

HUMANITIES AND AGING

MEHU 6365
FALL, 2003

Thomas R. Cole
TUESDAYS, 1-4

1) AUGUST 26 "Where Have We Been, What Are We? Where Are We Going?" A Historical Overview

Course introduction

Reading:

- Thomas R. Cole, *The Journey of Life: A Cultural History of Aging in America* (Cambridge: N.Y., 1992) Introduction, ch. 1, epilogue

2) SEPTEMBER 2 Life Review and Reminiscence: Origins

Readings:

- Robert Butler, "The Life Review: An Interpretation of Reminiscence in Old Age", *Psychiatry*, 26, (1963):65-76 [XEROX]
- Marc Kaminsky, "The Uses of Reminiscence: A Discussion of the Formative Literature" in Kaminsky (ed) *The Uses of Reminiscence: New Ways Of Working with Older Adults*" (Haworth: NY, 1984): 137-156. [XEROX]
- Kathleen Woodward, "Reminiscence and Life Review: Prospects and Retrospects" in Thomas R. Cole and Sally Gadow (eds.) *What Does It Mean to Grow Old? Reflections from the Humanities*, Duke: Durham, 1986): 135-161. [XEROX]
- Henry James, "The Beast in the Jungle" [XEROX]

3) SEPTEMBER 9 NARRATIVE KNOWING AND NARRATIVE PRACTICE

- Bertram Cohler and Thomas R. Cole, "Studying Older Lives: Reciprocal Acts of Telling and Listening" in James Birren *et.al.* (eds.) *Aging and Biography: Explorations In Adult Development* (Springer, N.Y.: 1996):61-76
- Donald E. Polkinghorne, "Narrative Knowing and the Study of Lives," in Birren, 77-99.
- Howard Brody, "My Story is Broken; Can You Help Me Fix it?": Medical Ethics and the Joint Construction of Narrative, *Literature and Medicine*, 1994, Spring; 13(1): 79-92
- Charon, Rita, M.D., Ph.D., "Narrative Medicine: A Model for Empathy, Reflection, Profession, and Trust," *Journal of the American Medical Association* 2001, Oct 286(15): 1897-1902

--Myers, G.E., "Can Illness Narratives Contribute to the Delay of Hospice Admission?" *American Journal of Hospital Palliative Care*, 2002, Sep-Oct;19(5):325-30

4) SEPTEMBER 16 THE LEGACY OF BARBARA MYERHOFF

- Barbara Myerhoff, "Life History Among the Elderly" in Marc Kaminsky, (ed.) *Remembered Lives* (University of Michigan Press: Ann Arbor, 1992): 231-248
- Barbara Myerhoff "Life History as Integration: Personal Myth and Aging" in *Remembered Lives*, 249-256
- Marc Kaminsky, "Introduction", *Remembered Lives*, 1-98
- Barbara Myerhoff, *Stories As Equipment for*

Living,

Manuscript, lead essay

- Video: *Number Our Days* or *In Her Own Time*

5)SEPTEMBER 23 Life Story Work: Writing and Sharing

- Ruth Ray, *Beyond Nostalgia: Aging and Life-Story Writing* (University Press of Virginia: Charlottesville, 2000) Introduction, chs. 1-3
- (Other articles, Peter Coleman, etc.)
- Video: *Life Stories*

6)SEPTEMBER 30 Life Story Work Pt. II

- Ruth Ray, *Beyond Nostalgia*, chs. 4-7
- other articles, visit from Diane Heliker?
- Heliker, Diane, "Transformation of Story to Practice: An Innovative Approach to Long-term Care," *Issues in Mental Health Nursing* 1999 Nov-Dec; 20(6): 513-25
- special issue of *Jl. Of Aging Studies* 1996, v. 16 "aging, biography, and practice"

7)OCTOBER 7 Autobiography as Philosophy

- Ronald Manheimer, *A Map to the End of Time: Wayfarings with Friends and Philosophers* (Knopf: N.Y., 1999)

8)OCTOBER 14 Elder Jungian Women Have Their Say

- Florida Scott Maxwell, *The Measure of My Days* (Penguin: N.Y., 1979)
- Helen Luke, *Old Age ???*
- Video: "A Portrait of Helen Luke—A Sense of the

Sacred"

9) OCTOBER 21 A Literary Male Memoir

--John Bayley, *Elegy for Iris*, (St. Martins, NY:1999)

10) OCTOBER 28 "The Measure of a Good Life: How We Are Treated at the End"

- Wendy Lustbader, *Counting on Kindness: The Dilemmas of Dependency*, (Free Press, NY: 1991)
- Julie Barton, Marita Grudsen, and Ron Zielski, *Vital Connections in Long-Term Care: Spiritual Resources for Staff and Residents* (Health Professions Press, Baltimore: 2003)
- other readings, video on Long Term Care, Pioneer culture change readings?

