

Syllabus Prepared for Vahram Danielyan
Fall 2011

The Historical Novel in Armenia: Graduate-Level Course

Week 1: Introduction of Main Themes

I. Issues of History and Historiography

Questions: What is history? What makes a work qualify as historical? What is history as a form of writing?

Week 2:

Readings:

- Selections from Armenian Chronicles. Moses Khorenatsy, Pavstos Buzand.
- Herodotus. *The History of Herodotus*. / Геродот. *История*:
www.vehi.net/istoriya/grecia/gerodot/index.shtml

II. Nineteenth and Twentieth-Century Approaches to the Question of History

Questions: How has the concept of history writing changed over time?

Week 3:

Readings:

- Hegel, Georg Wilhelm. Introduction. *Lectures on the Philosophy of World History* / Гегель, Г.В.Ф. Лекции по философии истории. - СПб.: Наука, 1993:
<http://filosof.historic.ru/books/item/f00/s00/z0000388/>
- White, Hayden. *Metahistory: The Historical Imagination in Nineteenth-Century Europe*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1973. / Уайт, Х. *Метаистория: Историческое воображение в Европе XIX века*. - Екатеринбург: Изд-во Урал. ун-та, 2002.

III. History and Modernity

Questions: Does modernity represent a rupture from prior notions of space/time/history? How have questions about modernity changed?

Week 4:

Readings:

- Berman, Marshall. *All That is Solid Melts into Air. The Experience of Modernity*. New York: Simon and Schuster, 1982.

- Koselleck, Reinhart and Todd Samuel Presner. *The Practice of Conceptual History: Timing History, Spacing Concepts*. Stanford: Stanford University Press, 2002.
- Koselleck, Reinhardt “‘Neuzeit:’ Remarks on the Semantics of the Modern Concepts of Movement,” *Futures Past: On the Semantics of Historical Time*. trans. Keith Tribe. Cambridge and London: The MIT Press, 1979.

Week 5:

Readings:

- Jameson, Fredric. *A Singular Modernity: Essay on the Ontology of the Present*. New York: Verso, 2002.
- Anderson, Perry. “Marshall Berman: Modernity and Revolution,” *A Zone of Engagement*. New York: Verso, 1992.

IV. The Theory of the Novel

Questions: Can the novel be understood as the literary genre of modernity? How does the emergence of the modern novel coincide with the rise of historicism?

Week 6:

Readings:

- Bakhtin, M. M. “Discourse in the Novel.” In *The Dialogic Imagination: Four Essays by M. M. Bakhtin*. Austin: University of Texas Press, 1985. The essay was first published in *Voprosy literatury i estetiki* (Moscow, 1975).
- Moretti, Franco. *The Novel* (2 vols). Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2006.

V. The Novel in Western Europe

What is the history of the novel?

Week 7:

Readings:

- Watt, Ian. *The Rise of the Novel: Studies in Defoe, Richardson and Fielding*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1957.
- McKeon, Michael (ed). *The Theory of the Novel. A Historical Approach*. Johns Hopkins University Press, 2000.

VI. Rise of the Historical Novel

Questions: What is a historical novel? How does it emerge as a genre? What is its relationship to modernity?

Week 8:

Readings:

- de Groot, Jerome. *The Historical Novel*. New York: Routledge, 2009. Particularly the final sections: “Conflicted National Histories,” “History from the Margins,” “Alternative Histories and Interventions.”

Week 9:

Readings:

- Lukacs, Georg. *The Historical Novel* (1937). London: Merlin Press, 1962. / <http://mesotes.narod.ru/lukacs/hist-roman/histroman-sod.htm>
- Struve, Peter. “Walter Scott and Russia.” *The Slavonic and East European Review*, Vol. 11, No. 32 (Jan., 1933), pp. 397-410.
- Al'tshuller, M.G. *Epokha Val'tera Skotta v Rossii*. St Petersburg: Akademicheskii proekt, 1996.

Additional bibliography on the historical novel available at:

<http://www.historicalnovelsociety.org/historyisb.htm>

VII. Nationalism & History

Questions: What are the origins of nationalism? Is the nation primordial or constructed?

Week 10:

Readings:

- Anderson, Benedict. *Imagined Communities: Reflections on the Origins and Spread of Nationalism*. London: Verso, 1983. / Андерсон, Бенедикт. *Воображаемые сообщества*. - М.: Канон-Пресс-Ц, Кучково поле, 2001: www.gumer.info/bibliotek_Buks/Sociolog/anders/index.php
- Greenfeld, Liah. *Nationalism: Five Roads to Modernity*. Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 1992.
- Hobsbawm, Eric and Terence Ranger, eds. *The Invention of Tradition*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1983.

Week 11:

Readings:

- Abrahamian, Levon H. *Armenian identity in a changing world*. Costa Mesa, CA: Mazda Publishers, 2006.
- Brown, Keith. *The Past in Question: Modern Macedonia and the Uncertainties of Nation*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2003.
- Rapp, Stephen. “Recovering the Pre-National Caucasian Landscape.” In *Mythical Landscapes Then and Now: The Mystification of Landscapes in [the] Search for National Identity*. Ruth Büttner and Judith Peltz, eds. Erevan: Antares, 2006. Pp. 13-52.
- Suny, Ronald. *Looking toward Ararat: Armenia in Modern History*. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1993.

VIII. The Post-Soviet Context

Questions: How does the post-Soviet context impact the historical novel?

Week 12:

Readings:

- Platz, Stephanie. "The Shape of National Time: Daily Life, History, and Identity during Armenia's Transition to Independence, 1991-1994." In *Altering States: Ethnographies of Transition in Eastern Europe and the Former Soviet Union*. Daphne Berdahl, Matti Bunzle, and Martha Lampland (eds). Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press, 2000.
- Wanner, Catherine. *Burden of Dreams: History and Identity in Post-Soviet Ukraine*. University Park: Pennsylvania State University Press, 1998.

Week 13:

Readings:

- Buck-Morss, Susan. *Dreamworld and Catastrophe*. Cambridge, Mass.: MIT Press, 2000.
- Verdery, Katherine. *What Was Socialism and What Comes Next?* Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1996.

IX. World Literature

Questions: How might the Armenian historical novel be related to the debates on world literature?

Week 14:

Readings:

- Casanova, Pascale. *The World Republic of Letters*. Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 2007.
- Damrosch, David. *What is World Literature? (Translation/Transnation)*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2003.
- Moretti, Franco. *Graphs, Maps, Trees: Abstract Models for Literary History*. London: Verso, 2007.

Week 15:

Readings:

- Prendergast, Christopher, ed. *Debating World Literature*. New York: Verso, 2004.
- Saussy, Haun, ed. *Comparative Literature in An Age of Globalization*. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2006.
- Tanoukhi, Nirvana. "The Scale of World Literature." In *New Literary History*. Vol. 39, No. 3 (Summer 2008). pp. 599-617.