of Symbols: Aspects of Adembu Ritual*. New York: Cornell University Press, 1967

**4/ Practices. Tactics.** “Making Do”: talking, reading, dwelling, cooking, walking in the City... Oppositions between strategy and tactics.**Required reading:**

Michel de Certeau: *The Practice of Everyday Life*, Los Angeles: University of California Press Ltd. 1988. Chapter 11: ‘Walking in the City’ pp.156-163.

Nigel Trift: ‘Driving in the City’, *Theory, Culture & Society*, Vol. 21 (4/5), 2004. pp.41-59.

**Recommended reading:**

Michel de Certeau: *The Practice of Everyday Life* Univ. of California Press 1984: ‘Making Do’: Uses and Tactics’ (pp. 29 – 44).

Marc Augé: Non-places. *Introduction to an Anthropology of Supermodernity*. London – New York: Verso 2002.

## 5/ Phenomenology

Contribution to material culture, too. Building Dwelling Thinking. A mountain walk.  
Presentation of domestic space in modern culture

### Required reading:

Adam Sharr and Simon Unwin: 'Heidegger's hut', *Architectural Research Quarterly*, Vol. 5 Issue 1, 2001, pp.53-61

Peter Berger and Hansfried Kellner 'Marriage and the Construction of Reality', *Diogenes*, 1964, No. 46, pp.1-23

### Recommended reading:

Adam Sharr: *Heidegger for Architects*, Oxon: Routledge, 2007

Alfred Schutz: *The phenomenology of the Social World*, Northwestern University Press, 1967

## 6/ Symbolic interactionism. Frames of experience.

The social world is constructed through face to face interaction and a shared system of symbols.  
Erving Goffman (The Presentation of Self in everyday Life + Frame analysis) and Harold Garfinkel (Studies in Ethnomethodology)

### Required reading:

Dennis Waskul and Phillip Vannini: *Body/Embodiment: Symbolic Interaction and the Sociology of the Body*, Burlington: Ashgate, 2006 : Nick Crossley: The Networked Body and the Question of Reflexivity'

Herbert Blumer: *Symbolic Interactionism: Perspective and Method*, Berkley: University of California Press, 1969 : Chapter 3, pp.78-90

### Recommended reading:

Erving Goffman: *Frame Analysis*, Boston: Northeastern University Press, 1974

Harold Garfinkel: *Studies in Ethnomethodology*, Los Angeles: University of California Press, 1967

Erving Goffman: *The Presentation of Self in Everyday Life*, University of Edinburgh Social Sciences Research Centre, Monograph 2, 1956

## 7/ Non-verbal communication.

Gestures; proxemics, kinesics and haptic in communication. Etiquette.  
Image and photogenic. Image of face.  
Gaze. Evil eye as a universal superstition.

### Required reading:

Why do we gesture when we talk? Ling Thusiasm: <https://youtu.be/u8dHtr7uLHs>

Ronald Riggio and Robert Feldman: *Applications of Nonverbal Communication*, Mahwah: Lawrence Erlbaum Associates, 2005. pp.260-274

Venetia Newall (ed.): *Folklore Studies in the Twentieth Century*, Totowa: Rowan and Littlefield: Alan Dundes: 'Wet and Dry, the Evil Eye: An Essay in Indo-European and Semitic Worldview' pp. 37-63 .

### **Recommended reading:**

Norbert Elias: *The Civilising Process*, Oxford: Basil Blackwell Ltd, 1978 (Original German 1939)

Judith Hall and Mark Knapp: *Nonverbal Communication*, De Gruyter, Inc. 2013

Geoffrey Beattie: *Our Racist Heart? An Exploration of Unconscious Prejudice in Everyday Life*, Taylor & Francis Group, 2012, Part I, pp.1-96

### **8/ Fashion as a sign and communication.**

Contemporary theories, analysis of clothing and fashion. Fashion Classics provides an interpretative overview. The estetic of daily life. Costume Jewelry. Fashion accessories: hand fan, parasol and umbrella, cravat, shawl... See the journal *The Berg Companion to Fashion*. Oxford-New York: Berg 2005.

