**URBAN CULTURES**

**EUS 3930**

**2227/157E**

**Professor Esther Romeyn**

**Fall 2015**

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Course Schedule:

Tuesday: 5-6 th period (11:45-1:40) Tu 2353

Thursday: 6th period (12:50-1:40) Tu 2342

Contact Data Prof. Esther Romeyn:

Office Hours:

Thursday: 2pm-4pm

By appointment

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**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course will focus on the culture and societies of cities. How do cities--urban spaces--organize experience and meaning, and produce and reproduce social, cultural and economic relationships? How do we, as city dwellers, experience cities? How has that experience changed, from the European medieval city, through the Renaissance and Baroque period, to modernity, post-modernity, globalization?

We will approach these questions on the level of theory (from the perspective of various seminal thinkers on the city, such as Lewis Mumford, Georg Simmel, Walter Benjamin, Karl Marx, Robert Parks, Guy Debord, Michel Foucault, David Harvey, and Zygmunt Bauman, and from the perspective of writers who have been influenced by these thinkers) as well as on the level of representation-- how European urban spaces and European cities have been organized ad represented in urban architecture, literature, film, art.

Issues that we will be discussing include:

Urban space and organization in the Middle Ages, Renaissance and Baroque period  
Urban space in modernity and post-modernity

The city as Utopia and Distopia

Urban space and the organization of power and industry (capitalism)  
Urban space and memory culture  
The city, public space and citizenship  
The city as “map,” "text" and as "spectacle"

The city and policing: Order and Disorder  
The city and the "Other"

The gendered city

The city and social division

The “cinematic” city

The city and modernism  
The modern metropolis and the avant-garde

The contemporary global city

The city and the slum

Simcities

City branding

The city and urban rebellion  
  
**COURSE READINGS:**

Readings for the course will be posted on E-reserves or E-learning before the due date.

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS:**

**ATTENDANCE AND PREPARATION**:

Please note that class attendance is required for this course and constitutes **10%** of your grade. You will be permitted 3 **unexcused** absences, after which you loose your attendance points if you are absent without proper reason and documentation. I will circulate an attendance sheet which you should sign.

Signing for others is considered academic dishonesty. Repeated absences may affect your performance on exams and quizzes since they will be based on class lectures. Missing class also means possibly missing pop quizzes.

According to the Office of the Registrar, “acceptable reasons for absence from class include illness, serious family emergencies, special curricular requirements, military obligation, severe weather conditions, religious holidays and participation in official university activities such as music performances, athletic competition or debate. Absences from class for court-imposed legal obligations (e.g. jury duty or subpoena) must be excused.”

**READING LOG, STUDENT LED INTRODUCTIONS AND PARTICIPATION**:

This course will be conducted in seminar format. That means that **each student** is expected to come to **each session** prepared to discuss the readings assigned for **that session**. Reading of the assigned material and participating in class discussion is essential to the successful completion of the course! To that end I will ask that each of you keep a reading log with entries for every reading assigned.

You will also select (or be assigned) a session (and the course readings assigned for that day) that you will be responsible for introducing. These student introductions should take no more than 5-10 minutes every Tuesday and focus on what you thought were the most relevant concepts or interesting aspects of the reading.

You will keep a reading log that I will collect **4** times during the semester. You are expected to have your log up to date. I will grade your logs with V+ (90 and above); V (85-90); and V- (80-84). If your grade is lower, or if you are missing readings, I will ask you to revise and resubmit. However you will not be able to get full credit for incomplete logs.

The reading log is not supposed to be a full summary of the text. Rather, I want you to formulate 3-4 key ideas-concepts that you think are central to the author’s concerns/ questions/ argument. Of course you can elaborate and add your own commentary.

Your reading logs will serve as jumping off point for class discussion, so keep them up to date.

Your entries, your introductions to the class session and your contribution to class discussion will constitute **10%** of your grade.

**MID TERM EXAM**

**I**n addition to completing the readings at the scheduled time, students will have to pass a midterm exam. The exam will be a take home exam, in essay form. It will constitute **40%** of your grade.

