

Boroughs & Barrios: Moving in and through New York City and Los Angeles, COM LIT W60AC, 2018*

Four (4) semester credits

Course Description

Physically, New York and Los Angeles spread across the map and encompass multiple neighborhoods and communities, seemingly facilitating our ability to access, explore, and find new connections. Socially and economically, both cities have been figured as distinctly “American” dreamscapes—places of refuge and freedom, success, and self-invention—that hinge on the promise that the American city works like an open circuit, enabling unrestricted movement and mobility to and for everyone who visits or decides to make it home.

But who comes to the American city, and why? How do visitors, residents, and migrants negotiate and move through “The Big Apple” and “The City of Angels,” reimagining urban life in the process? With these questions in mind, we will spend the summer tracing the crises of im/mobility that mark the histories of these two U.S. urban centers.

Prerequisites

There are no prior course requirements.

Instructor Information, Contact, Office Hours, and Communication

Course Instructor

Karina Palau

Graduate Student Instructors (GSIs)

While the instructor will interact with the whole class and will oversee all activities and grading, as well as being available to resolve any issues that may arise, the GSIs will be your main point of contact. Your GSIs are responsible for assisting you directly with your questions about assignments and course requirements, as outlined in the

Assignments and Calendar. The GSIs will also facilitate ongoing discussion and interaction with you on major topics in each module.

Topics to direct towards your GSI:

- Clarification questions about assignments and course requirements
- Questions specific to content/ideas that emerge in your section's discussion
- Concerns or compliments that arise from discussion-section activities

Topics to direct towards your course instructor:

- Clarification questions about overall course content
- Concerns or compliments that arise from the course overall
- Frustrations that emerge in interactions with your GSI that you cannot resolve directly

Office Hours

Using the Chat tool on bCourses, the course instructor and GSIs will each offer one virtual office hour per week. These chats are optional and cannot be used to compensate for lack of participation in other aspects of our course, but we encourage you to take advantage of the opportunity to interact with your instructors on a one-on-one basis. Use chats to answer questions, discuss your progress with writing assignments, discuss your ideas about our course materials, and prepare for the final exam.

Course Mail

Make sure to check the Course Mail for messages from the instructor. You can access course email within the Learning Management System by clicking on the Inbox link or choose to have your course mail forwarded to your personal email account or your cell phone.

Please save your substantive questions about assignments for office hours. If you email us, please recognize that we will do our best to respond to weekday emails within 24 hours. If you send an email over the weekend, we will reply on Monday.

Question & Answer Forum

If you have general questions about course material, assignments, concepts, or the Canvas system, please post these to the Q&A Forum. The instructors will monitor this forum, but please feel free to post your answers to help your classmates.

Course Materials and Technical Requirements

Required Readings

Passing, Nella Larson

Open City, Teju Cole

Tropic of Orange, Karen Tei Yamashita

These three books are widely available and may be purchased used and/or online. All other readings and materials for this course are listed in the Schedule of Readings and Materials at the end of this syllabus and will be available through our bCourses site.

You are free to purchase your textbooks from any vendor. Please be sure to thoroughly review the return policies before making a purchasing decision as UC Berkeley does not reimburse students for course materials in the event of a textbook change or an unexpected cancellation or rescheduled course section.

Technical Requirements

This course is built on a Learning Management system (LMS) called Canvas and you will need to meet these [computer specifications to participate within this online platform](#).

Optional

Canvas allows you to record audio or video files of yourself and upload them in the course. Although doing so is not required for any of the activities, using these features will enhance your engagement in the course. If you would like to use these features, you will need to have a webcam and a microphone installed on your computer.

Technical Support

If you are having technical difficulties please alert one of the GSIs immediately. However, understand that neither the GSIs, nor the professor can assist you with technical problems. You must call or email tech support and make sure you resolve any issues immediately.

In your course, click on the "Help" button on the bottom left of the global navigation menu. Be sure to document (save emails and transaction numbers) for all interactions with tech support.

Extensions and late submissions will not be accepted due to "technical difficulties."

Learning Activities

VERY IMPORTANT

You won't be able to access your course material until you read and make your pledge to Academic Integrity in the online classroom.

You are expected to fully participate in all the course activities described here.

