

**26:510:559 Cities in Change:
The Culture of Cities**
Thursdays, 5:30pm-8:10pm
Conklin Hall 447

Instructor Information:

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Description:

This course examines the relationship between cities and culture in the 20th century United States. Cities have been the subjects of cultural representations, but they are also sites of cultural production. Economic forces of industrialization, neoliberalism, and globalization shape what cultural texts cities produce and give us a window into these issues. How do cities manipulate the symbolic economy to sell themselves? Through readings in classic and cutting-edge texts of urban studies, geography, cultural studies and history, this class will give students a strong background for their own work in urban studies, American studies, and history.

Expectations:

- I expect you to engage deeply with assigned readings on the complicated relationship between cities and culture. Because this class includes work from several academic disciplines, you will encounter unfamiliar theories, methods, and concepts. Don't freak out! Come to class having read the materials and prepared to discuss them.
- You will be expected to respond to emails from me in a timely manner. Because we only meet once per week, it will be necessary for me to communicate with you by email outside of class. I recommend strongly that you link your Rutgers email account (which is what is connected to Blackboard) to your personal email so that you are sure to get all the emails that I send.
- **Late Assignments:** I expect assignments to be completed on the day they are due. Any late submissions without an approved excuse will lose a half-grade every day it is late.

Objectives:

By the end of this course, students will have:

- Become conversant with scholarship in urban studies in disciplines including history, sociology, media studies, economics, geography, African American studies, and gender and sexuality studies,
- Analyzed scholarly texts to understand how they contribute to scholarly fields and conversations,
- Examined several methodologies used in urban studies, considering which is most appropriate for future projects,
- Written a field analysis paper, or literature review, that will position students well for writing a master's thesis, dissertation, and taking comprehensive exams.

Assignments:

- **Short Reading Responses:** Using the Blackboard site, you will be expected to write a response to readings five times throughout the semester (approximately 500-800 words). You may choose one or two readings to discuss from that week. The goal of these posts is for you to show your critical grappling with the ideas in the reading and the class. These are not meant to simply be summaries. The best use of these responses is to test out ideas that you think may be part of your final paper or your future graduate work.
 - These are due by Wednesday at 12pm. You should also read your classmates' posts and comment on at least one each week prior to our class meeting. You can choose any weeks for your response, but AT LEAST TWO must be completed by October 17.
- **Critical Analysis Paper:** In this paper, you will choose two readings from any one course module OR between two modules and analyze the authors' approach. The essay should NOT be a summary of the readings; instead focus on issues of theme, method, argument, and/or approach to develop your own thesis.
 - Think about the following: what questions are these scholars asking? How do they position themselves in relation to larger debates in the field? What sources or methods are they using? How would you build on their work?
 - If you plan to use readings from late in the course, after this paper is due, you will need to read ahead.
 - 2500-4000 words with Chicago style citations. If you only use class materials, no bibliography is necessary. DUE: Nov. 7
- **Field Analysis Paper:** Also known as a literature review or historiography, in this paper you will identify a field of scholarly inquiry and analyze how it has developed. Who are the key scholars in the field? What methodologies are used and why? What theories shape this field? How has it changed over time or in response to new areas of inquiry?
 - In addition to incorporating class readings, you will also add readings from outside the class. This will require you to track down additional sources in this field, a critical skill for grad students. You must incorporate at least three outside sources, which can be peer-reviewed articles, book chapters, or books.
 - 5000-8000 words with Chicago style citations and bibliography. DUE: December 16
- **Field Analysis Steps:** To prepare you to write the Field Analysis Paper, you will complete some steps along the way.
 - Paragraph description of topic. Broadly, what topic have you identified as a potential focus? What are the key questions that you're interested in about this topic? How does it relate to your future research? DUE: September 26
 - Refined paragraph description with thesis statement plus annotated bibliography including at least 3 sources not discussed in class. An annotated bibliography includes not just a summary of the source, but why this source in particular is useful for your project. DUE: November 21

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).

Academic Integrity:

You will follow the University's Policy on Academic Integrity, which falls under the Code of Student Conduct. The policy and the consequences of violating it are outlined here:

<http://www.ncas.rutgers.edu/office-dean-student-affairs/academic-integrity-policy>.

I strictly follow the University's rules regarding plagiarism and other academic irregularities. Please consult me if you have any questions about what is and is not appropriate regarding the use of sources or citation.

Grading:

- Participation and Attendance: 15%
- 5 Short Reading Responses: 25%
- Critical Analysis Paper: 20%
- Field Analysis: 30%
- Field Analysis Steps: 10%

Required Texts:

There are 4 books you must buy or borrow for this course:

- Sharon Zukin, *Loft Living: Culture and Capital in Urban Change*. 978-0813570976
- Miriam Greenberg, *Branding New York: How a City in Crisis was Sold to the World*. 978-0415954426
- Kathy Peiss, *Cheap Amusements: Working Women and Leisure in Turn-of-the-Century New York*. 978-0877225003
- Saidiya Hartman, *Wayward Lives, Beautiful Experiments*. 978-0393285673

Other readings are either available through Rutgers Library or on the blackboard site for our class.

Suggested, But Not Required:

- Use a citation manager. Citation managers keep track of your bibliographic references and can be used to generate footnotes, endnotes and bibliographies. More importantly, they allow you to have a complete record of the scholarship you have read and to organize it. There are many citation managers to choose from. I use Zotero, an open source option. You can learn about more options at: <https://www.libraries.rutgers.edu/services-for-researchers/citation-management-tools>
- Scrivener for writing papers. Scrivener is writing software that's designed to handle large, complicated projects, whether screenplays or nonfiction books. Unlike Word, or other software like that, it allows you to easily organize large projects and keep your research materials with your writing. You can try it for free for 30 days. Purchasing Scivener as a student costs about \$42. It works best on Macs, but there is a Windows version. You can learn more here: <https://www.literatureandlatte.com/scrivener/overview> .

