

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND SITE-SPECIFIC STORYTELLING

Public History (26:510:565)
Wednesdays, 2:00-4:40pm
Conklin Hall, Room 447
Spring 2016

Professor Lyra D. Monteiro
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Office Hours: Mondays, 1:30-3:30pm, or by appointment
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COURSE DESCRIPTION

As part of the Rutgers–Newark Newest Americans project, students in this graduate course will work together to create, from start to finish, a site-specific public humanities project. The course will begin with foundational reading in the field of public humanities and in the history of Newark. Students will then perform archival and audience research in the University Heights neighborhood and the RBHS campus, using a range of techniques, including the Stanford school's Design Thinking framework, as well as methods for creating community-based projects developed by the Laundromat Project and The Museum On Site. The final product of this course will be a site-specific exhibition or performance, located on the Rutgers Biomedical and Health Sciences campus and the surrounding community, which shares information about the past and present of the area and the communities that inhabit it.

REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING

Students are expected to attend all class meetings and participate actively in class discussions. In addition to regular class sessions, screenings and field trips may be arranged outside of class times (if you cannot attend these out-of-class sessions due to schedule conflicts, you must still complete the visits and watch the films before the following class).

40% Weekly Assignments

Because this course depends on thoughtful and creative engagement with the material, students will prepare for each class by writing brief, 2-3 page responses to prompts related to the readings, websites, etc., assigned for class. Papers must be uploaded to the course Blackboard site by midnight of the evening **before** the class meeting during which the material will be discussed.

10% Community Mapping (Due: March 23)

Complete all of the steps in the Laundromat Project's "Community and Neighborhood Mapping" guide about our RHBS site.

10% Project Prototyping (Due: March 30)

Create and deploy a prototype of the project idea developed in our brainstorming session.

30% Final Project

Your contribution to the class project will be evaluated.

10% Project Evaluation (Due: May 11)

Using a quantitative or qualitative evaluative technique of your choice, you will evaluate the class project and write a brief report of your findings.

POLICIES

Except in cases of emergency, cell phones must be turned completely off during class. Laptops may be used for taking notes, and I highly encourage those who can multitask effectively to Google relevant points during class, to enhance our discussions.

Unless otherwise instructed, all written work for this class must be uploaded to the course Blackboard site. Page number guidelines refer to the following format: 12-point Times New Roman, double-spaced, with 1-inch margins on all sides. Late work will be penalized an automatic ½ letter grade reduction for each day (i.e., the maximum grade that can be earned on a paper that is turned in the day after it is due is an A, the following day an A-, etc.), unless a doctor's note or similar official excuse can be provided. The Rutgers University policy on academic integrity will be strictly enforced (<http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu>).

Students with more than two unexcused absences (e.g., medical or family emergencies, religious holidays, or severe inclement weather) will have their final grade reduced by one grade for each additional absence (thus, the highest grade a student with three unexcused absences can earn is a B+). Whenever possible, please inform Professor Monteiro via email prior to any absences (excused or otherwise).

LECTURES AND READING ASSIGNMENTS

Required texts (available for purchase on Amazon, unless otherwise indicated – ebook versions are acceptable):

1. Antony, Rachael, and Joël Henry, *The Lonely Planet Guide to Experimental Travel*. Melbourne: Lonely Planet Publications, 2005.
2. Gordon, Tammy. *Private History in Public: Exhibition and the Settings of Everyday Life*. Lanham, MD: Altamira Press, 2010.

3. Todd, Charlie, and Alex Scordelis, *Causing a Scene: Extraordinary Pranks in Ordinary Places with Improv Everywhere*. New York: Harper Collins, 2009.
4. Boyd, Andrew, ed. *Beautiful Trouble: A Toolbox for Revolution*. New York: OR Books, 2012. (OPTIONAL: Instead of the full edition, you may purchase the Pocket Edition, at beautifultrouble.org)
5. Thompson, Nato, ed. *Living As Form: Socially Engaged Art from 1991-2011*. New York: Creative Time Books, 2012.
6. Lucas, Gavin. *Guerrilla Advertising 2: More Unconventional Brand Communication*. London: Laurence King Publishing, 2011.
7. Kyvig, David E., and Myron A. Marty, *Nearby History: Exploring the Past Around You*. Third Edition. Lanham, MD: AltaMira Press, 2010.

All other readings can be accessed via the links below, or are available on Blackboard.

N.B.: Schedule and reading assignments are subject to change.

Wednesday, January 20

Introduction: Community Engagement and Site-Specific Storytelling
(no readings)

Wednesday, January 27

Investigating Place

- *The Lonely Planet Guide to Experimental Travel* (all)
- The Laundromat Project, "Community and Neighborhood Mapping: A Participatory Process for Generating Interactive Arts Experiences"
- New York Magazine, "One Block In Brooklyn, 1880-Present"
- Selection from Donald A. Norman, *The Design of Everyday Things*

Wednesday, February 3

Site Visit

- Newest Americans, "A Building, A Block, A Neighborhood"
- Clement A. Price, "The Once and Future Newark" (video)
- David E. Kyvig and Myron A. Marty, "What Can Be Done Nearby?" in *Nearby History*

Wednesday, February 10

Perspectives from Public History

- *Private History in Public* (all)
- *Nearby History* (all)

Wednesday, February 17

Perspectives from Activism

Guest Speaker: Brian Dominick

- *Beautiful Trouble* (all)

Wednesday, February 24

Perspectives from Art

Guest Speaker: Charlie Todd

- *Causing a Scene* (all)
- *Living As Form* (all)

Wednesday, March 2

Perspectives from Advertising and Library Visit

Guest Speakers: Gavin Lucas and Natalie Borisovets

- *Guerilla Advertising 2* (all)

Wednesday, March 9

New York City Field Trip

Readings TBD

No Class Wednesday, March 16: Spring Break

Wednesday, March 23

Project Brainstorming

Guest Speaker: Andrew Losowsky

Community Mapping Due

Wednesday, March 30

Project Prototyping On Site

Wednesday, April 6

Prototyping Debrief

Guest Speaker: Katie Singer

Wednesday, April 13

Project Check-In (short class)

Wednesday, April 20

Project Check-In (short class)

Wednesday, April 27

Project Check-In (short class)

Saturday, April 30

Presentation of project at Rutgers Day

Week of May 2

Project Execution and Evaluation

Wednesday, May 11

Project Debrief

Project Evaluation Due