1. Read the assigned textbook pages
2. Watch and listen to the lecture presentations
3. Read web-based announcements and postings assigned during the course
4. Compose and post assigned responses to lectures and readings
5. Complete the final exam
6. Complete writing assignments

Sections

Each student in our class has been assigned to one GSI and course section. Your GSI will grade all your work and engage in your section's weekly discussion forums. You can find your GSI by exploring the "Section" column within the "People" page or by examining your discussion group's title, which includes your GSI's name.

Modules

Our course material has also been divided into a total of 8 modules, one for each week of our course. Each module is a grouping of topics related to a particular area of study, and it will typically combine readings, multimedia lectures that support your reading, discussion forums, reading quizzes, and various interactive assignments. At the beginning of each Module, you can find a list of the Learning Outcomes that we use to design the learning activities and help you reach these outcomes. For an at-a-glance view of due dates and projects, refer to the course Calendar.

Participation in Discussion Forums

20% of your course grade

Each module contains a group discussion in which we ask you to write reflectively and critically about the discussion topic. Your posts and responses are considered your class participation and represent a unique opportunity for you to exchange views with your classmates, share experiences and resources, and ensure your understanding of our course material.

For each module, you will be required to participate in two forms: 1) through answering at least one discussion question and 2) responding to at least two classmates' answers. Discussion questions will be posted for each module, and you will choose a minimum of one question to answer in a substantive post. (We recommend thinking of these posts as paragraph-length responses.) In addition to contributing your own post, you must respond to at least two other student's answers to the posted questions for each module. Your answers must engage your classmates' ideas and optimize the opportunity to exchange ideas and use online forums to dialogue about the materials and themes we have studied. Responses must be respectful in tone, even when you disagree, and avoid personal attacks and demeaning language.

Discussion groups have been pre-assigned and include other members of your section. When you navigate to a discussion forum, you will automatically be taken to your group's instance of that discussion and to your group's space within the course. When finished with the discussion, you will need to navigate from your group space back to the main course space in order to participate in other aspects of the course.

Weekly Reading Quizzes

10% of your course grade

Each module will contain a short quiz designed to test your reading comprehension of the texts assigned for that module. Questions will generally be multiple choice and graded automatically by the Canvas LMS. Refer to the calendar for all due dates. You may take the quiz only once and have a set period of time to complete each quiz. (See each quiz for details.)

Analytical Essay

25% of your course grade

Your analytical essay will be 4-6 pages and offer a thorough analysis of one or two of the materials that we have studied by that point in the semester. This is not a research assignment, and guidelines for the essay can be found on bCourses. During Modules 3-4, we will also work through a series of short, online writing assignments designed to help you plan and write your paper.

Creative Project

15% of your course grade

Students will complete an individual project of their own design that explores, expands upon, resonates with, or complicates the ideas we have encountered about the politics of space. You will be encouraged to produce an ethnography of a particular place, conduct interviews, study and interpret a recent event that has impacted you or your community's sense of space, or produce an art piece that converses with a set of materials we have studied. The piece you produce must be something that you can share via text, audio, and/or images or videos on bCourses.

In addition to sharing your Creative Project with the class, you will post your response to at least two classmates' projects on bCourses. These responses should engage the content and form of the piece and make connections between our course themes and the Creative Projects.

Final Proctored Exam

30% of your course grade

You will take a 90-minute, closed-book final exam on paper. The exam is cumulative and will contain essay and short answer questions. An example of the structure of the final exam is in the online course.

There will be no make-up exam. Students must take the final examination in person or arrange to have the examination proctored if they are unable to come to campus. Review the Proctor Information on the left navigation menu. Off-site proctor applications must be submitted prior to July 13th, 2018.

This year's final exam will be from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Thursday, August 9, 2018, on campus. *If you miss taking the final or try to take it in a manner for which you have not received permission, you will fail this class automatically.*

Reminder: Your Course End Date

Your course will end on August 10, 2018. As you work through the course, please keep the end date in mind, and if you want to save any commentary or assignments for future reference, please make sure to print or copy/paste those materials before your access ends.

Grading and Course Policies

Your final course grade will be calculated as follows:

Table 1: Final Grade Percentages

Category	Percentage of Grade
Participation in discussion forums	20%
Weekly reading quizzes	10%
Analytical essay	25%
Creative project	15%
Proctored final exam	30%

You must pass the final exam to pass the course.