**FINAL RESEARCH PAPER**:

The final class assignment will be a research paper (7-8 pp.) on a topic of your own choice, due at the end of the term. Students will hand in a first and a final draft of the paper. I will comment on the first draft but not grade it. However not handing in a first grade will be penalized by deducting 5 points from your final draft grade. The final draft is worth **40%** of your grade.

**Due Dates:**

Midterm (Take Home) Exam: October 20

First Draft Research Paper: November 22

Final Research Paper: December 13

**Grade Composition:**

Attendance: 10%

Reading Log, Student Presentation and Participation: 10%

Midterm Exam: 40%

Second Draft Final Paper: 40%

**GRADING SCALE**:

A: 90-100

B+: 85-89

B: 80-84

C+: 75-79

C: 70-74

D+: 65-69

D: 60-65

E: 59 % or below

Plagiarism:

Please be advised that plagiarism is in violation of the University of Florida’s regulations and maybe grounds for dismissal from the course. If you are in doubt about what constitutes plagiarism, address these questions to the instructor.

Students with Disabilities:

Please advise the instructor so that appropriate measures maybe taken.

**Reading and Discussion Schedule:**

**Week One: Introduction and syllabus: Urbanism as a Way of Life**

**Tuesday August 23:** Introduction

**Thursday August 25:**

Silverman, Ch. 3 “City Spaces”, 61-91

**Week Two: Money, Time, Space in the Medieval and Baroque City**

**Tuesday August 30**

Pinder, “Introduction”; Lewis Mumford, The Culture of Cities I, pp. 108-142

**Thursday September 1:**

Mumford 2, pp. 143-163

**Week Three: The Industrial City**

**Tuesday September 6:**

David Harvey, “Money, Time, Space and the City,” pp. 165-199

**Thursday September 8:**

Georg Simmel, “The Metropolis and Mental Life;” The Stranger (excerpt)

The Guardian, “Sick Cities: Why urban living can be bad for your mental health”

**Week Four: City and Mental Life**

**Tuesday September 13:**

Kaes, "Leaving Home: Film, Migration and the Urban Experience"

**Thursday September 15:**

Sayyad, "Industrial Modernism"

**Week Five: Urban Space, Capitalism and Discipline**

**Tuesday September 20:**

Michel Foucault, “Spectacle of the Scaffold,” pp. 47-57 in *Discipline and Punish*;

Michel Foucault, “Docile Bodies,” pp. 135-169 in *Discipline and Punish*

**Thursday September 22:**

Sayyad, "Orwellian Modernity"

**Week Six: City Imaginations II: The Urbanization of Consciousness**

**Tuesday September 27:**

Michele Hannoosh, “Painters and Modern Life: Baudelaire and the Impressionists,” pp. 168-188, in Visions of the Modern City

**Thursday September 29:**

Walter Benjamin, Susan Buck-Mors, excerpts

**Week Seven: City Imaginations III: The Modern City and Order/Disorder: Acting and Detecting, Reading the City and Policing the City**

**Tuesday October 4:**

Philip Fisher, “City Matter, City Minds”; Peter Brooks, “The City as Text”

**Thursday October 6:**

Peter Stallybrass and Allon White, “The City: The Sewer, The Gaze and The

Contaminating Touch,” pp. 125-148, in *The Politics and Poetics of Transgression*

**Week Eight: The gendered City: Women and Modern Urban Space**

**Tuesday October 11:**

Elizabeth Wilson, “The City of the Floating World,” pp. 47-64, in *The Sphinx in the City*

**Thursday October 13:**

Rachel Bowlby: “Starring: Dreiser’s Sister Carrie,” pp, 52-65, in *Just Looking*

**Week Nine: Modernism and the Urban Imaginations : The City, Destruction and War**

**Tuesday October 18:**Anthony Vidler, “Framing Infinity: Le Corbusier”; Marshall Berman, “Robert Moses,” in *All that Is Solid Melts into Air;*  “How Baltimore became Baltimore” [*http://www.washingtonpost.com/news/wonkblog/wp/2015/04/29/the-long-painful-and-repetitive-history-of-how-baltimore-became-baltimore/*](http://www.washingtonpost.com/news/wonkblog/wp/2015/04/29/the-long-painful-and-repetitive-history-of-how-baltimore-became-baltimore/)

