

## **SPACE, PLACE, and POWER**

### **Course description**

Space has emerged as a key analytical category in the humanities and social sciences. Increasingly, social scientists are responding to the insistence, particularly by Marxist geographers, that we interrogate the spatialities of social life to reveal how space is produced by and structures relations of power. At the same time, phenomenologically inclined scholars argue that one must also investigate the role of the body and perception in experiencing and creating such spaces. This course proposes a merging of these two traditions and offers a foray into this fruitful engagement between social theory, geography, spatial theory, and anthropology. Through readings of ethnographic and historical monographs, and theoretical essays from the disciplines of geography and anthropology, we will examine the spatial production of nation-states, class, race, and gender and how this process has unfolded in varied political-economic, cultural and historical settings.

The course will run as a seminar and therefore will be fully based on discussion in the classroom. It is organized in two sections. In the first we will analyze the main theorists in the anthropology of space both in the political economic and in the phenomenological traditions and explore existing attempts to reconcile these lines of thought. In the second section, we will apply the insights of the previous section in order to explore how spatial analysis may help us in reconceiving major themes of social sciences such as nation-states, class, gender, and race. Each class will revolve around an ethnographic monograph, which everybody is expected to read, and a number of other articles which contextualize it or provide a counter-point to the author's approach. By the end of the course you will be expected to be fluent in diverse theories of space and be able to discuss and dissect what

an attention to space, and the relations of power inscribed in particular places, can contribute to anthropological theory.

### **Requirements**

Students will be evaluated on the basis of a final take-home exam. In this each student will be required to write a 5000-word essay. The assessed essay is intended to enable you to critically examine course material in greater depth, by putting readings across several weeks in dialogue. Candidates will be required to answer one of a choice of five questions. These questions will be distributed after the last week of class in Hilary Term. The final essay must be submitted by noon on the Tuesday of the fourth week of Trinity term in hard copy (3 copies) to the Examination Schools.

### **Expected class participation includes:**

- (1) Regular attendance and contribution to discussion.
- (2) A 2000-word response paper distributed after week 4 based on two questions that will be circulated at the end of class.
- (3) Weekly Response paper: In the first four weeks, each of the students will write a 500 words response paper to the readings assigned. The paper will be sent in 2 days before class.
- (4) Watching Movies at home: In the second four weeks, a movie—marked in the syllabus as M—will also be part of the discussion in class, as part of the mandatory material.
- (4) Leading discussion: Starting from Week Four, a group of students will open the discussion by presenting the weekly materials. You will be expected to speak for no more than 15 minutes during which you should offer critical assessment of the week's readings that link them to previous discussions and pose some open-ended questions to start off discussion in class. Please do not

spend time summarizing the readings. You are not obliged to restrict yourself to the readings indicated and in fact you are encouraged to draw on your general readings and to bring in material and case studies relevant to the topic, whatever its source. Please consult with the lecturer for advice on further readings beyond what is given here.

**Non-presenting students** must read the main ethnography of the week (marked in the syllabus as **E**) and the required readings, as these will be the bases for discussion in class. This is a seminar class so it will be essential to come prepared. They are also expected to come with a minimum of at least one question or issue per topic and ideally with a sketch of how they would try to answer the questions posed. Participation in discussion is essential!

## **PART I - SPACE: A POLITICAL-ECONOMIC AND PHENOMENOLOGICAL QUESTION**

### **January 19<sup>th</sup> - Week 1: Space as a Keyword**

#### **Required:**

Henri Lefebvre, The Production of Space, *Anthropos*, 1974, pp.1-67

Martin Heidegger, Building Dwelling Thinking, *Basic Writings*, 1993, pp. 343-364

David Harvey, Space as a Key Word, in *Spaces of Global Capitalism*, Verso, 2006, pp. 119-148

Michel Foucault, Questions on Geography, in Colin Gordon, ed. *Power/Knowledge: Selected Interviews and Other Writings*, 1972–1977, Pantheon, 1980, pp. 63–77