It is important to note that not all components are graded online and included in the online course grade book. Because of this, the online course grade book will not display your overall course grade at any given time or your final grade. It should simply be used to assess your performance on the components that are included within it: the discussions, written assignments and midterm exam. Your final letter grade will be mailed to you by the registrar's office.

Late Work Policy

If you submit a late assignment, it will be graded, but the grade will be reduced for each calendar day or portion thereof that the assignment is late.

Course Policies

Promptness

Homework assignments and discussion forum postings all have specific final due dates and times. You will not receive full credit if assignments are submitted after the indicated due date.

Further, each online activity must be submitted through the course website by the due date. Fax or mail submission will not be accepted. Students who wait until the final hours prior to a submission deadline risk having problems with their ISP, hardware, software, or various other site access difficulties. Therefore, it is advisable to submit assignments and tests through the course website early. The multiple days allowed for submission are to accommodate the busy schedules of working professionals, not to accommodate procrastination. Students should plan accordingly and get into the habit of checking the course website several times each week, and submitting and posting early.

Honor Code

The student community at UC Berkeley has adopted the following Honor Code: "As a member of the UC Berkeley community, I act with honesty, integrity, and respect for others." The expectation is that you will adhere to this code.

Collaboration and Independence

Reviewing lecture and reading materials and studying for exams can be enjoyable and enriching things to do with fellow students. This is recommended. However, unless otherwise instructed, homework assignments and the online exam are to be completed independently and materials submitted as homework should be the result of one's own independent work.

Cheating

A good lifetime strategy is always to act in such a way that no one would ever imagine that you would even consider cheating. Anyone caught cheating on a quiz or exam in this course will receive a failing grade in the course and will also be reported to the University Center for Student Conduct. The expectation is that you will be honest in the taking of exams.

Plagiarism

All the assignments, comments, and discussion board contributions submitted under your name must represent your own work. Furthermore, all the work that you submit in this course must represent your own thinking and language. Copying text or ideas from another source without appropriate reference is plagiarism and will result in a failing grade for the course and a report filed with the University Center for Student Conduct. If you have questions about plagiarism and how to avoid it, please ask. For additional information on plagiarism and how to avoid it, explore the resources linked below:

[UC Berkeley Library Citation Page, Plagiarism Section](#)

[GSI Guide for Preventing Plagiarism](#)

As a tool to promote academic integrity in this course, Turnitin will be used to check essays for originality. Turnitin takes assignments submitted through bCourses and compares them to a database of books, journal articles, websites, and other student papers. This creates an opportunity for you to improve your academic writing skills by ensuring that your sources have been properly cited and attributed. Turnitin can also help you gauge how much of your essay represents your own thinking and language. Please note that a low "Similarity Index" score does not necessarily indicate that the essay in question is without academic integrity issues. For more information on Turnitin see:

[UC Berkeley Turnitin Page, Students Getting Started](#)

Academic Integrity and Ethics

Cheating on exams and plagiarism are two common examples of dishonest, unethical behavior. Honesty and integrity are of great importance in all facets of life. They help to build a sense of self-confidence, and are key to building trust within relationships, whether personal or professional. There is no tolerance for dishonesty in the academic world, for it undermines what we are dedicated to doing - furthering knowledge for the benefit of humanity.

Incomplete Course Grade

Students who have substantially completed the course but for serious extenuating circumstances, are unable to complete the final exam, may request an Incomplete grade. This request must be submitted in writing or by email to the GSI and course instructor. You must provide verifiable documentation for the seriousness of the extenuating circumstances. According to the policy of the college, Incomplete grades must be made up within the first three weeks of the next semester.

Students with Disabilities

Any students requiring course accommodations due to a physical, emotional, or learning disability must contact the [Disabled Students' Program \(DSP\)](#). They will review all requests on an individual basis.

- Request your Disabled Student Program Specialist to send the instructor a formal request before the official course start date by email.
- In addition, notify the instructor and your Online Learning Support Specialist, which accommodations you would like to use.
 - Your Online Learning Support Specialist is Tracie Allen and her email is summer_online_support@berkeley.edu

End of Course Evaluation

Before your course end date, please take a few minutes to participate in our Course Evaluation to share your opinions about this course. You will be receiving the Course Evaluation via email. The evaluation does not request any personal information, and your responses will remain

strictly confidential. You may only take the evaluation once. It will close at the end of day (midnight) August 9, 2018.

