Syllabus

READING THE COLONIAL AND POST COLONIAL CITY - 54302

Last update 23-09-2013

HU Credits: 2

Degree/Cycle: 2nd degree (Master)

Responsible Department: Cultural Studies

Academic year: 1

Semester: 2nd Semester

Teaching Languages: English

Campus: Mt. Scopus

Course/Module Coordinator: Louise Bethlehem

Coordinator Email: louise.bethlehem@mail.huji.ac.il

Coordinator Office Hours: Wed. 11-12:00

Teaching Staff:
Dr. Louise Bethlehem
Course/Module description:
Living in cities is an integral part of the experience of modernity. This course investigates the cultural and spatial practices that characterize the everyday life of the colonial and post-colonial city. How are power, urbanity and resistance correlated in colonial contexts? How do practices of domination and social engineering impact on cities? How is the post-colonial city haunted by the power relations that accompanied its emergence? How can we chart practices of ruination or read the traces of spectrality at street level? What is the shape of the city to come in AbdouMaliq Simone’s phrase? Our readings will proceed through the examination of rich case studies: apartheid-era and present-day Johannesburg, Tel-Aviv-Jaffa (Salame, Manshiya), and present-day Lagos, among others. We will draw on different theoretical traditions, ranging from critical geography (David Harvey, Henri Lefebvre), theories of everyday life (Michel de Certeau), spatial history (Paul Carter), postcolonial urbanity (Arjun Appadurai, Achille Mbembe, AbdouMaliq Simone) and ruination (Anne Laura Stoler) and will investigate different representations of urbanity in literature, photography, popular culture and cinema.

Course/Module aims:
To develop competence in postcolonial theory.
To ally postcolonial theory to urban studies.
To have a basic grasp of spatial history.

Learning outcomes - On successful completion of this module, students should be able to:
Identify spatial dynamics at work in the case-study: Johannesburg.
Generalize beyond the case study to other contexts.
Be able to deploy the theoretical construct of "citiness"

Attendance requirements(%):
100

Teaching arrangement and method of instruction: Lesson and seminar

Course/Module Content:
Introduction
Brenda Evans [Demolition]
(Text will be distributed in class)

www.diepsloot.com
2. Theoretical Preamble
Appadurai, Arjun 2013
Fanon, Franz 1963 Extract from The Wretched of the Earth (New York: Grove Books)
Bloom, Kevin 2009 Extract from Ways of Staying (Johannesburg: Picador Africa)

Optional readings
Harber, Anton 2011 By the Side of the Road, a Place of Fear, Diepsloot, 1-6 (Johannesburg and Cape Town: Jonathan Ball Publishers).
Martin Murray 2011 Making Space in City of Extremes: The Spatial Politics of Johannesburg (Jhb: Wits UP)

3. Deep History
William Kentridge 1991 Mine
http://vimeo.com/16257236

Sachs, Bernard

4. Migration: Jim Comes to Jo’burg
Paton, Alan

Screening outside of class hours

5. Ruination:
Sophiatown 1

Extracts from the writings of Can Themba, Bloke Modisane, Casey Motsisi, Anthony Sampson on Moodle site.
Casey Motsisi Kid Playboy
Can Themba The Suit

Spatial (In)justic
Sophiatown 2

Stoler, Ann Laura 2008 Imperial Debris: Reflections on Ruins and Ruination, Cultural Anthropology 23 (2) 191-219
Lefebvre, Henry The Right to the City, extracts.
Can Themba Requiem for Sophiatown
Anthony Sampson We Won’t Move

7.
Swenkas, Savateurs, Loxion Kulcha: Consuming the City
Screening Extracts from Jeppe Ronde [The Swenkas]
http://www.imdb.com/title/tt0457499/

De Certeau, Michel 1984. Walking in the City, in The Practice of Everyday Life,
Nuttall, Sarah 2004 Stylizing the Self: The Y Generation in Rosebank,

Optional Readings
Simone, AbdouMaliq 2004 The Spectral, For the City Yet to Come: Changing
Malaquais, Dominique 2006 Quelle Liberte: Art, Beauty and the Grammars of
Resistance in Douala, in Beautiful Ugly: African and Diaspora Aesthetics, edited by

8. Haunts of Noir

Beukes, Lauren 2010 Zoo City (Johannesburg: Jacana Media).
Bloom, Kevin 2009 Ways of Leaving, Extract from Ways of Staying (Johannesburg:
Picador Africa)
Murray, Martin J. 2011 Worlds Apart: The Johannesburg Inner City and the Making
of the Outcast Ghetto in City of Extremes: The Spatial Politics of Johannesburg,
Marx, Lesley 2000 Black and Blue in the City of Gold, in Senses of Culture: South
(Oxford: Oxford University Press).
Fu, Albert and Martin J. Murray 2007 Cinema and the Edgy City: Johannesburg,
Van Onselen, Charles 1982 Randlords and Rotgut, 1886-1903, Studies in the
Social and Economic History of the Witwatersrand 1886-1914, 44-102
(Johannesburg: Ravan Press).