#### **Optional:**

Massey, Doreen, *For Space*, University of Minnesota Press, 2005, pp. 1-30

Setha M. Low & Denise Lawrence, Locating Culture, in *The Anthropology of Space and Place: Locating Culture*, Blackwell, pp.1-48

Edward Soja, *Postmodern Geographies: the Reassertion of Space in Critical Social Theory*, Verso, 1989, Chapter 1

Akhil Gupta, The Song of the Nonaligned World: Transnational Identities and the Reinscription of Space in Late Capitalism, *Cultural Anthropology*, 1992, 7(1): 63-79

Kathleen Stewart, The Space of Culture, in *A Space on the Side of the Road: Cultural Poetics in an "Other" America*, Princeton University Press, 1996, pp. 13-40

Denise Lawrence & Setha Low, The Built Environment and Spatial Form, *Annual Review Anthropology*, 19: 453-505

### **January 26<sup>th</sup> - Week 2: Political-Economic Readings**

#### **Required:**

**(E)** Gordon Mathews, *Ghetto at the Center of the World*, Part 1, 2, 3

John Bird, Barry Curtis, Tim Putnam, Lisa Tickner, *Mapping the Futures: Local Cultures, Global Change*, Routledge, 1993, Chapter 1 & 6

Phil Hubbard & Rob Kitchin, *Key Thinkers in Space and Place*, Sage, 2011, David Harvey & Neil Smith

**Optional:**

Erik Harms, *Saigon's Edge: On the Margins of Ho Chi Minh City*, University of Minnesota Press, 2011, Introduction, Chapters 2, 6, and Conclusions

David Harvey, *Spaces of global capitalism : towards a theory of uneven geographical development*, Verso, 2006, Chapter 3

Ajantha Subramanian, *Shorelines: Space and Rights in South India*, 2009, Stanford University Press, Introduction, Chapter 1, 3, 6

John Bird, Barry Curtis, Tim Putnam, Lisa Tickner, *Mapping the Futures: Local Cultures, Global Change*, Routledge, 1993, Chapter 4

Erik Harms, Material Symbolism of Saigon's Edge: The Political-Economic and Symbolic Transformation of HỒ Chí Minh City's Periurban Zones, *Pacific Affairs*, 2011, 84(3): 455-473

**February 2<sup>nd</sup> - Week 3: Phenomenological Understandings**

**Required:**

Wolfgang Schivelbusch, *The Railway Journeys*, University of California Press, 1986. Chapter 3 & 4

Michel de Certeau, Walking in the City, in *The Practice of Everyday Life*, University of California Press, 1984, pp. 91-110

**(E)** Keith Basso, *Wisdom Sits in Place*, UNM Press, 1996, Chapter 1 & 4

Phil Hubbard & Rob Kitchin, *Key Thinkers in Space and Place*, Sage, 2011, Michel De Certeau & Yi-Fu Tuan

**Optional:**

Setha Low, Embodied Space(s): Anthropological Theories of Body, Space, and Culture, *Space and Culture*, 2003, 6(1): 9-18

Catherine Fennell, 'Project Heat' and Sensory Politics in Redeveloping Chicago Public Housing, *Ethnography*, 2011, 12(1): 40-64

Margaret Rodman, Empowering place: multilocality and multivocality, *American Anthropologist*, 1992, 94(3): 640-656

M. Richardson, Being-in-the-plaza versus being-in-the-market: Material culture and the construction of social reality, *American Ethnologist*, 1982, 9(1): 421-436

Tim Ingold, *Perception of the Environment: Livelihood, Dwelling, and Skill*, Routledge, 2000, Chapters 10-13

Yi-Fu Tuan, *Space and Place: the perspective of experience*, University of Minnesota Press, 1977, pp. 3- 18, 67-85, 101-118

### **February 9<sup>th</sup> - Week 4: Reconciling the two approaches**

#### **Required:**

Henry Lefebvre, *Critique of everyday life*, Verso, 2008, Volume I, Foreword

Fanon, Frantz, *A dying colonialism*. Grow Press, 1963, pp.35-67

**(E)** Claudio Sopranzetti, The Owners of the Map: Motorcycle Taxi, Mobility, and Politics in Bangkok, Harvard University, 2013, Chapters 1, 2, 3, 6, conclusion

