

LATIN AMERICAN URBAN CULTURES

COURSE GOALS

This course surveys readings at the intersection of contemporary Latin American Studies, Urban Studies and Cultural Studies. This broad sweep through Latin American urban cultures focuses on five thematic kernels: transnationalization; creativity; memory; interculturalism; and sexualities. The course is intended for diverse audiences and majors from e.g. GEG, LAS, WGS, INS, COM, MLL, SOC, ANT, ARC and ART. While interweaving issues of class, race and gender in the discussion of all topics, seminar-style sessions will adopt spatial approaches cutting across multiple disciplines in social research and the humanities. We will particularly focus on place-making, circulations, boundaries, (de-re)territorializations and the re-mapping of the urban and the cultural in and beyond contemporary Latin America. The course combines focused readings with appreciation of films and other cultural products. Seminar participants are expected to gain a conceptual vocabulary; familiarity with research approaches; and extensive empirical exposure to Latin American urban cultures.

GRADING AND ATTENDANCE POLICY

This is a participation intensive seminar, which is reflected in the grading policy. Attendance is not required (except for organized field visits) but highly encouraged for successful completion of assigned papers and required.

GRADUATE TRACK (GEG 545 and optional for WGS 405)

- 50% Final Paper (8,000 to 10,000 words)
- 20% In-Class Presentations (2 x 10% each)
- 20% Film Critiques (2,000 words in up to 4 essays)
- 10% In-Class and Online Participation

UNDERGRADUATE TRACK (Optional for WGS 405)

- 30% Final Paper (3,000 to 5,000 words)
- 20% Mid-term Report (3,000 to 5,000 words)
- 20% In-Class Presentations (2 x 10% each)
- 20% Film Critiques (2,000 words in up to 4 essays)
- 10% In-class and Online Participation

SCHEDULE

August 22

Session I Introducing the Debates

In this session we will define the terms and boundaries of various debates concerning transnationalization, creativity, identity, interculturalism and sexualities

Required Readings:

Williams, G. (2002) *The other side of the popular: neoliberalism and subalternity in Latin America*. Durham, NC: Duke University Press. (Introduction)

Scott, A.J. (2004) Cultural-Products Industries and Urban Economic Development: Prospects for growth and market contestation in global context, *Urban Affairs Review* (39:4), pp. 461-490.

Sandercock, L. (2004) Reconsidering Multiculturalism: towards an intercultural project in Wood (ed.) *Intercultural City Reader*, Stroud: Comedia.

Hoelscher, S. and Alderman DH (2004) Memory and place: geographies of a critical relationship, *Social & Cultural Geography*, (5:3), pp. 347 – 355.

Anzaldúa, G. (1999) *Borderlands: La frontera*. Aunt Lute Books: San Francisco, (Chapter 5: How to tame a wild tongue pp. 77 – 86).

Hubbard, P. (2001) Sex Zones: Intimacy, Citizenship and Public Space, *Sexualities* 14 (5), pp. 51- 71.

Recommended Readings:

Mitchell, K. (2003) Monuments, Memorials, and the Politics of Memory, *Urban Geography* 24 (5), pp. 442-459.

Lowe, Z. (1996) spatializing culture: the social production and social construction of public space in Costa Rica, *American Ethnologist* (23:4), pp. 861-879.

Rantisi, N.M., Leslie, D. and Christopherson, S.M. (2006) Placing the Creative Economy: Scale, Politics and the

Material, introduction for a special issue of *Environment & Planning A*, 38 (10), pp. 1789-1797.

August 29

Session II

Transnationalization (I): *Del Lado de Acá*

Required Readings:

García Canclini, N. (2000) From National Capital to Global Capital: Urban Change in Mexico City, *Public Culture*, 12 (1), pp. 207-213.

Monsiváis, C.(2003) Where are you going to be worthier? In M. Dear and G. Leclerc, eds. *Postborder City: Cultural Spaces of Baja California*. New York, Routledge, pp. 33-46.

Kanai, M. (2011) Barrio resurgence in Buenos Aires: local autonomy claims amid state-sponsored transnationalism, *Political Geography* (30:4), pp. 225 – 235.

Sheller, M. (2004). Demobilizing and remobilizing Caribbean paradise, in M. Sheller and H. Urry (Eds.) *Tourism Mobilities: Places to play, places in play*. London: Routledge, pp. 13-31.

Femenías, B. (2005) “Why do Gringos like black?” Mourning, tourism, and changing fashions in Peru, in RA Root (Ed.) *The Latin American Fashion Reader*, Oxford: Berg Publishers, pp. 93 – 113.