Schedule of Readings and Materials

Week 1: New York City as (Im)migrant Dreamscape

Readings

Selected poems including "The New Colossus," Emma Lazarus; "The Lower East Side of Manhattan," Victor Hernández Cruz; "The Sound of One Immigrant Clapping," Adrian Castro; "Mannahatta," Walt Whitman; and "The Buttonhook," Mary Jo Salter

Essays/Nineteenth-century articles "Impressions of America," and "The Brooklyn Bridge," José Martí

Short fiction by Anzia Yezierska from *How I Found America*

Audio and Visual Materials

Excerpts from *Mother Earth, Father Skyline*

Excerpts from *97 Orchard Street, New York: Stories of Immigrant Life*

Archival photographs of the Statue of Liberty construction process, the Brooklyn Bridge, Ellis Island

19th-century NYC transportation maps

Week 2: Migrations 'Great' and Small

(The Great Migration, Harlem Renaissance, and Nuyorican scene)

Readings

Selected Langston Hughes poems ("Let America Be America Again" and "Harlem")

Excerpts from *The Warmth of Other Suns: The Epic Story of America's Great Migration*, Isabel Wilkerson

Excerpts from *Empire of Dreams*, Giannina Braschi

Passing, Nella Larsen

Audio and Visual Materials

Performances by Louis Armstrong, Duke Ellington, Billie Holliday, Tito Puente, and Willie Colón

Audio readings of excerpts from Frederick Douglass's autobiography

Virtual "Walking Tour" of Langston Hughes' New York City

Selected Spanish Harlem murals

Week 3: Harlem as Place, Harlem as "No Where"

(Harlem and Nuyorican Renaissance)

Readings

"Harlem is No Where," and "New York, 1936," Ralph Ellison

"Prologue" to *Invisible Man*, Ralph Ellison

"Sonny's Blues," and essays by James Baldwin

Selected stories from *Mendoza's Dreams*, Edgardo Vega Yunque

Audio and Visual Materials

Photographs and photoessays by Gordon Parks

Selected Spanish Harlem murals

Week 4: Testing Mobility in the "Open" City?

Readings

Open City, Teju Cole

Excerpts from *The Practice of Everyday Life*, Michel de Certeau and Henri Lefebvre's *The Production of Space*

Audio and Visual Materials

Humans of New York photoblog

Week 5: Between Dreamscape and Dystopia: "The City of Angels" in (Im)migrant Narratives

Readings

If He Hollers Let Him Go, Chester Himes

"This Is What \$10,000 Did To Me," Anzia Yezierska

Selections from *Urban Exile* by H. Gamboa, Jr.

Audio and Visual Materials

The Exiles, Dir. Kent Mackenzie

Selected maps from Los Angeles in Maps, Glen Creason

Week 6: Race and Space in "The City of Angels"

(Contesting Space, the Battle for Chávez Ravine, and the 1992 Los Angeles 'Riots')

Readings

Chávez Ravine, Culture Clash

Selection from *City of Quartz*, Mike Davis

Twilight, Los Angeles, Anna Deavere Smith

Short fiction by Walter Mosley

Audio and Visual Materials

"The Division of the Barrios and Chávez Ravine" and L.A. 'Riots' sections from *Great Wall of Los Angeles*

Selected *Murales rebeldes*

Photographs and interviews by Don Normark (about the Chávez Ravine)

Week 7: City Space and Chicano Citizenship in the LA "Zoot Suit Riots"

Readings

Zoot Suit, Luis Valdez

Selected national newspaper articles covering the "Zoot Suit Riots"

"Blood on the Pavements," Casey Williams

Excerpts from *Women in the Zoot Suit*

Latino U.S.A. excerpts

LA Times comics by Lalo Alcaraz

Audio and Visual Materials

Zoot Suit, Dir. Luis Valdez

Archival photographs and letters

Week 8: Alternative Moves in and through Los Angeles

Readings

Poems by Verónica Reyes and Lorna Dee Cervantes

Excerpts from *Barrio-Logos: Space and Place in Urban Chicano Literature and Culture*, Raúl Homero Villa

Tropic of Orange, Karen Tei Yamashita

Audio and Visual Materials

Interview with Verónica Reyes

Music by La Santa Cecilia

Art by Frank Romero and "Los Four" collective

Archival photographs of Los Angeles freeways and construction

*Subject to Change