9. Invisible City

Harber, Anton
2011 The Closer the Blacks Get, the Greener the Whites Get Diepsloot, 7-20
(Johannesburg and Cape Town: Jonathan Ball Publishers).
Murray, Martin J.
2008 Introduction: The Untamed City of Fragments, in Taming the Disorderly City:
The Spatial Landscape of Johannesburg after Apartheid , 1-14 (Ithaca: Cornell
University Press).


Life and Death in Diepsloot, NYTimes Magazine

World Charter on the Right to the City
http://www.urbanreinventors.net/3/wsf.pdf

Durban Militant Shack Dwellers Movement: Abahlali baseMjondolo
http://www.abahlali.org/node/16

10. Heterotopia

Foucault, Michel
“Of Other Spaces: Utopias and Heterotopias,”
פוצאול, Michaël
2010
הטרוטופיה (מהדורה מחודשת) תרגום מת忡ף ואחרית דבר: אריאלה אזולאי (תל אביב: רסלינג)

Screening Extracts Neil Blomkamp 2009 District 9
Moses, Michael Valdez; Graham, Lucy Valerie; Marx, John; Gaylard, Gerald; Goodman, Ralph and Helgesson, Stefan(2010) District 9: A Roundtable, Safundi, 11: 1, 155 – 175.
DOI: 10.1080/17533170903467604
Hotel Yeoville: A Participatory Public Art Project
http://www.hotelyeoville.co.za/

11. Jaffa: The architecture of destruction

Helman, Anat
Golan, Arnon
1998 Jewish Nationalism, European Colonialism and Modernity: The Origins of the

Monterescu, Daniel


Musi, Norma 2010 A Ruin in Manshiyeh (from M.A. thesis, online extract on Moodle).

12. Salame/Kfar Shalem: Taking Place

From: Noam Leshem 2010 Taking Place: Spatial History in Israel and the Case of Salama / Kefar Shalem, Unpublished Ph.D. thesis under the supervision of Dr. Anthony Julius and Dr. Louise Bethlehem (extracts).

13. Guest lecture

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The Science of No Fiction Symposium and Screening: Rem Koolhas 2006 Lagos Wide and Close

Required Reading:

Bibliography


Beukes, Lauren 2010 Zoo City (Johannesburg: Jacana Media).

Bloom, Kevin 2009 Extract from Ways of Staying (Johannesburg: Picador Africa)


Foucault, Michel
"Of Other Spaces: Utopias and Heterotopias."
פוקו, מישל
2010
הטרוטופיה (מהדורה מחודשת) ח淠נס מפרפתית וחברות דב: אירוטיקה איוונית (חל אבב: רסלינג)
Golan, Arnon
Harber, Anton 2011 "By the Side of the Road, a Place of Fear," Diepsloot, 1-6 (Johannesburg and Cape Town: Jonathan Ball Publishers).
Helman, Anat
Leshem, Noam 2010 Taking Place: Spatial History in Israel and the Case of Salama / Kefar Shalem, Unpublished Ph.D. thesis under the supervision of Dr. Anthony Julius and Dr. Louise Bethlehem (extracts).
Monterescu, Daniel
Musi, Norma 2010 "A Ruin in Manshiyeh" (from M.A. thesis, online extract on Moodle).


Stoler, Ann Laura 2008 “Imperial Debris: Reflections on Ruins and Ruination,” Cultural Anthropology 23 (2) 191-219

**Additional Reading Material:**
Students may include additional articles in consultation with the lecturer.

**Course/Module evaluation:**
End of year written/oral examination 0 %
Presentation 0 %
Participation in Tutorials 15 %
Project work 60 %
Assignments 25 %
Reports 0 %
Research project 0 %
Quizzes 0 %
Other 0 %

**Additional information:**
Class participation: 15%.

Interactive Bibliography: 25%. Each student will be required to summarize and provide commentary on one scholarly article of relevance to the course, beyond the compulsory bibliography provided by the lecturer. This exercise attempts to bring each student’s disciplinary background and individual interests into play, and to provide a comprehensive perspective on our topic. Summaries will be posted online in the course forum.
Final assignment: 60%. A 10-12 page essay (3000 – 3500 words) on a topic set in conjunction with Dr. Bethlehem. Topics must be finalized by week 8 of the semester.