September 05

Session III

Transnationalization (II): *Del Lado de Allá*

Required Readings:

Leu, L. (2007) Brazilianism, Culture and Consumption in the United Kingdom, *Bulletin of Spanish Studies: Hispanic Studies and Researches of Spain, Portugal and Latin America* 84 (4-5), pp. 645-652.

Knudsen, JS. (2001) Dancing cueca “with your coat on”: The role of traditional Chilean dance in an immigrant community, *British Journal of Ethnomusicology* 10 (2), pp. 61-83.

LiPuma, E. and Koelble T. (2005) Cultures of Circulation and the Urban Imaginary: Miami as Example and Exemplar, *Public Culture* 17 (1), pp. 153-180.

Yúdice, G. (2005) Miami: Images of a Latinopolis, *NACLA Report of the Americas* (November, 1).

Hosokawa, S. (1999) 'Salsa no tiene frontera': Orquesta de la Luz and the globalization of popular music, *Cultural Studies* 13 (3), pp. 509 - 534

September 12 **Session IV (Film Projection and Discussion I)**
El Abrazo Partido (Lost Embrace) Daniel Burman (2004)

Recommended Readings:

Kaminsky, A. (2009) The Jew in the City: Buenos Aires in Jewish fiction, in R. Byron (ed.) *City/Art: The Urban Scene in Latin America*, Duke University Press, pp. 165-184.

Page, J. (2009) *Crisis and Capitalism in Contemporary Argentine Cinema*, Duke University Press.

September 19 **Session V**
Creativity (I): Culture-led Development

Bromley, RDF (2000) Planning for tourism and urban conservation: Evidence from Cartagena, Colombia, *Third World Planning* 22 (1), pp. 23-.

Yúdice, G. (2009) Culture-based Urban Development in Rio de Janeiro, in R. Biron (Ed.) *City/Art: The urban scene in Latin America*. Durham, NC: Duke University Press, pp. 211– 232.

Stobart, H. (2011) Constructing community in the digital home studio: Carnival, creativity and indigenous music video production in the Bolivian Andes, *Popular Music* 30 (2), pp. 209-226.

Kanai, JM. and Ortega-Alcazar, I. (2009) Culture-led Urban Regeneration: cases from Mexico City and Buenos Aires, *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research*

September 26 **Session VI**

Creativity (II): Culture Industry

Required Readings:

Mato, D. (2005) The transnationalization of the Telenovela Industry, Territorial References, and the Production of Markets and Representations of Transnational Identities, *Television News Media* 6 (4), pp. 423-444.

Villaça, N. (2005) As She Walks to the Sea: A Semiology of Rio de Janeiro, in RA. Root (Ed.) *The Latin American Fashion Reader*, New York: Berg, pp. 188-197.

Podalsky, L. (2004) *Specular City: transforming culture, consumption and space in Buenos Aires: 1955-1973*. Temple University Press: Philadelphia.

Murphy, PD (1995) Television and Cultural Politics in Mexico: Some notes on Televisa, the state and transnational culture, *Howard Journal of Communications* 6 (4) , pp. 250-261.

Stallbrass, J. (1997) Sebastiao Salgado and Fine Art Photojournalism, *New Left Review* (1:223), pp. 131-160.

Recommended Readings:

Moreno Esparza, GA (2011) Televisa and Univision, 50 years of media post-nationalism, *Global Media and Communication* (7:1), pp. 62 – 68.

October 03

Session VII (Film Projection and Discussion II) O Principe (The Prince) Ugo Giorgetti (2002)

Recommended Readings:

Sá, L. (2011) Flanêrie and Invasion in the Monstruous City: São Paulo in recent film, *Journal of Latin American Cultural Studies: Travesia* 20 (1), pp. 35-48.

October 10

Session VIII Memory

Required Readings:

Huysen, A. (2003) *Present Pasts: Urban palimpsests and the politics of Memory*, Stanford: Stanford University Press (Introduction & Chapter 6)

Achugar, H. (2009) On Maps and Malls, in R. Biron (Ed.) *City/Art: The urban scene in Latin America*. Durham, NC: Duke University Press, pp. 185 – 210.

Irazábal, C. (200x) *City Making and Urban Governance in the Americas: Curitiba and Portland*,

Williams, G. (2001) HEAR SAY YES IN PIGLIA: La ciudad ausente, posthegemony, and the “fin-negans” of historicity, *Angelaki: Journal of the Theoretical Humanities*, 6 (1), pp. 127-144.