Phil Hubbard & Rob Kitchin, *Key Thinkers in Space and Place*, Sage, 2011, Henry Lefebvre

#### **Optional:**

Friedrich Engels, The Condition of the Working Class in England, Penguin, 2009, pp.127-159

## **PART II -THROUGH THE LENS OF SPACE**

### **February 16<sup>th</sup> - Week 5: Spatializing the Nation-State**

#### **Required:**

Philip Abrams, Notes on the Difficulty of Studying the State, *Journal of Historical Sociology*, 1988, 1(1):58-89

Timothy Mitchell, The Limits of the State: Beyond Statist Approaches and Their Critics, *The American Political Science Review*, 1991, 85 (1): 77-96

Michel Foucault, *Security, territory, population : lectures at the Collège de France, 1977-78* , Basingstoke, 2007, Chapter 1

Franz Fanon, *Wretched of the Earth*, Selection

Akhil Gupta, James Ferguson, Spatializing states: toward an ethnography of neoliberal governmentality, *American Ethnologist*, 2002, 29(4): 981-1002

**(E)** Thongchai, Winichakul, *Siam mapped : a history of the geo-body of a nation*. Honolulu: University of Hawaii Press. 1994, Intro, pp.113-172

**(M)** Emanuele Crialesi, *Terraferma*

**Optional:**

Lisa Malkii, National Geographic: the rooting of peoples and the territorialization of national identity among scholars and refugees, *Cultural Anthropology*, 1992, 7(1): 24-44

Ana Maria Alonso, The Politics of Space, Time and Substance: State Formation, Nationalism, and Ethnicity, *Annual Review of Anthropology*, 1994, 23: 379-405

Timothy Mitchell, *Colonizing Egypt*, University of California Press, 1988, pp. 1- 95

Akhil Gupta & James Ferguson, *Culture, Power, Place: Explorations in Critical Anthropology*, Duke University Press, 1997, pp.1-33

Neil Brenner, Beyond state-centrism? Space, territoriality, and geographical scale in globalization studies, *Theory and Society*, 1999, 28 (1): 39-78

Scott, James, *Seeing Like a State*, Yale University Press, 1998, Chapter 2

Scott, James, *The Art of Not Being Governed*, Yale University Press, 2009, Chapter 6

Deleuze, Gilles, Félix Guattari, *A thousand plateaus*, Athlone Press, 1988, Chapter 12

David Atkinson, Nomadic strategies and colonial governance: domination and resistance in Cyrenaica, 1923-1932, in *Entanglements of power: geographies of domination/ resistance*, Routledge, 2000, pp.93-122

**February 23<sup>rd</sup> - Week 6: Spatial Analysis of Class**

**Required:**

Bourdieu Pierre, *Distinction*, pp.97-114 & 169-208

J.K. Gibson-Graham, “Strategies” in *The End of Capitalism (as we knew it): A Feminist Critique of Political Economy*, Blackwell, 1996, pp. 1-23

(E) Teresa Caldeira, *City of Walls*, California University Press, 2001, Intro and Part III

(M) Gabriel Mascaro, *Hi-Rise – Um Lugar Ao Sol*

Daniel Miller, Making Love in Supermarkets, in *The Cultural Economy Reader*, Blackwell, 2004, pp. 251-265

Phil Hubbard & Rob Kitchin, *Key Thinkers in Space and Place*, Sage, 2011, JK Gibson Graham & Pierre Bourdieu

### Optional:

Andrew Leyshon, et al., Towards an Ecology of Retail Financial Services: Understanding the Persistence of Door-to-door Credit and Insurance Providers, *Environment and Planning A*, 2004, 36 (4): 625-645

David Harvey, The Spatial Fix, in *Spaces of Capital: Towards a Critical Geography*, Routledge, 2001, pp. 284-312

Setha Low, The edge and the center: gated communities and the discourse of urban fear, *American Anthropologist*, 2001, 103 (1): 45-58

Setha Low, Claiming Space for an Engaged Anthropology: Spatial Inequality and Social Exclusion, *American Anthropologist*, 2011, 113(3): 389-407

