

**RITUAL, FESTIVAL, AND PUBLIC CULTURE**

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Fall 2007  
Stud. Bldg. 238  
Off Hrs: M 2:30-4:00

**TEXTS:**

Cohen, Abner. *Masquerade Politics: Explorations in the Structure of Urban Cultural Movements*. Berkeley: University of California Press. 1993.  
Guss, David. *The Festive State: Race, Ethnicity, and Nationalism as Cultural Performance*. Berkeley: University of California Press. 2000.  
Haynes, Michaele Thurgood. *Dressing Up Debutantes: Pageantry and Glitz in Texas*. New York: Berg. 1998.  
Kertzer, David. *Ritual, Politics, and Power*. New Haven: Yale University Press. 1988.

Above titles are at IU Bookstore.

Hughes-Freeland, Felicia, ed. *Ritual, Performance, Media*. New York: Routledge. 1998.

Above available at Boxcar Books. 310 A South Washington

R. Bauman, P Sawin, I. Carpenter. *Reflections on the Folklife Festival*. Folklore Institute Special Publications, No.2

Above available through IU Press. (see Prof. Stoeltje)



**Student Requirements:**

Write a 1-2 page commentary on the readings each week, concluding with discussion questions. In some instances you may substitute a reading from the additional reading list or from a bibliography in the readings. If so, you should include that in your commentary and expect to report on it in class.

**PAPERS:**

**Paper 1: 5-10 pages.**

Select your topic – an example of ritual, festival, public culture. Find at least 2 books or 5 articles that relate to it and write your paper on those books/articles and how they relate to your topic. The books/articles should be either about ritual and festival and found on the additional reading list or library or bibliography. The emphasis should be largely on the readings, as your second paper will emphasize your topic. You may also choose to write about ritual/festival/public culture theory if you prefer.

**Paper 2: 15-20 pages.**

Using the same topic, describe and analyze the event or media or phenomenon using the perspectives we have used in the class, emphasizing the outcomes, or consequences, or implications for public culture. The topic may be a festival or event that is planned by an institution such as the Smithsonian or a state fair, or it may be a deeply rooted event celebrating the ritual or festival of a specific self-identified group, or it might be an event of political resistance, or one expressing encounters of different populations, or it might be a televised religious program, or the performance of reversals that challenge the status quo of the society.

**Discussion Leaders: Each person will lead the discussion of at least one reading.**

Readings

e reserve password – ritual (“e” = reading is on e reserve)

- 1) **Aug. 29: Introduction: Concepts And Rodeo:**  
Form and Meaning, The Ritual Genres  
In *Folklore, Cultural Performance, Popular Entertainments*, R. Bauman ed.  
New York: Oxford Univ. Press. 1992  
R. Bauman. Performance. 41-49. “e”  
R. Rappaport. Ritual. 249-260. “e”  
B. J. Stoeltje. Festival. 261-271. “e”  
Stoeltje. Riding, Roping, and Reunion: Cowboy Festival in *Time Out of Time*,  
Alessandro Falassi, ed. Univ. of New Mexico Pr. 1987. 137-151. “e”  
Stoeltje. Power and the Ritual Genres: American Rodeo. *Western Folklore* 52: 1993.  
135-156. – “e”
  
- 2) **Sept. 5: The Structure of Ritual; Public Culture; Legitimacy, Ambiguity, Authority**  
Victor Turner. Liminal to Liminoid, in Play, Flow, and Ritual: An Essay in  
Comparative Symbolology. *Rice University Studies* 60, #3. 1974. 53-92. “e”  
Victor Turner. Betwixt and Between: The Liminal Period in *Rites de Passage*.  
in Reader in Comparative Religion. Less and Vogt, eds. Harper & Row.  
1972. 338-347. “e”  
  
Arjun Appadurai and Carol Breckenridge. Why Public Culture? *Public Culture* 1,  
#1. 5-9. “e”  
Igor Kopytoff. Public Culture: A Durkheimian Genealogy. *Public Culture*. 1, #1.  
11-16. “e”  
  
David Kertzer. *Ritual, Politics, and Power*. 1-76
  
- 3) **Sept 12: Politics and Power, Resistance and Revolution**  
Kertzer: 77-184  
Stoeltje. *Power and the Ritual Genres: American Rodeo*. “e”
  
