

Professor: Christien Philmarc Tompkins, christien.tompkins@rutgers.edu

Fall 2019: Wednesdays 2:15-5:15 PM, HCK 132

Office Hours: Tues 11:00-2:00, by appointment

01:070:306 – Space, Place, and Practice

“My field site is as much Harlemworld as Harlem because every single engagement with the place entails recognitions that stretch beyond its strict geographical boundaries.”

- John L. Jackson Jr.

Harlemworld: Doing Race and Class in Contemporary Black America

Course Description and Goals

The cities, homes, schools, and communities we live, play, and work in are more than inert backdrops for human activity—they are material manifestations of aspiration and cultural values that in turn shape the imagination and capacities of the people that inhabit and traverse them. This course will explore foundational theories of space and place in anthropology as well as ethnographic case studies of the intersections of cities, gentrification, race, class, gender, immigration, and the environment. Perfect for majors and students interested in urban studies.

This course puts ethnographic, philosophical, and historical readings on space and place in conversation in order to provide a basis for understanding how and when human beings, societies, nature, and social spaces are *co-produced*. The course opens with an exploration of fundamental concepts in the anthropology of space before moving into specific interrogations of concepts like nature, cities, race, gender, and security.

Course Website

A Canvas website (<https://tlt.rutgers.edu/canvas>) accompanies this course; there you will find announcements and discussion boards. If you have trouble accessing the site, please email your professor.

All students are responsible for timely attention to email and Canvas postings for this course and therefore should check the Canvas site and their Rutgers email accounts regularly. Dates and assignments may change; all changes will be announced in class or posted on Canvas or both.

Reporting absences online

If you miss a class, within 24 hours, you are required to submit a form noting the date of the absence and explaining the reason, using the University absence reporting website <https://sims.rutgers.edu/ssra/>. An email is automatically sent to the professor and TA.

[Please use the Rutgers absence report online system rather than emailing the professor or TAs directly about absences.]

**If you miss more than two classes, you are required to see a Dean of Students for assistance in verifying any special circumstances, and to submit documentation of those unusual circumstances to the professor and your TA. The only excused absences are for unusual circumstances—such as medical reasons or a death in the family—and these circumstances must be documented by a physician and/or academic Dean.

Religious holidays

Please notify the professor during the first two weeks of the semester if you will observe a religious holiday that will prevent you from attending a meeting. You may arrange to make up the work missed only if you notify the professor during the first two weeks of the semester about any expected absence due to a religious holiday.

Lateness

Please come to class on time; it is very distracting to your professor and classmates when students arrive late to class. Students arriving late will have to wait in the hall until an instructor admits them to the classroom, usually about 15 minutes after the start of class.

Do not open the door if it is closed. Students who arrive more than 15 minutes late will not be admitted to class. Arriving more than 15 minutes late counts as an unexcused absence.

E-mail communication with TA and professor

In the subject line of your email message, begin with "Space/Place"—e.g., a subject line might read: " Space/Place /reading question" or " Space/Place /exam question." (Specifying " Space/Place " in your email subject line will help to ensure timely responses.)

Course Requirements and Grading

Attendance and Participation (15%): Fifteen percent of your grade will reflect overall class attendance and participation in class discussion. These points will be based on attendance, involvement in class by raising questions and issues, listening and responding respectfully to others, and participating in group work. Excellent class attendance and participation means not missing class without notice, being on time and staying for the full time, and being actively engaged in the class. Laptops and tablets will be allowed in class for learning. However, if you are found to be using these devices for other purposes or if you use a phone in class, you may be asked to leave the class. **Audio and video recording of discussions are not allowed.**

To be prepared for the class you should do the assigned reading and assignments prior to the class, understand the major themes in the reading and/or ask questions related to your lack of understanding, as well as raise questions and issues for discussion.

Spatial Analysis and Mapping Papers (55%):

You will be tasked with writing two critical analysis papers throughout the semester. Each paper will be required to include analysis of both texts from the course and relevant media objects not assigned on the syllabus. This will be explained in further detail when the topics are given out.

You will write a 5-page (Times New Roman, 12pt.) analysis and mapping paper on a topic that I will assign on the following date:

Paper 1: Assigned Week 5, Due Week 7

This paper will count for 20% of your overall grade.

You will write a longer, 10-page (Times New Roman, 12pt.) analysis and mapping paper during the final weeks of class.

