

Urban Anthropology: Race, Space, and Place 110X
Summer 2014

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Course Schedule: TBA
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DESCRIPTION: In the *Hidden Wound*, Wendell Berry makes the argument that urbanism in early 20th Century America was above all a racial phenomenon, creating patterns of racial relations that were impossible in rural settings. This course expands on Berry's argument to look at the intersections of race, space, place, and urbanism in the 21st century America and other cultural contexts. The argument will be made that cities today cannot be understood without looking at how ideas of race and ethnicity shaped urban settlement from the colonial encounter to the present day.

Urban anthropology, as a subdiscipline, is rather young, having emerged in the last fifty years largely by means of the theoretical contributions of geography, sociology, urban planning, and architecture. However as anthropologists are increasingly venturing out into urban and conurban fieldsites, the subdiscipline has taken on a new understanding. Following Clifford Geertz's famous distinction between anthropology *of* villages and anthropology *in* villages, many urban anthropologists have recently called for an anthropology *in* cities. This course follows suit. Though cities have existed for thousands of years, this course focuses on the particular form urbanism that arose at the end of the nineteenth century along with abolition in the Americas, capitalism, and the paradigm of the factory city.

However, cities are treated not just as materially, but also discursively, and experientially, as spaces that are just as much the products of narratives and everyday practices as of patterns of consumption and production. Examples will be drawn from a broad range of places, but an emphasis will be placed upon France and Brazil—respectively known as the “colorblind society” and “racial democracy”—because of their pivotal positions in discourses of race and their unique urban trajectories. We will explore how patterns of racial dynamics persist across time in the structures of urban society.

I have chosen to begin with the cities and ask what types of social actors emerge in the various cityscapes, and what this can tell us not only about anthropology or urbanism as disciplines, but also about the various social, cultural, and political patterns that traverse these cities. In particular we will explore connections between race and social mobility, environmental racism, “ethnic enclaves,” spatial segregation, and informal economies that operate along racial and ethnic lines. The first part of the course will focus on urban anthropology more broadly to serve as a foundation for the rest of the course, where we will empirically explore the patterns of race and ethnicity in cities around the world.

JUSTIFICATION: At an undetermined moment in the first decade of the twenty-first century, the world's population became more urban than rural for first time in history. This mass migration created a world where, to paraphrase Clifford Geertz, those with cultural, racial, and social differences can no longer ignore one another. Anthropology, a discipline largely developed in bucolic settings, is now struggling to cultivate the theoretical means to understand the vast array of changes that this shift entails. This course seeks to elucidate some of these burgeoning discussions, particularly around the themes of race and ethnicity.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS: Active participation in all aspects of the seminar will be required. Resources will include books, audio-visuals and a wide range of material on reserve. Written assignments will include occasional response papers, a midterm essay (5 pages) and a final paper (8-10 pages).

EVALUATION PROCEDURES: Students will be evaluated on the basis of written work, presentations and contributions to the seminar discussions. Assignments submitted late will not be accepted. Regular class attendance is mandatory; more than two unexcused absence will result in an unsatisfactory evaluation. This class demands strong preparation and consistent verbal engagement. Grades will be calculated as follows: response papers (10%), participation (10%), midterm (30%) and final paper (50%). This is a reading intensive course: it will be impossible to accompany the lectures, write the papers, or participate in discussions without having studied the assigned materials carefully. Late work will not be accepted except in the event of catastrophic circumstances.

PLAGIARISM: Any form of academic dishonesty plagiarism will be met with a failing grade and referral to the university for further discipline. As always, consult the following website if there is any question as to what constitutes plagiarism:

http://www.ucsc.edu/academics/academic_integrity/undergraduate_students/.

DISABILITY RESOURCE CENTER: If you have any additional needs within the classroom, please get an Accommodation Authorization from the Disability Resource Center (DRC) and give it to me in person within the first two weeks of the quarter. See <http://drc.ucsc.edu/> for more information on the qualifying criteria and the general process.