**Thursday October 20:**

“Form Follows Function: Modernism and Ruins in East and West”;

Guardian, "Pruitt-Igoe"

**DUE DATE MID-TERM EXAM**

**Week Ten: Cities, the Suburb and Consumerism**

**Tuesday October 25:**

Anette Baldauf, “Shopping town USA”, in Eurozine

www.eurozine.com/articles/2008-02-13-baldauf-en.html

**Thursday October 27:**

Michelle Provoost, New Towns on the Cold War Frontier: Town Planning and Cold War Politics, in Eurozine

www.**eurozine**.com/articles/2006-06-28-provoost-en.html

**Week Eleven: Modernist Avant Garde and Post modernist Counter Imaginations**

**Tuesday November 1:**

Deleuze: Society of the Spectacle, excerpts; David Pinder, “Situationist Adventurers,” pp. 131-159, in *Visions of the City*; Sebastián Cobarrubias and John Pickles, “Spacing movements, The turn to cartographies and mapping practices in contemporary social movements,” in B. Warf and S. Arias, *The Spatial Turn,* pp. 36-58

**Thursday November 3: Post-Utopia and Junk Space**

"What is a post-Utopian Urbanism?"

“Detroitism”: The Aesthetics of Urban Decay: see

* <http://ruinmemories.org/>
* <http://www.shrinkingcities.com/index.php?L=1>
* [http://www.abandonedamerica.us](http://www.abandonedamerica.us/the-bullfighter)

**Week Twelve: The Right to the City, The City of the Commons vs. The privatized city I**

**Tuesday November 8:**

Sharon Zukin, “Gentrification: Cultural and Capital in the Urban Core”;

The Guardian, “Urban Commons,” The Guardian “The Privatisation of Cities’ Urban Spaces”; The Guardian, “The Smartest Cities Rely on Citizens Cunning”;

**Thursday November 10:**

The Guardian: “Whose City is it Anyway? The harsh truth about urbanization”; Open democracy, “Our common ownership of London is under threat”; “The End of Cool Istanbul” ; “Anti-homeless Spikes”

**Week Thirteen: The City of the Commons vs. The privatized city II: The Ghetto as space of exception**

**Tuesday November 15:**

Maria Stehle, “Narrating the Ghetto”; Paul Silverstein, “Postcolonial Apartheid”

<http://riotsfrance.ssrc.org/Silverstein_Tetreault/>; Jocelyne Cesari, “Ethnicity, Islam and les Banlieues”

<http://riotsfrance.ssrc.org/Cesari/>

**Thursday November 17:**

Saskia Sassen, “The Global City;”

“The Creative Class: Neoliberal London’s Policy Juggernaut”

**Week Fourteen: The Global City, the Neo-Liberal City and the Post-colonial City**

**Tuesday November 22:**

Guardian, "Guerilla Architecture"; Guardian, "Spanish Micro-Utopias"

**DUE DATE FIRST DRAFT FINAL PAPER**

**Thursday November 24: Thanksgiving Holiday**

**Week Fifteen: The City as “Hyper Space”**

**Tuesday November 29:** Sorkin, “See you in Disneyworld,” excerpt; Ruggeri, “Imagineering Palm Springs”; “Guardian, “The City of Clones or Dupitecture”; <http://www.theguardian.com/cities/2014/dec/17/truth-smart-city-destroy-democracy-urban-thinkers-buzzphrase?CMP=share_btn_tw>

**Thursday December 1: The “Post-City”: Rethinking “Gezi” and “Occupy”**

Stephen Graham, “Postmortem city: Towards an Urban Geopolitics”

<http://www.cccb.org/rcs_gene/stephengraham.pdf>

Mike Davis, Megacities and the Laws of Chaos

**Week Sixteen:**

**Tuesday December 6: Last Day of Classes**

Zygmunt Bauman, “Out of Touch Together,” in *Liquid Times*

**Tuesday December 13: FINAL PAPER DUE DATE**