Melissa Wright, Asian spies, American Motors, and Speculations on the Space-time of Value, *Environment and Planning A*, 2001, 33(12): 2175-2188

Jane Pollard and Michael Samers, Islamic Banking and Finance: Postcolonial Political Economy and the Decentering of Economic Geography, *Transactions of the Institute of British Geographers*, 32: 313-330

## **March 2<sup>nd</sup> - Week 7: Spatial Analysis of Gender**

### Required:

Judith Butler, Bodily Inscriptions, Performative Subversion and Conclusion: From Parody to Politics in *Gender Trouble: Feminism and the Subversion of Identity*, Routledge, 1999, pp. 163-190

(E) Samuel Delaney, *Times Square Red, Times Square Blue*

(M) Pavel Kostomarov and Antoin Kattin, *There are Women in Russian Villages*

Rose, Gillian, Looking at Landscape: The Uneasy Pleasures of Power in *Feminism and Geography: the limits of geographical knowledge*, University of Minnesota Press, 1993, pp. 86-112



Farha Ghannam, Mobility, Liminality, and Embodiment in urban Egypt, *American Ethnologist*, 2011 38 (4): 790-800

Phil Hubbard & Rob Kitchin, *Key Thinkers in Space and Place*, Sage, 2011, Gillian Rose, Judith Butler

**Optional:**

Philippe Bourgois, *In Search of Respect: Selling Crack in El Barrio*, University of Cambridge Press, 2003, Chapter 6 & 8

George Chauncey, *Gay New York: Gender, Urban Culture, and the Making of the Gay Male World 1890-1940*, Basic Books, 1994, Chapter 1, 2, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9

Chandra Talpade Mohanty, Under Western Eyes: Feminist Scholarship and Colonial Discourses, in *Dangerous Liaisons: Gender, Nation & Postcolonial Perspectives*. University of Minnesota Press, 1997, pp. 255-277

Gill Valentine, (Hetero)Sexing Space: Lesbian Perceptions and Experiences of Everyday Spaces, in *Space, Gender, Knowledge: Feminist Readings*, Arnold, 1997, pp. 284-300

Linda McDowell, Men, Management and Multiple Masculinities in Organisations, *Geoforum*. 32.2 (2001): 181-198

**March 9<sup>th</sup> - Week 8: Spatial analysis of Race**

**Required:**

Peter Jackson, *Race and Racism: Essays in Social Geography*, Allen & Unwin, 1987, pp.1-20

Philippe Bourgois, *In Search of Respect: Selling Crack in El Barrio*, University of Cambridge Press, 2003, Chapter 1 & 4

Randol Contreras, *The Stickup Kids*

**(E)** Michelle Alexander, *The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness*, The New Press, 2012, intro, Chapters 1, 2, 4, 5

**(M)** Spike Lee, *Do the Right Thing*

Phil Hubbard & Rob Kitchin, *Key Thinkers in Space and Place*, Sage, 2011, Peter Jackson

**Optional:**

Maggie Dickinson, The Making of Space, Race and Place New York City's War on Graffiti, 1970-the Present, *Critique of Anthropology*, 2008, 28(1): 27-45

Paul Stoller, Money Has No Smell: The Africanization of New York City, University of Chicago Press, 2002, pp. 1-64 & 121-183

Steven Gregory, Black Corona: Race and Politics of Space in a Urban Community in *The Anthropology of Space and Place: Locating Culture*, Blackwell, 2005, pp.284-298

Jane H. Hill, Language, Race, and White Public Space, *American Anthropologist*, 1998, 100(3): 680–689

Kamala Visweswaran, Race and the Culture of Anthropology, *American Anthropologist*, 1998, 100(1): 70–83

Matthew Durlington, Race, space and place in suburban Durban: an ethnographic assessment of gated community environments and residents, *GeoJournal*, 2006, 66 (1-2): 147-160

Isar Godreau, Changing Space, Making Race: Distance, Nostalgia, and the Folklorization of Blackness in Puerto Rico, *Identities: Global Studies in Culture and Power*, 2002, 9(3): 281-304