READINGS: Most of the readings will be assembled in a course reader, which can be purchased at the Literary Guillotine in downtown Santa Cruz. We will also be reading the following **required** books in entirety:

Augé, Marc. 2009. *Non-Places: An Introduction to Supermodernity*. New York: Verso.

Bourgeois, Phillipe. 2002. *In Search of Respect: Selling Crack in El Barrio*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

De Certeau, Michel. 1984. *The Practice of Everyday Life*. Berkeley: University of California Press

Holston, James. 1989 *The Modernist City : an Anthropological Critique of Brasília*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

Vesperi, Maria. 1986. *City of Green Benches*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press

Extra Credit Options

- 1) Read *Invisible Cities* and write your own Invisible City narrative based on a city from one of the readings.
- 2) Read *Righteous Dopefiend*, *The Rainbow Stories*, *Buddha is Hiding* or another approved ethnography that takes place in the SF Bay Area and make a visit to the field that culminates in either a paper or class presentation about the visit.

Lecture Topics and Reading Assignments

Week 1: Historical Iterations of the City Leading up to the Post-Industrial City (Greece, Spain, and Latin America). We will look at the historical urban patterns that were not predicated upon racial dynamics as a foundation for the rest of discussion.

Monday

Readings:

“Economic space: cite, bourg, commune” (pages 188-199) from *Flesh and Stone: The Body And The City In Western Civilization*

“The Nature of the City”

“Locating Culture” and “A Place in History: Social and Monumental Time in a Cretan Town” from *The Anthropology of Space and Place. Locating Culture*.

Wednesday

Readings:

Chapters 1, 2, and 3 from *The Lettered City*

“The City as *Misè-en-scène*: A Visual Exploration of the Culture of the Politics in Buenos Aires.”

“Mexico's Megalopolis.”

“Urban Anthropology in the 1980s”

Watch the *Social Life of a Sidewalk*

Week 2: The Technocratic City: repression, resistance and re-appropriation (France and Former French Colonies). We will explore the dynamics of race and religion (inextricably linked by secular perceptions of Islam) in France that have unfolded in the twentieth century

Monday

Readings:

The Idea of the City in European Thought: Voltaire to Spengler

Chapters 1, 2, and 3 from *The Emergence of Social Space*

Chapters 1 and 2 from *French Modern*

Parts 1 and 2 from *The Practice of Everyday Life*

Wednesday

Readings:

Step by Step (entire)

The Berber House from *The Anthropology of Space and Place. Locating Culture.*

“Props” from *The Ludic city : exploring the potential of public spaces*

Sporting Faith: Islam, Soccer, and the French Nation-State

Week 3: The Modernist City, The Post-Nation-State City

(Africa and Europe). We will explore how modern projects of the state paradoxically depended upon the labor of ethnic minorities that they were built to exclude.

Monday

Readings:

Sovereignty Without Territoriality: Notes for a Postnational Geography

Chapters 1, 2, and 3 from *The Modernist City*

Chapters 1 and 3 from *Expectations of Modernity: Myths and Meanings of Urban Life on the Zambian Copperbelt*

Wednesday

Readings:

A feverish dream of the future springs from the sands in Dubai.

Chapter 2 from *Kaleidoscope Odessa*

The Geography of Emptiness

“Reconciling Engagement and Belonging: Some Matters of History” from *For the City Yet to Come*

Week 4: Slums, Ghettos, Favelas, and Shantytowns: Class Dynamics, Crime, and Urban Violence

(Brazil)

We will explore how concepts of environmental racism, “ethnic enclaves,” and racial profiling are built into the urban infrastructure.

Monday

Readings:

Chapter 2 from *Formations of Violence*

Parts 1 and 2 from *City of Walls*

Catching Hell in the City of Angels

Watch João Weiner’s documentary *Pixo*

Wednesday

Readings:

In search of Respect (entire)

Non-places (entire)

Watch *The Lost Tribes of New York City*

Week 5: The Right to the City; Gentrification; Homelessness; Intersections of racism, and capitalism;

(The USA)

We will look at how communities and individuals conceived of in marginalized racial or ethnic terms are rendered vulnerable to the forces of development.