### **Required reading:**

Peter Bogatyrev: *The Function of Folk Costum in Moravian Slavakia*. Hague: Mouton 1971. pp.34-63

Rebecca H. Holman: "Clothing As Communication: an Empirical Investigation", in *NA - Advances in Consumer Research Volume 07*, (1980) eds. Jerry C. Olson, Ann Arbor, MI : Association for Consumer Research, Pages: 372-377.

### **Recommended Reading**

Michael Carter: *Fashion Classics. From Carlyle to Barthes. Dress, Body, Culture*. Oxford – New York: Berg 2003.

Eric Hobsbawm and Terence Ranger (Ed.): *The Invention Tradition*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1983

George Simmel: 'Fashion', *International Quarterley 10*, 1904, pp.130-155

### **9/ Consumption. Food and nutrition.**

Consumption as everyday act. Commodification of expeririene. Logo or no logo? Mcdonaldization of Society (George Ritzer).

### **Required reading:**

Mark Peterson: *Consumption and Everyday Life*. London – New York: Routledge 2009. Chapter 3. 'McDisneyfications' pp.58-87

Paul Fieldhaus: *Food and Nutrition. Costumes and Culture*. London 1996. Chapter 4. 'Cuisine' pp.78-105

### **Recommended reading:**

George Ritzer: 'The McDonaldization of Society', *Journal of American Culture*, v.6, No.1, 1983, pp.371-379

Michael Dietler and Brian Hayden: *Feasts: Archaeological and Ethnographic Perspectives on Food, Politics and Power*, Washington-London: Smithsonian Institution Press 2001

### **10/ Things Theory.**

Interdisciplinarity in study „thingness“ and materiality. Gift and commodity, art and artifact. Techniques and technologies. Design anthropology.. Quality of things; things as product, gift or fetish. Things are making, consuming, shopping, keeping, giving, collecting.

**Required reading:**

Tim Dant: ‘Material civilization: things and society’, *The British Journal of Sociology*, Vol. 57, Issue 2, pp.289-308

Mihaly Csikszentmihalyi and Eugene Rochberg-Halton: *The Meaning of Things: Domestic Symbols and the Self*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1981, Chapter 2. ‘What things are for’ pp.20-55

**Recommended reading:**

Clifford Geertz: *The Interpretation of Cultures*, New York: Basic Books Inc. 1973

Marcel Mauss: *The Gift*. New York: W.W. Norton 1990

**11/ Lifestyle of marginal groups and subcultures.**

Expressions of identity. Stylistic effects (see Fashion as sign). Practices and tactics of daily life – space, performance and politics. The bricolage through which identities are constituted. Neo-tribes behaviour, totemic symbolism. Tattoos as a part of subcultural style.

**Required reading:**

Alan O’Connor: ‘The Sociology of Youth Subcultures’, *Peace Review*, 16:4, pp.409-414

Dick Hebdige: *Subculture. The Meaning of Style*. London – New York: Routledge 1979. Part two: Chapters 5, 6 and 7

**Recommended reading:**

Ananta Kumar Giri: ‘Civil Society and the Limits of Identity Politics’, *Identity, Culture and Politics*, Volume 3, No.1 2002, pp.57-79

Michael Dellwing, Joseph Kotarba and Nathan Pino: *The Death and Resurrection of Deviance: Current Ideas and Research*, Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan, 2014

**12/ Everyday Violence**

**Required reading:**

Karen Morgan and Suruchi Thapar Bjorkert: ‘‘I’d rather you’d lay me on the floor and start kicking me’’: Understanding symbolic violence in everyday life’, *Women’s Studies International Forum* 29, 2006, pp.441-452

Philippe Bourgois: *In Search of Respect: Selling Crack in El Barrio (Second Edition)*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, Introduction and Chapter 1. ‘Violating Apartheid in the United States’

**Recommended reading:**

Nancy Scheper-Hughes: *Death Without Weeping: The Violence of Everyday Life in Brazil*, Berkeley- Los Angeles- London: University of California Press, 1992

Glenn Bowman: ‘The Violence in Identity’ in: Schmidt, Bettina and Schroeder, Ingo eds. *Anthropology of Violence and Conflict*, London: Routledge, 2001, pp.24-46