Navarrete Sánchez, R. and López, AM. (2010) Scratching Behind The Walls: Graffiti and symbolic political imagination at Cuartel San Carlos (Caracas, Venezuela), in P. Funari et al. (Eds.) *Memories from Darkness: Contributions to Global Historical Archeology*, Springer pp. 105 – 125.

Recommended Readings:

Montaño, EA. (2008) Places of Memory: Is the concept applicable to the analysis of memorial struggles? The case of Uruguay and its recent past. *Cuad.CLAEH* [online]. 2008, vol.4 Selected edition, pp. 87-109.

Kane, SC. (2009) Stencil graffiti in urban waterscapes of Buenos Aires and Rosario, Argentina, *Crime Media Culture* 5 (1), pp. 9 – 28.

October 17

Session IX
Interculturalism I: The Assertion of Difference

Required Readings:

Lalander, R. (2010) Between Interculturalism and Ethnocentrism: Local government and the indigenous movement in Otavalo-Ecuador, *Bulletin of Latin American Research*, 29 (4), pp. 505-521.

Lawhon, M. and Chion, M. (2011) Rooted Cosmopolitanism: Spaces of Multiplicity in Cusco, Peru, *International Journal of*

Urban and Regional Research, DOI: 10.1111/j.1468-2427.2011.01079.x

Selka, SL (2005). Ethnoreligious Identity Politics in Bahia, Brazil, *Latin American Perspectives* 32 (1), pp. 72 – 94.

Veissiere, SPL (2010). Making a Living: The gringo ethnographer as pimp of the suffering in the late capitalist night, *Cultural Studies* $\leftarrow \Rightarrow$ *Critical Methodologies* 10 (1), pp. 29 – 39.

Till, KE. (2012) Wounded Cities: Memory-work and a place-based ethics of care, *Political Geography* (31:1), pp. 3 – 14.

October 24

Session X (Film Projection and Discussion III)
La Teta Asustada (*Milk of Sorrow*) Claudia Llosa (2009)

Recommended Readings:

Pagán-Teitelbaum, I. (2010) Depiction or Erasure? Violence and trauma in contemporary Peruvian film, *Continuum: Journal of Media & Cultural Studies*, 24 (1), pp. 161-177.

De la Cadena, M (1995) “Women Are More Indian”: Ethnicity and gender in a community near Cuzco, in B. Larson and O. Harris (Eds.) *Ethnicity, Markets and Migration in the Andes: At the crossroads of history and anthropology*. Durham, NC: Duke University Press, pp. 329 – 348.

October 31

Session XI
Interculturalism II: Intolerances

Required Readings:

Rodgers, D. (2009) Slum Wars of the 21st Century: Gangs, Mano Dura and the New Urban Geography of Conflict in Central America, *Development and Change*, 40 (5), pp. 949-976.

Tomic, P., Trumper, R., Hidalgo Dattwyler, R. (2006) Manufacturing Modernity: Cleaning, Dirt, and Neoliberalism in Chile, *Antipode* 38 (3), pp. 508-529.

Swanson, K. (2007) Revanchist Urbanism Heads South: The Regulation of Indigenous Beggars and Street Vendors in Ecuador, *Antipode* 39 (4), pp. 708-728.

Fabricant, N. (2009) Performative Politics: The Camba countermovement in eastern Bolivia, *American Ethnologist* 36 (4), pp. 768-783.

November 7 **Session XII
Sexualities**

Required Readings:

Savigliano, ME (2010). Notes on Tango (as) Queer (Commodity), *Anthropological Notebooks* 16 (3), pp. 135-143.

Fairley, J. (2006) Dancing Back to Front: *regeton*, sexuality, gender and transnationalism in Cuba, *Popular Music* 25 (3), pp. 471 – 488.

Levi, H. (1998) Lean, Mean, Fighting Queens: Drag in the world of Mexican professional wrestling, *Sexualities* 1 (3), pp. 275 – 285.

Piscitelli, A (2008). Transits: Brazilian women migration in the context of the transnationalization of the sex and marriage markets, *Horizontes Antropológicos* 15 (31), pp. 101- 136.

Acosta, KL. (2008) Lesbianas in the Borderlands: Shifting identities and imagined communities, *Gender & Society* 22 (5), pp. 639-659.

Avivi, Y (2006) Room for variation? The experience of Colombian gay asylum seekers and asylees in Miami, *Sociedad y Economía: Empleo, Ingreso y Pobreza* 11 (Jul-Dic), pp. 1 -32.

November 14 **Session XIII (Film Projection and Discussion IV)
Happy Together Wong Kar Wai (1997)**

Recommended Readings:

November 21 **Course Review**

November 28 **Presentations and Wrap-Up**