

**CINEMA AND THE CITY:
CONTESTED URBAN SPACES IN MOVIES**

UPP 205

Mondays- Wednesdays 12:00-1:15

Room 2232 ADH

Instructor: Glenda Garelli
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Course Description

The course looks at the city as a site of contested dynamics of social belonging over “race,” ethnicity, nationality, and religion. What French urban theorist Henri Lefebvre called the “right to the city” will guide our analysis of the dynamics that shape the partition of city dwellers into insiders and outsiders, people who belong and people who do not.

Combining scholarly and cinematic production, the class will provide students with critical tools for understanding urban conflicts, their visual representations, and how these processes are mutually constitutive. The course will focus on 10 movies spanning a variety of locations to allow students to develop an understanding urban conflicts in different urbanc geographies (New York City; Peshauvar, Pakistan; Istanbul; Mexico City; London; Rio de Janeiro; Paris; Beirut). This peripatetic competence about the global urban condition will be matched by an interdisciplinary approach, bringing together readings from urban planning, urban geography, urban anthropology and postcolonial-, film- and cultural-studies.

The course is divided in three thematic blocs:

1. Urban Others: The production of cosmopolitan dystopias
(week 1-6)
2. Divided City: Spatial segregation and borderlines
(week 7-12)
3. “Engaged Estrangement”: Learning to see the city
(week 13-16)

ASSIGNMENTS

All written assignments will be double spaced 12 point font.

1. Weekly viewing responses

A one page viewing response on the film of the week is due the Friday following the screening,

by midnight.

Response Waiver: one response will be waived for students who volunteer for the note-taking option. The student will be in charge of taking notes during the Wednesday discussions and submit an edited version of the notes to the class by midnight the Friday after the discussion. The notes are expected to be at least 5 pages.

2. Class Presentations

Two 15 minutes presentations, one in the context of the class discussion, presenting the assigned readings and one as a final presentation of the research paper.

3. Research paper

A 10 page paper on a topic of choice by the student. The paper should include at least one movie that was not part of the course and a targeted list of references (to be discussed with the instructor). Additional guidelines will be distributed during the semester.

4. Framing exercise: Urban landscapes of Chicago

The student will document an aspect of urban life in Chicago through a visual and textual narrative: one title, 3-5 pictures, captions (no longer than a paragraph each) for each picture, a one page statement of the urban imaginary the project is crafting (the filmography watched and analyzed in class should serve as a reference). Additional guidelines will be distributed during the semester.

CLASS STRUCTURE

Monday – Class 12:00-1:15 – Lecture and discussion

Wednesday – Class 12:00-1:15 – Students' presentations and discussion

Wednesday afternoon – 3pm – Screening of the film

Friday by midnight – Students submit their viewing responses on the film

The following week's lecture and discussion will be about the film seen on Wednesday, about which the students will have already developed their response.

GRADING

The semester's work is worth a total of 100 points:

Attendance and participation	10 points	Participation can include class discussion and posting on Blackboard
Weekly responses	20 points	Due the Friday following the screening, by midnight. (The last 5 responses and the unit responses will weight more, reflecting students improved ability to critically address urban planning issues in movies)

Class presentations	20 points	
Framing Exercise	15 points	Due March 28 by midnight (A one-paragraph presentation of the Framing Exercise is due on Sunday, February 21, by noon. This is a very important deadline to get early feedback and advice)
Research Paper	30 points	Due Monday, May 3 rd , by noon (A one-paragraph presentation of your research topic is due on Sunday, February 21, by noon. This is a very important deadline to get early feedback and advice)

Please note the assignments' deadlines. No late assignments will be accepted.

SCREENING

Students will have the option to watch the film of the week in a screening session at CUPPA on Wednesdays from 3pm, Room 2232 ADH. Attending the screening is not mandatory – students can obtain and watch movies on their own.

LANGUAGES

The majority of the movies screened will be in the two main languages spoken in the United States, English and Spanish. All films in languages other than English will have subtitles.

Watching a movie while reading subtitles requires training but provides access to an incredibly rich market of movies. This course exposes students to this training and encourages them to further develop this skill for their future academic career and personal life.

