O’Neill Media Center:
*Cities of the Underworld:*
  *Catacombs of Death* (Paris)
  DC 753 .C58 2006

http://www.history.com/minisites/citiesoftheunderworld

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*History as Archeology:*

*Diving into the Wreck*

HS067: Transatlantic Modernities I:
*Inventing the Subjective Individual* (ca. 1150-1792)
Prof. Stephen Schloesser, S.J.

4 September 2007
Week 01-Lecture 01
I. History as Archeology

The present is built on the past… but we don’t see it 😞… Hence, the need to **dig deep!!!!!**

History as Archeology: Paris Commune, 1871
French National Guard [Republicans] vs. Communards [working class]
“Combats dans les catacombes”

[Combat in the catacombs]
History as Archeology:
To see where you are now

really....

you have to **dig**! hard!
to see how it contains the past.

Bapst Library: named after Fr. John Bapst, S.J.
O’Neill Library: Named after Speaker of the House Tip O’Neill

The past isn’t dead yet.
It isn’t even past. --- Wm. Faulkner
If the past isn’t dead yet, what makes history often so lifeless???
SAT History:
Memorize names, dates, places, people, events…

Make the unfamiliar familiar.

Anti-SAT History:
Make the familiar UN-familiar.
II. A course in “Cultural-Intellectual History”

Other types of history:
political; military; economic /social

Political History
Military History
(Obviously overlaps with political…)

Economic-Social History
(Overlaps with political and military)
"Culture" (from Mary Douglas, *Purity and Danger*)

“A system or positive pattern in which **ideas** and **values** are tidily **ordered**.”

Cf. Ancients: true / good / beautiful
“Intellectual-Cultural” history: ties ideas and values together with material / social facts

Six important influences [to me!!] on cultural-intellectual history
1. The “Linguistic Turn” of the 1970s:
   Language: from passive mirror to active shaper.

   “[Language] is not a mirror held up to reality, but a hammer with which to shape it.”

   \[\text{Bertolt Brecht Journals 1934-1955}\]

2. \textit{Moral Politics: How Liberals and Conservatives Think}
   \[\text{George Lakoff}\]
2. Psychoanalysis // Genealogy // History v. Memory

Compare Freud / “depth psychology”: search for “deep structures,” family trees, “genetic explanations” in the past of present behaviors e.g., Oedipal complex…

“The past isn’t dead yet. It isn’t even past.”

--- Wm. Faulkner
3. Trauma Theory: “the encounter with chaos and the destruction of a meaning system.”

4. Anthropology --- we are symbolic creatures and we act on largely unconscious fears centered on the body.
5. Hybridity / hybridization --- from post-/de-colonization

Novelty does not come from something new
[e.g., the “modem”]
replacing something old
[i.e., “tradition”].

Novelty comes from the grafting of
one plane onto another plane.
hybridity / hybridization
6. [Post-] structuralism of the 1960s (from Marxism)

SUPERSTRUCTURE
[culture]

BASE
[material realities]

1. MATERIAL PRE-CONDITIONS [“facts”]: penicillin; transplants; hygiene
   I read in the newspaper: “A bunch of people are living to be 100.” [“fact”]

2. CULTURE: NEWLY THINKABLE [“ideas”]: “I can live to be 100.”

3. CULTURE: NEW EXPECTATIONS / ANXIETIES [“values”]:
   “I ought to live to be 100.” “Living to 100 is a good thing.”
THE COMING DEATH SHORTAGE
Why the longevity boom will make us worry to be alive
BY CHARLES C. MANN
Illustration by Charles Land
1. Post-linguistic turn: language is a hammer, not a mirror
2. Psychoanalysis / Genealogy / History v. Memory
3. Trauma theory – encounter w/ chaos = loss of meaning system
4. Anthropology (purity and danger)
5. Hybridity/hybridization (post-colonialism)
6. Base-Superstructure (post-Marxism / structuralism)

IDEAS AND MEANINGS INTER-RELATED WITH
POLITICAL / MILITARY / ECONOMIC:
Anxiety? Trust? Fear?
Pessimism? Optimism?
Projections?
Prejudices?
Repressions?
III. Recapitulation:

History as Archeology →

Against Ideology

(History as *a moral project...*)

The function of ideology is to cover up origins . . .

History is against ideology . . .

History uncovers what has been covered; rediscovers what has been purposely repressed.

. . .and all origins are bloody.
My father told me we was all born
Of blood and tribulation.
And so then too was our great city….

But for those of us what lived and died in those furious days, it was like . . . no matter what they did to build this city up again . . .

for the rest of time, it would be like no one even knew we was ever here.
The function of ideology is to cover up origins . . .

. . . and all origins are bloody.