Paper 2: Assigned Week 10, due Finals Week

This paper will count for 35% of your overall grade.

Annotated Questions (15%)

Rather than weekly individual discussion board posts, students will write three annotated questions about the upcoming class readings. Questions can be about concepts or vocabulary that you don't understand, or topics you would like to explore further in class discussion. By annotated, I mean that each question should refer to a specific passage or set of passages and that you should explain your interest in the question in two or more sentences.

These questions are due by midnight the evening before class (Tuesday nights).

These questions will count for 15% of your grade. You will receive one point for each question per class. You will only fail to receive points if you do not post the required number of responses, or if a response is clearly not based on a deep engagement with the reading.

Class facilitation (15%)

You will each be responsible for facilitating (perhaps with a partner, depending on course enrollment) an in-depth discussion of the readings for one class. You will have ten minutes to present key ideas and tensions from the readings. You will then be responsible for facilitating the next twenty minutes of class discussion with questions based on the reading. Presentations are to be analytical, not summarizations, and your ability to guide and respond to classmates will count equal to your presentation. You are required to bring a one-page handout of key points and quotations to give to classmates.

Your Discussion Question and Facilitation assignment will be worth 15% of your grade. Points will be based on your preparation, relevant examples, and classroom presentation.

Accessibility Services

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>.

Course Materials

All readings will consist of selections posted on the Canvas website or will be available as an e-book on the library website, except those marked with a star, which you will need to purchase.

Course Schedule

Introductions

Week 1: September 4, 2019 (in class reading)

*Low, Setha. (2016) *Spatializing Culture: The Ethnography of Space and Place* – Chapter 1

Week 2: September 11, 2019

*Low, Setha. (2016) *Spatializing Culture: The Ethnography of Space and Place* – Chapters 2-5

Nature

Week 3: September 18, 2019

De León, Jason (2015): *The Land of Open Graves: Living and Dying on the Migrant Trail*

Week 4: September 25, 2019

Moore, Donald, Jake Kosek, and Anand Pandian (2003): "The Cultural Politics of Race and Nature" In *Race, Nature, and the Politics of Difference*, pp. 1-70.

Cities

Week 5: October 2, 2019

Williams, Raymond (1973): *The Country and the City*

Harvey, David (2012): *Rebel Cities: from the Right to the City to the Urban Revolution*

Week 6: October 9, 2019

John L. Jackson (2000): *Harlemworld: Doing Race and Class in Contemporary Black America*

Race, Nations, and Nationalism

Week 7: October 16, 2019

De Genova, Nicholas (2005): *Working the Boundaries: Race, Space, and "Illegality" in Mexican Chicago*

Ramos-Zayas, Ana Y. (2003): *National Performances: The Politics of Class, Race, and Space in Puerto Rican Chicago*

Countering Pathologies

Week 8: October 23, 2019

*Laurence Ralph (2014): *Renegade Dreams: Living Through Injury in Gangland Chicago*

Consumerism and Conjunction

Week 9: October 30, 2019

BBC Documentary – “Los Angeles – City of the Future?” (in class)

Soja, Ed (1986): “Taking Los Angeles Apart: Towards a Postmodern Geography”

Davis, Mike (1990): *City of Quartz: Excavating the Future in Los Angeles*

Davis, Mike: “Let Malibu Burn” (1998) and “A Tale of Two Wildfires” (2018)

Gender in and of Space

Week 10: November 6, 2019 (Online – Out of Town)

Keisha Khan-Perry (2013): *Black Women Against the Land Grab: The Fight for Racial Justice in Brazil*

Week 11: November 13, 2019

*Aimee Meredith Cox (2015): *Shapeshifters: Black Girls and the Choreography of Citizenship*

Prisons, Security, and Carcerality

Week 12: November 20, 2019

Foucault, Michel (1975): *Discipline & Punish*

Gilmore, Ruthie (2007): *Golden Gulag: Prisons, Surplus, Crisis, and Opposition in Globalizing California*

Week 13: December 4, 2019

Setha Low (2003): *Behind the Gates: Life, Security, and the Pursuit of Happiness in Fortress America*

Black Geographies

Week 14: December 11, 2019

McKittrick, Katherine (2006): *Demonic Grounds: Black Women and the Cartographies of Struggle*

McKittrick, Katherine and Clyde Woods (2007): *Black Geographies and the Politics of Place*