

DRAFT – SUBJECT TO CHANGE

Place, Community, and Public Humanities

26:050:521 / 26:510:565

Mondays, 5:30pm-8:10pm

Conklin Hall 448

Instructor Information:

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Description:

In March 2016, the Department of Justice signed a consent decree with the city of Newark, New Jersey, that will “bring wide-ranging reforms and changes to the Newark Police Department (NPD). The agreement, which is subject to court approval, resolves the department’s findings that NPD has engaged in a pattern or practice of unconstitutional stops, searches, arrests, use of excessive force and theft by officers in violation of the First, Fourth and 14th Amendments.”¹

That same month, the Newark city council approved the first citizen complaint review board for the police. This comes after nationwide protests about police treatment of people of color and decades of activism in Newark by community organizations detailing police misconduct. In this class, we will be telling the history of community responses to police violence in Newark in the mid-20th century through a public exhibition and community event.

Historians have become more interested in geography in the recent past. We will be applying this “spatial turn” to our work, thinking through how place is socially created and how the movements of certain populations are monitored and controlled through surveillance tactics, policing, and so on.

This is an experiential public history/humanities class. Public history is the co-creation of historical knowledge between historians and the public. The class will ground students in the history, theory, and methods of place-based public history and community engagement. We will be working closely with the Newark Public Library and advisors on campus and in the community. Students will also engage in original research, using archival collections, digitized materials, and/or oral histories, over the semester to develop the class' public project. We will collaboratively move through the process of exhibit creation, from audience analysis to research to writing to evaluation.

I look forward to engaging in this process with you.

Expectations:

¹ <https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/justice-department-reaches-agreement-city-newark-new-jersey-reform-police-department-s>

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This course will blend the theory and practice of public history with analytical readings in American Studies on place. **You will be treated as both graduate students who are expected to complete required readings and contribute thoughtfully to class discussions and as members of a project team who will work collaboratively to produce public history texts and materials.** Collaborative work is a key skill for all public historians (and pretty much anybody who isn't a hermit) to have; we will practice it throughout this course.

Objectives:

By the end of this course, students will have:

- Learned about Newark's history, particularly with regard to race and social justice movements in the mid-20th century;
- Conducted archival and other research on Newark history;
- Synthesized secondary readings and interpreted primary sources into a public exhibition;
- Conducted a summative evaluation of the exhibition;
- Worked with a community partner (or partners);

Assignments:

Students will be divided into collaborative groups for our semester-long assignment.

Unlike other graduate seminars, your work will not just be seen by me, but will be readily accessible by the public through our final exhibition. To ensure that we produce the best possible work in our time together, there will be a staged editorial review process. Every student is expected to engage in thoughtful and constructive peer review.

- Drafts of exhibit panels
- Preliminary research and reading analysis
- Final exhibit panel text and captions
- Project presentation at opening event
- Final project evaluation

Attendance and Participation:

You will be expected to attend class having completed readings and assignments and be prepared to actively participate. If you cannot attend class, please let me know at least 24 hours before class (except in the case of emergencies).

In order for us to accomplish our ambitious agenda, it is necessary for me to communicate with you and for you to communicate with each other outside of our formal class time. The easiest way to do this is by email. **You are required to check your email regularly and to respond to requests from me or your classmates in a timely manner.** If you use a different email address than your Rutgers' one, I suggest that you either forward email from your Rutgers account to your other address or you make sure that I have your correct email address.

Grading:

Research Briefs (4 @ 10% each): 40%

Exhibit Text: 30%

Final Evaluation: 20%

Participation, Attendance and Peer Review: 10%

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Required Texts:

Mark Krasovic, *The Newark Frontier: Community Action In The Great Society* (ISBN-10: 022635279X)

Kevin Mumford, *Newark: A History of Race, Rights, and Riots in America* (ISBN-10: 0814795633)

Beverly Serrell, *Exhibit Labels: An Interpretive Approach* (ISBN-10: 144224903X)

Articles and readings as assigned below. These can be found on our blackboard site.

As a class, we will collectively create a shared portal to our research.

Disability Statement

Rutgers University welcomes students with disabilities into all of the University's educational programs. In order to receive consideration for reasonable accommodations, a student with a disability must contact the appropriate disability services office at the campus where you are officially enrolled, participate in an intake interview, and provide documentation: <https://ods.rutgers.edu/students/documentation-guidelines>. If the documentation supports your request for reasonable accommodations, your campus's disability services office will provide you with a Letter of Accommodations. Please share this letter with your instructors and discuss the accommodations with them as early in your courses as possible. To begin this process, please complete the Registration form on the ODS web site at: <https://ods.rutgers.edu/students/registration-form>. For more information please contact Kate Torres at (973)353-5375 or in the Office of Disability Services in the Paul Robeson Campus Center, in suite 219 or by contacting odsnewark@rutgers.edu.

Weekly Schedule:

Week 1/Sept. 12: Greetings and Salutations

- Ryan Hutchins and Katherine Landergan, "Newark Council Oks Powerful Police Review Board," Politico NJ, 16 March 2016. <http://www.politico.com/states/new-jersey/story/2016/03/newark-council-oks-powerful-police-review-board-032481>
- Mark DiIono, "Newark Cops Flex Muscle at Broad and Market," *NJ.com*, 12 June 2016, http://www.nj.com/news/index.ssf/2016/06/newark_cops_flex_muscle_at_broad_and_market_di_ion.html

Week 2/Sept. 19: Cities and Space: Containment and Resistance

MEET AT NEWARK PUBLIC LIBRARY, NJ INFORMATION CENTER (5 Washington St., 3rd Floor) at 5:15pm

- Tim Cresswell, "Black Moves," <https://tjcrosswell.com/2016/04/10/black-moves/>
- Whitney Strub, "Mondo Rocco: Mapping Gay Los Angeles Sexual Geography in the Late-1960s Films of Pat Rocco," *Radical History Review* (Spring 2012) (Blackboard)

Week 3/Sept. 26: Newark, 1900-1967

- Kevin Mumford, *Newark*, Part I (p. 1-124)

Research brief 1 DUE

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Week 4/Oct. 3: Newark, Black Power and Nationalism

- Mumford, *Newark*, Part II (125-end)

Research brief 2 DUE

Week 5/Oct. 10: Great Society in Newark

- Mark Krasovic, *The Newark Frontier*, Part I and Interlude (1-126)

Research brief 3 DUE

Week 6/Oct. 17: Commission Wars and Community Action

- Krasovic, *The Newark Frontier*, Part II and II (127-end)

Research brief 4 DUE

Week 7/Oct. 24: Interpreting for the Public

- Serrell, *Exhibit Labels* PARTs I and II

Week 8/Oct. 31: Interpreting for the Public

- Serrell, *Exhibit Labels* PARTS III and IV

Draft Exhibit Text, Images and Captions Due

Week 9/Nov. 7: Presentation of Exhibit Text

Final Exhibit Text, Images and Captions Due

Week 10/Nov. 14: Marketing Blitz

Week 11/Nov. 21: Producing Space

Henri Lefebvre, excerpt from *The Production of Space*.

Katherine McKittrick, excerpt from *Demonic Grounds : Black Women and the Cartographies of Struggle*.

Week 12/Nov. 28: A Global Sense of Place

Doreen Massey, "A Global Sense of Place," *Space, Place and Gender*.

David Harvey, "From Place to Space and Back Again," *Justice, Nature and the Geography of Difference*.

Week 13/Dec. 5: Exhibit opening!

Week 14/Dec. 12: Power of Place

Dolores Hayden, excerpt from *The Power of Place*

Dec. 19: Final analysis and evaluation due