HONORS STUDENTS

The Honors College acknowledges this course as part of its curriculum. Honors students will be required to complete an honor supplement. The student will be able to choose among the following supplement options: three additional 15 minute presentations of the movies of the week; a more complex and articulated list of references to address their paper's topic; a more elaborated visual exercise on the city of Chicago.

Schedule

UNIT 1 (WEEK 1-6)

URBAN OTHERS: THE PRODUCTION OF URBAN COSMOPOLITAN DYSTOPIAS

WEEK 1 – Jan 11-13

- Jan 11 Presentation of the course (content, structure, assignments)
- Jan 13 Students' introductions
 Presentation of the discussion session
 Planning of students' presentations/note-taking

WEEK 2 – Jan 20 (no class on Jan 18 – MLK day)

- Jan 20 Students' presentations and discussion

Assigned Readings

- N Brenner, P Marcuse and M Mayer (2009) “Cities for People, not for Profit” *City*, Vol. 13 no. 2-3, June-September.
- W Wenders “The urban landscape from the point of view of images” in *The Act of Seeing*, London, Boston: Faber and Faber, pp. 93-101.

Additional Resources

- S Parker, “The Contested City: Politics, People and Power” in S Parker *Urban Theory and the Urban Experience* (Chapter 7)
- M De Certeau, “The Imaginary of the City” in De Certeau and Luce Giard *Culture in the Plural*, pp. 17-28.
- M Shiel and T Fitzmaurice “Cinema and the City in History and Theory” in M. Shiel and T Fitzmaurice *Cinema and the City. Film and Urban Societies in a Global Context*, p. 1-15.
- D Harvey (2003) “The Right to the City” *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research* 27:4, pp. 939-941.
- www.righttothecity.org
 (particularly the one-paragraph long “About the right to the city”)

January 20 at 3 pm: Screening of *Do the Right Thing* by Spike Lee (1989)

Assignment

Viewing Response due on Friday, January 22 by midnight

Assigned Readings

- A Fielder (2001) “Poaching on Public Space: Urban Autonomous Zones in French *Banlieue* Films” in M Shiel and T Fitzmaurice *Cinema and the City. Film and Urban Societies in a Global Context* pp 270-281.
- L Wacquant (2006) “Ghetto, Banlieue, Favela et cetera. Tools for Rethinking Urban Marginality” in L Wacquant *Urban Outcast*
- L Wacquant (2006) “Interview” *Enough Room for Space*
www.enoughroomforspace.org/project_pages/view/197

Additional Resources

- G Murray (2005) “France: the Riots and the Republic” *Race and Class*, Vol 47, No 4, pp 26-45, November.
- L Wacquant “French Working-class *banlieue* and Black American ghetto: from Conflation to Comparison” *Qui Parle*, Vol 16, No 2
- A Hargreaves (1996) *Immigration, “Race” and Ethnicity in Contemporary France*, London, Routledge, pp. 177-209.

February 3 at 3pm: Screening of *My Beautiful Laundrette* by Stephen Frears (1985)

Assignment

Viewing Response due on Friday, Feb 5 by midnight

WEEK 5 – Feb 8 and Feb 10

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| Feb 8 | Lecture on ethnic urban conflicts, post-colonial legacy in European urban contexts, squatting in the UK and <i>My Beautiful Laundrette</i> |
| Feb 10 | Students’ presentations and discussion |

Assigned Readings

- N AlSayyad, (2006) “The London of *My Beautiful Laundrette*” and “Race Urban Space and the Displacement Community” in *Cinematic Urbanism: A History of Modern from Reel to Real*, pp. 189-207.
- BBC Article, “Pakistani London,” May 5, 2006.
- Squatting and the London tradition, Wikipedia article
<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Squatting>

Additional Resources

- C MacCabe, “Interview: Hanif Kureishi on London”, *Critical Quarterly*, vol 41, no 3, 1999, pp 37-56.
- P Keiller, ‘London in the Early 1990s’ in *London From Punk to Blair*, edited by Joe Kerr and Andrew Gibson (London: Reaktion Books, 2003), pp. 353-361.
- M Pascual "My Beautiful Laundrette: Hybrid 'Identity', or the Paradox of Conflicting Identifications in 'Third Space' Asian-British Cinema of the 1980s." *Miscelanea: A Journal of English and American Studies*. 26: 59-70, 2002.
- J Oldman (1997) “Beyond Bricks and Mortar” in *Youth and Society* (eds) J Roche & S Tucker pp. 116-123
- J Roche & S Tucker (1997) “Youth in Society: Contemporary Theory, Policy and Practice” in *Youth and Society* (eds) J Roche & S Tucker pp.1-7.