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/September 5: Introductions

Cities as Cultural Commodities

Week 2/September 12:

Sharon Zukin, *Loft Living*.

Week 3/September 19:

Harvey, "Spaces of Utopia," *Spaces of Hope*.

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

Neil Smith, "From 'Consumer Sovereignty' to the Rent Gap," *The New Urban Frontier: Gentrification and the Revanchist City*.

Suleiman Osman, "The Two Machines in the Garden," *The Invention of Brownstone Brooklyn*.

Week 4/September 26:

Miriam Greenberg, *Branding New York: How a City in Crisis was Sold to the World*.

DUE: Topic Paragraph

Cultural Representations of Cities

Week 5/October 3: Thinking the Neighborhood

Arjun Appadurai, "The Production of Locality," *Modernity at Large*.

Carlo Rotella, "The Literature of Post-industrial South Street," *October Cities*.

Benjamin Looker, "Peaceable Kingdoms: The Great Society Neighborhood in Stories for Children," *A Nation of Neighborhoods*.

Eric Avila, "The Spectacle of Blight: Hollywood's Rendition of a Black Los Angeles," *Popular Culture in the Age of White Flight*.

Week 6/October 10: Race and Class in the City

George Lipsitz, "The Meaning of Memory: Family, Class, and Ethnicity in Early Network Television," *Time Passages: Collective Memory and American Popular Culture*.

Herman Gray, "Frank's Place: Possibilities, Limitations, and Legacies," *Watching Race: Television and the Struggle for Blackness*.

Jefferson Cowie, "The Important Sound of Things Falling Apart," *Stayin' Alive: The 1970s and the Last Days of the Working Class*.

Paula Massood, "Cotton in the City: The Black Ghetto, Blaxploitation, and Beyond," *Black City Cinema*.

Week 7/October 17: Case Study: Baltimore and *The Wire*

Stanley Corkin, "Season 1: Drugs, Race, and the Structures of Social Immobility," *Connecting the Wire*.

Linda Williams, "Feeling Race: The Wire and the American Melodrama of Black and White," *On The Wire*.

George Lipsitz, "The Crime The Wire Couldn't Name: Social Decay and Cynical Detachment in Baltimore," *How Racism Takes Place*.

Hua Hsu, "Walking in Someone Else's City: The Wire and the Limits of Empathy," *Criticism*, 52 (Summer/Fall 2010): 509-528.

Watch Season 1, Episode 1 of *The Wire* (available on streaming for a small cost through various services)

Cities and Cultural Production

Week 8/October 24: Race, Place, and Urban Cultural Production

Devorah Heitner, "The Good Side of the Ghetto: Visualizing Black Brooklyn, 1968-1971," *Velvet Light Trap* 62 (Fall 2008): 48-61.

Matthew Delmont, "Making Philadelphia Safe for 'WFIL-adelphia,': Television, Housing, and Defensive Localism in Postwar Philadelphia," *Journal of Urban History* 38 (1): 89-113.

Daniel Widener, "Notes from the Underground: Free Jazz and Black Power in South Los Angeles," *Black Arts West*.

Week 9/October 31: Journal of Urban History Special Issue on the Arts in Postwar US Cities

Julia Foulkes, "Dancing in the Streets: The Arts in Postwar US Cities—an Introduction," *Journal of Urban History* 41 (6): 955-961.

Susannah Engstrom, "Building a Midwest Cultural Capital: Professional Theater and Urban Development in Minneapolis," *Journal of Urban History* 41 (6): 962-980.

Joanna Dee Das, "Between the 'Culture of Poverty' and the Cultural Revolution: Katherine Dunham's Performing Arts Training Center in East St. Louis," *Journal of Urban History* 41 (6): 981-998.

Julia Foulkes, "Seeing the City: The Filming of *West Side Story*," *Journal of Urban History* 41 (6): 1052-1072.

Extra Credit: 2 points extra credit for dressing up in a Halloween costume related to the class and explaining the relationship to the class.

Week 10/November 7: Class Cancelled: Research Day

DUE: Critical Analysis Paper

Urban Cultures

Week 11/November 14:

Kathy Peiss, *Cheap Amusements: Working Women and Leisure in Turn-of-the-century New York*.

Week 12/November 21: Sex in the City

George Chauncey, "Building Gay Neighborhood Enclaves: The Village and Harlem," *Gay New York*.

Whitney Strub, "Mondo Rocco: Mapping Gay Los Angeles Sexual Geography in the Late-1960s Films of Pat Rocco," *Radical History Review* 113 (2012): 13-34.

Anne Enke, "Smuggling Sex Through the Gates: Race, Sexuality, and the Politics of Space in Second Wave Feminism," *American Quarterly* 55 (December 2003): 635-667.

Kwame Holmes, "Beyond the Flames: Queering the History of the 1968 D.C. Riot," *No Tea, No Shade: New Writings in Black Queer Studies*.

DUE: Revised topic, thesis, and annotated bibliography

Week 13/November 26 – NO CLASS – INDEPENDENT RESEARCH AND THANKSGIVING

Week 14/December 5:

Saidiya Hartman, *Wayward Lives*.

DUE DECEMBER 16: FIELD ANALYSIS PAPER