11) NOVEMBER 4 Aging and Ethics

- feminist essays, Mothertime
- McCullough chapter in TC Handbook
- Bevins and Cole, "Ethics and Spirituality: Strangers at the End of Life?" **Annual Review Of Geriatrics**, 1999, pp. ?

12) NOVEMBER 11 Aging, Ethics, and Alzheimer's

- a 1st person account?
- Stephen Post; Tom Kitwood, *Dementia Reconsidered* (Open University Press, London?, 1997) articles?
- Video, Deborah Hoffman, "Complaints of a Dutiful Daughter"
- Time Slips, Basting article, storytelling session and video
- Losing My Mind: An Intimate Look at Life with Alzheimer's* (pp 153-169) Free Press: New York: 2002
- "The Abnormal Changes So Far," Chapter 7 in *My Journey into Alzheimer's Disease, A True Story*, Robert Davis, Tyndale House, Wheaton, IL: 1989 (pp 85-105)
- article on spiritual care, Alzheimer's

13) NOVEMBER 18 Aging and the Meaning of Time

- chapters by Spondheim, Hendriks, Athley, Schuster in McFadden and Atchley, A & T M O T

14) NOVEMBER 25 Aging in Faith Communities

- selections from Pts. 2,3,4 of Handbook of Aging, Spirituality, and Religion, v. 2
- CLASS PRESENTATIONS

15) DECEMBER 2 Aging and the Human Spirit

- chapters. By Atchley, Huber, Birren, Moody in Handbook of Aging, spiritual, religion
- class presentations

16) DECEMBER 9 Aging and the Human Spirit

- Carter Williams, "A Voyage in Time" in McF & Atchley
- Melvin Kimble, "A Personal Journey of Aging" in McFadden and Atchley
- class presentations

REQUIREMENTS:

In addition to reading and participation, each student will write the collaborative life story of an elder, based on at least five open-ended interviews conducted in person. The content of the life story will be jointly constructed and the written version given to the elder at the end of class.

GRADING:

- 50% CLASS PARTICIPATION**
- 50% CLASS PROJECT**

SELECTED BIBLIOGRAPHY

Thomas R. Cole, Robert Kastenbaum, Ruth E. Ray, eds. *Handbook of the Humanities and Aging*, 2nd edition, (New York: Springer, 2000)

Thomas R. Cole, *The Journey of Life: A Cultural History of Aging in America* (New York: Cambridge, 1992)

Ronald Manheimer, *A Map to the End of Time: Wayfarings with Friends and Philosophers* (New York: Norton, 1999)

Ruth E. Ray, *Beyond Nostalgia: Aging and Life-Story Writing* (Charlottesville: University Press of Virginia, 2000)

Marc Kaminsky ed., *The Uses of Reminiscence: New Ways of Working with Older Adults* (New York: Haworth, 1984)

Robert Disch, (find this: "25 years of Life Review", journal of Gerontological Social Work, ca. 1994-5)

Bertram J. Cohler and Thomas R. Cole, "Reciprocal Acts of Telling and Listening," in James Birren et. al. *Aging and Biography: Explorations in Adult Development* (New York: Springer, 1996): 61-76.

Donald E. Polkinghorne, "Narrative Knowing and the Study of Lives" in *Aging and Biography*, 77-99.

Melvin A. Kimble & Susan H. McFadden eds., *Aging, Spirituality, and Religion*. V. 2 (Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2003)

Andrew Blaikie, *Ageing and Popular Culture*, (Cambridge, U.K.: 1999)

Margaret Urban Walker, ed., *Mother Time: Women, Aging, and Ethics* (New York: Rowan and Littlefield, 1999)

Susan H. McFadden and Robert C. Atchley, *Aging and the Meaning of Time* (New York: Springer, 2001)

Gene D Cohen, *The Creative Age: Awakening Human Potential in the Second Half of Life*, (New York: Avon Books, 2000)

George E. Vaillant, *Ageing Well: Surprising Guideposts to a Happier Life* (Boston, Little Brown, 2002)