February 10 at 3pm: Screening of *City of God* by Fernando Meirelles (2002)

Assignment

Viewing response due on Friday, Feb 12 by midnight

WEEK 6 – Feb 15 and Feb 17

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| Feb 15 | Lecture on <i>City of God</i> , urban informality and the cinematic production of the urban south.
Instructions on submitting research paper and framing exercise topics for Feb 21 |
| Feb 17 | Students’ presentations and discussion |

Assigned Readings

- B Mennel “Ghettos and Barrios” in B Mennel *Cities and Cinema*. New York: Routledge, 2009, p 153-176.
- B Mennel “From Train Effect to Faveala Effect” in B Mennel *Cities and Cinema*, New York: Routledge, 2009, p 211-219
- Teresa PR Caldeira (2008) “Worlds Set Apart” *Urban Age* December

Additional Resources

- M Davis, (2006) “The Prevalence of Slums” in *Planet of Slums*
- J E Perlman (2004) “Marginality: From Myth to Reality in the Favelas of Rio de Janeiro, 1969-2002” in A Roy and N AlSayyad, eds *Urban Informality*, pp. 105-146.

Screening on Feb 17: *La Ciudad* by David Riker (1999)

Assignment

Thematic Unit Response on “Urban Others: The production of urban cosmopolitan dystopias”, due Friday, Feb 19 by midnight (covering material from week 1-6)

One paragraph description of the Framing Exercise and one paragraph description of research paper topic are due on Sunday, February 21 by noon.

UNIT 2 (WEEK 7-12)

DIVIDED CITY: SPATIAL SEGREGATION AND BORDERLINES

WEEK 7 – Feb 22 and Feb 24

Feb 22	Lecture on urban internal borders, immigration and the re-making of a city and <i>La Ciudad</i>
Feb 24	Students’ presentations and discussion

Assigned Readings

- M Samers (2006) “Immigration and the Global City Hypothesis: Towards an Alternative Research Agenda” from *The Global Cities Reader* (eds) N Brenner, & R Keil, (384-391).
- R Sklar (1999) “Rediscovering Radical Film Style: An Interview with David Riker” *Cineaste*

Additional Resources

- R Sennet (1993) Introduction in *Recovering Beirut: Urban Design and Post-War Reconstruction* (eds) Khalaf & Houry pp. 1-10.
- M Yahya “Reconstituting Space: The Aberration of the Urban in Beirut” *Recovering Beirut: Urban Design and Post-War Reconstruction* (eds) Khalaf & Houry pp. 128-164.

February 24 at 3pm: Screening of *West Beirut* by Ziad Doueiri (1998)

Assignments

Viewing Response is due on Friday, February 27 by midnight

WEEK 8 – March 1 and March 3

March 1 Lecture on divided cities and *West Beirut*

March 3 Students' presentations and discussion

Assigned Readings

- J Calame, E Charlesworth, L Woods (2009) *Divided Cities: Belfast, Beirut, Jerusalem, Mostar, and Nicosia* (The City in the Twenty-First Century), pp. 37- 61 on Beirut.
- C Nagel (2002) "Reconstructing Space, Re-creating Memory: Sectarian Politics and Urban Development in Post-war Beirut" *Political Geography*, vol 21, no. 5, pp 717-725.
- TBD

March 3 at 3pm: Screening of *La Zona* by Rodrigo Pla' (2007)

Assignment

Viewing Response due on Friday, March 4 by midnight

WEEK 9 – March 8 and March 10

Mar 8 Lecture on gated communities, security and the privatization of space and *La Zona*

Mar 10 Students' presentations and discussion

Assigned Readings

- M Davis (1990) *City of Quartz: Excavating the Future of Los Angeles*. London: Verso, Selection TBD.
- Giglia A (2008) “Gated Communities in Mexico City” *Home Cultures*, 5 (1), pp. 65-84.
- T P R Caldeira (1999) “Fortified Enclaves” in *Theorizing the City* (ed) Seth M Lowe, pp. 83-110.