Monday

Readings:

City on the Edge: The Transformation of Miami (entire)

Justice/Just Us: Rap and Social Justice in America.

Wednesday

City of Green Benches (entire)

Looking to Get Paid: How Some Black Youth Put Culture to Work.

Urban Marginality and Ethnographic Practice: On the Ethics of Fieldwork

Augé, Marc

2009. *Non-Places: An Introduction to Supermodernity*. New York: Verso.

Augoyard, Jean François

2007 *Step by step : everyday walks in a French urban housing project*.

Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press.

Berman, Marshall. 1997. Justice/Just Us: Rap and Social Justice in America. In *The Urbanization of Injustice* (A. Merrifield and E. Swyngedouw, eds.): 161-79.

Bourgeois, Phillipe. 2002. In Search of Respect: Selling Crack in El Barrio. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Caldeira, Teresa. 2000. *City of walls : Crime, Segregation, and Citizenship in São Paulo*. Berkeley: University of California Press.

Calvino, Italo. 1978. *Invisible Cities*. New York: Harcourt Brace Jovanovich

De Certeau, Michel. 1984. *The Practice of Everyday Life*. Berkeley: University of California Press

Feldman, Allen 1991. *Formations of Violence : the Narrative of the Body and Political Terror in Northern Ireland*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

Ferguson, James. 1999. *Expectations of Modernity: Myths and Meanings of Urban Life on the Zambian Copperbelt*. Berkeley: University of California Press.

Freeman, Richard. 2001. The City as *Misè-en-scène*: A Visual Exploration of the Culture of the Politics in Buenos Aires. *Visual Anthropology Review*, 17 (1): 36-59.

Gounis, Kostas. 1966. Urban Marginality and Ethnographic Practice: On the Ethics of Fieldwork. *City & Society, Annual Review, 1996*: 108-18.

Holston, James. 1989. *The Modernist City : an Anthropological Critique of Brasília*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

Kandell, Jonathan. 1996. Mexico's Megalopolis. In *I Saw a City Invincible. Urban Portraits of Latin America* (G.M. Joseph and M.D.Szuchman, eds.): 181-201.

Kelley, Robin. 1997. Looking to Get Paid: How Some Black Youth Put Culture to Work. From *Yo Mamas Disfunktional: Fighting the Culture Wars in Urban America*, by Robin Kelley: 43-77. Beacon Press, Boston.

McDonogh, Gary W. 1993. The Geography of Emptiness. In *The Cultural Meaning of Urban Space* (R. Rotenberg and G.M. McDonogh, eds.): 3- 15.

- Molavi, Ashfin. 2007. Sudden City. A feverish dream of the future springs from the sands in Dubai. *National Geographic*, 211 (1; January): 94-113.
- Portes, Alejandro, and Alex Stepick. 1993. *City on the Edge: The Transformation of Miami*. University of California Press, Berkeley
- Rabinow, Paul. 1995. *French Modern: Norms and Forms of the Social Environment*. Chicago: Chicago University Press.
- Rama, Angel, and John Charles Chasteen
1996 *The Lettered City*. Durham, NC: Duke University Press.
- Sanjek Roger 1990. Urban Anthropology in the 1980s: A World View. *Annual Review of Anthropology*. 19:151-86
- Stevens, Quentin. 2007. *The Ludic city : exploring the potential of public spaces*. New York, NY: Routledge.
- Ross, Kristin 1988. *The emergence of social space : Rimbaud and the Paris Commune*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press.
- Silverstein, Paul A., 1970- *Sporting Faith: Islam, Soccer, and the French Nation-State* *Social Text* - 65 (Volume 18, Number 4), Winter 2000, pp. 25-53
- Simone, AbdouMaliq. 2004. *For the City Yet to Come: Changing African Life in Four Cities*. Durham: Duke University Press
- Vesperi, Maria. 1986. *City of Green Benches*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press
- Weber, Max. 1921. *The Nature of the City*. From *The City*, by M. Weber.