- 4) **Sept. 19: Contemporary Discourse on Ritual and Public Culture**  
Introduction to Hughes-Freeland, *Ritual, Performance, Media*. 1-28.  
Introduction to *Modernity and Its Malcontents: Ritual and Power in Postcolonial  
Africa*. Jean Comaroff & John Comaroff, eds. Univ. of Chicago Pr. 1993. xi-  
xxxvii. “e”  
Introduction to Guss, *The Festive State: Race, Ethnicity, and Nationalism as Cultural  
Performance*. Berkeley: Univ. of California Pr. 2000. 1-23.  
Coleman and Elsner, Performing Pilgrimage: Walsingham and the Ritual  
Construction of Irony. in *Ritual, Performance, Media*. 46-65.

- 5) **Sept 26: Women, Ritual, Modernity, and Media**  
 Stoeltje. The Snake Charmer Queen: Ritual, Competition, and Signification in American Festival. In *Beauty Queens on the Global Stage*. C. Cohen, R. Wilk, B. Stoeltje, eds. New York: Routledge. 1995. 13-30. “e”  
 Maurice Bloch. Symbols, Song, Dance and Features of Articulation: Is Religion an Extreme Form of Traditional Authority? in *Ritual, History and Power*. 19-45. “e”  
 Sarah Pink. From Ritual Sacrifice to Media Commodity: Anthropological and Media Constructions of the Spanish Bullfight and the Rise of Women Performers. in Hughes-Freeland. 121-140.  
 Michael Thurgood Haynes. Introduction, 1-14, and The History of San Antonio and Fiesta, 15-50. *Dressing Up Debutantes: Pageantry and Glitz in Texas*.
- 6) **Oct. 3: Festival, Class, Modernity, and Fantasy**  
 Haynes. *Dressing Up Debutantes* (chapters 3,4,5) 51-163.  
 Optional: Adrian Kear and Deborah Steinberg. *Mourning Diana; Nation, Culture and the Performance of Grief*. New York: Routledge. 1999.  
 Robert Turnock. *Interpreting Diana: Television Audiences and the Death of a Princess*. London: British Film Institute. 2000.
- 7) **Oct. 10: Rituals of Royalty, Popular Culture, and the Public**  
 Stoeltje. Custom and Politics in Ghanaian Popular Culture. in press. “e”  
 Michelle Gilbert. The Person of the King: ritual and Power in a Ghanaian State. in *Rituals of Royalty*. David Cannadine and Simon Price, eds. Cambridge Univ. Press. 1987. 298-330. “e”  
 Charles Gore. Ritual, Performance and Media in Urban Contemporary Shrine Configurations in Benin City, Nigeria. in Hughes-Freeland. 66-84.
- 8) **Oct. 17: Festival: History and Ethnicity in Venezuela**  
 David Guss – *The Festive State*. Chs. 2-3.  
 ▲ **PROPOSAL/STATEMENT OF TOPIC FOR PAPER – 1 PAGE.**
- 9) **Oct. 24: Industry, Mestizaje and Domination**  
 David Guss – *The Festive State*. Chs. 4-5.
- 10) **Oct. 31: Urban Festivals and Conflict: Sante Fe and London**  
 Santa Fe Festival : reading to be announced  
 Abner Cohen, *Masquerade Politics*. Introduction, Chs. 1, 2.  
 ► **PAPER # 1 DUE: 5-10 pages**
- 11) **Nov. 7: Guest: Professor Margaret Brady, Univ. of Utah**  
*Masquerade Politics* Chs. 3, 4, 5, 6.
- 12) **Nov. 14: Festival and Postcolonial Social Life**  
 Abner Cohen, *Masquerade Politics*, Chs. 7, 8, 9, 10.

13) Nov. 21: THANKSGIVING

14) Nov. 28: Festival and Nationalism

Richard Bauman, Patricia Sawin, Inta Gale Carpenter. *Reflections on the Folklife Festival: An Ethnography of Participant Experience*. Folklore Institute. Indiana University Bloomington. Special Publications, #2.  
Inta Carpenter. Latvian Festival

15) Dec. 5: Ritual, Festival, and Public Culture

DISCUSSION OF PAPERS AND READINGS

**PAPERS DUE Dec. 12**