Additional Resources

- P Virilio 'The overexposed City' in N Leach (ed) *Rethinking Architecture: A Reader in Cultural Theory*. London: Routledge, 1997, p. 382.

March 10 at 3 pm: Screening of *The Visitor* by Tom McCarthy (2007)

Assignment

Viewing Response due on Friday, March 12, by midnight

WEEK 10 – Mar 15 and Mar 17

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| March 15 | Lecture on <i>The Visitor</i> , undocumented immigrants in the US urban infrastructure for deportation
Present case of UIC student Rigo: undocumented students, right to education and controversial Dream Act
Workshop on Framing Exercise |
| March 17 | Students' presentations and discussion
Students share topics for their framing exercises |

Assigned Readings

- A Olivo “Rigo Padilla: Support Grows to Fight UIC Student’s Deportation” *Chicago Tribune*, December 6, 2009.
- A Olivo “Rigo Padilla Deportation is Stayed” *Chicago Tribune*, December 11, 2009.
- “Beyond Walls and Cages” <http://beyondcagesandwalls.blogspot.com/> (a website devoted to bridging the prison abolition and immigrant justice movements).
- Resource on “The Dream Act” TBD

March 17, at 3pm: Screening of *In This World* by Michael Winterbottom (2008)

SPRING BREAK (March 22 & 24)

Assignments

The Framing Exercise is due on Sunday, March 28 by noon.

WEEK 11 - Mar 29 and Mar 31

March 29	Lecture on <i>In this World</i> , camps as contemporary urban form, and transnational urban experience of migrants and refugees
March 31	Students' presentations and discussion

Assigned Readings

- M Agier (2002) "Between War and City. Towards an Urban Anthropology of Refugee Camps" *Ethnography*, Vol. 3, No. 3, 317-341 (2002).
- OR
- C Hailey (2009) *Camps: A Guide to 21st Century Space*, pp. 242-262, 324-331, 410-415.

Additional Resources

- Look at the photostory 'Life as a Refugee'
<http://www.oxfam.org.uk/coolplanet/kidsweb/world/afghan/camp.htm>
- E F Isin and K Rygiel (2007) "Of other global cities: frontiers, zones, camps". In B Driessens, F Mermier and H Wimmen (eds) *Cities of the South. Citizenship and exclusion in the 21st century*
- M Agier, "The Ghetto, the Hyperghetto and the Fragmentation of the World" *International Journal of Urban & Regional Research*; Sep2009, Vol. 33 Issue 3, pp. 854-857.

NO SCREENING

WEEK 12 – April 5 and April 7

April 5	Research Paper Workshop (1)
April 7	Research Paper Workshop (2)

NO SCREENINGAssignments

Thematic Unit Response on “Divided city: spatial segregation and borderlines” (Weeks 7-12) due on Friday, April 9 by midnight.

A two-page draft of the Research Paper is due on Sunday, April 11 by noon.

THEMATIC UNIT 3 (WEEK 13-16)
ENGAGED ESTRANGEMENT WITH THE CITY

WEEK 13 – April 12 and April 14

April 12 Summary Lecture on the first two thematic units
 Introduction to the unit on Engaged Estrangement

April 14 Open House: Students expose their viewing exercises to CUPPA faculty and students

April 14, at 3 pm: Screening of *The Gleaners and I* by Agnes Varda (2000)

Assignments

Framing Exercise due on Tuesday, April 13 by midnight

Viewing Response due, Friday April 18 by midnight

WEEK 14 – Apr 19 and Apr 21

April 19 Lecture on *The Gleaners* and a contemporary urban flanerier

April 21 Students' Papers Presentations (panel 1)

April 21 at 3pm: Screening of *Zazie dans le metro (Zazie rides the metro)* by Louis Malle (1960)

Assignment

Viewing Response due on Friday April 24, by midnight

WEEK 15 – Apr 26 and Apr 28

26 Apr Students' Papers Presentations (panel 2)

28 Apr Wrap up on the course, building on *The Gleaners* and *Zazie*: freedom of movement in the city, a gaze of estrangement, and the urban experience.

Assignment

Research Paper due on May 3rd by noon