Boroughs & Barrios:

Moving in and through New York City & Los Angeles

Comparative Literature W60AC, Summer 2020**
Four (4) semester credits; fulfills the American Cultures Requirement

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 (im)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.

Instructor Information, Office Hours, and Communication

Course Instructor

Karina R. Palau, PhD

krpalau@berkeley.edu

Prof. Palau holds weekly Office Hours via Zoom and is also available to meet by appointment. Check our bCourses calendar for regular Office Hour days and times.

Graduate Student Instructors (GSIs)

Caitlin Scholl

cscholl@berkeley.edu

Kyle Ralston

kyle.ralston@berkeley.edu

Note: If you receive a personal email from Prof. Palau or your GSI, you are required to respond within 24 hours. Failure to respond will impact your final course grade.

Prof. Palau will interact with the whole class and oversee all activities and grading, but your GSI will be your main point of contact for our course *except for technical questions.* (Please contact Technical Support when such issues arise. See below for information on how to contact Technical Support.)

Your GSI is responsible for assisting you with questions about assignments and course requirements as outlined in the Assignments and Calendar. GSIs will also facilitate ongoing discussions, hold weekly office hours via Zoom, send out important updates about the course, and engage with your writing and ideas in online discussion boards.

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 Zoom web conferencing tool and the Chat tool on bCourses, Prof. Palau and your GSIs will each offer one virtual office hour per week.

You are required to virtually meet with an instructor once before Week 6 of our course. You may choose to meet with your GSI or Prof. Palau for a 10-15-minute slot. Sign up for an office hour meeting via the bCourses calendar, and plan to use this time to talk through your ideas about our course materials, ask questions, or discuss your progress with writing assignments. Failure to have one office-hour meeting with an instructor will impact your participation grade for our course.

Office hours cannot be used to compensate for a 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.

Course Mail

The instructors frequently send important updates to the class through bCourses. Make sure to check the Course Mail for messages from the instructors at least once per weekday. You can access course email within the Learning Management System by clicking on the Inbox link or you can choose to have your course mail forwarded to your personal email account or 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.

Remember to respond within 24 hours if you receive a personal email from Prof. Palau or your GSI. Failure to respond will impact your final course grade.

Questions & Answers Forum

If you have general questions about course material, assignments, concepts, or bCourses, 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 Books for purchase. (Please note that other required readings will be available through the course site.)

If He Hollers Let Him Go, Chester Himes

Open City, Teju Cole

Passing, Nella Larson

Tropic of Orange, Karen Tei Yamashita

These four books are widely available and may be purchased used and/or online. All other readings and materials for this course will be available through bCourses.

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 could 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 both tech support and 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 that you resolve any issues immediately.

If you need to contact tech support, go to your course and 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 due to "technical difficulties" will not be accepted

Learning Activities

Academic Integrity Pledge and Online Classroom Access

You will not have access to 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. Complete assigned readings
2. Watch and listen to lecture presentations
3. Read web-based announcements and postings assigned during the course
4. Hold at least one virtual meeting with an instructor before the close of Week 6
5. Compose and post assigned responses to lectures and readings
6. Complete writing assignments and the analysis essay
7. Complete the final exam

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 checking 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 groups together topics related to a particular area of study, and modules typically combine readings, multimedia lectures, discussion forums, reading quizzes, and various interactive assignments. At the beginning of each Module, you

can find a list of the Learning Objectives that we use to design the learning activities. For an at-a-glance view of due dates and projects, refer to the course Calendar.

Participation in Discussion Forums & Collaborative Close-Reading

25% of your course grade

Each module contains a group discussion in which you will write thoughtfully 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 engage our course material.

For each module, you will be required to participate in various forms: 1) through answering at least one discussion question and 2) by 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 for each module, you must respond to at least two other student's answers to the posted question/s. 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 are studying. 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 discussion and 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

8% of your course grade

Each module contains a short quiz designed to test your reading comprehension of the texts and materials assigned for that module. Questions will be multiple choice and graded automatically by the Canvas LMS. Refer to the calendar for all due dates. You may take the

quiz twice but not within the same 24-hour period; only your highest score will be calculated towards your grade. (See each quiz for details.)

If you have a Letter of Accommodation at UC Berkeley, confirm with your GSI that it has been received and accommodations have been made. When you start a quiz or exam, check the timer when you open it to confirm you have the correct time accommodation. This applies to all quizzes and exams in the course.

Weekly Close-Reading Collaborations

10% of your course grade

Each week, we will collaboratively annotate one passage selected from that week's readings. You will access passages through the "Collaborations" link on bCourses, then contribute your notes and ideas by posting them as marginal comments in a shared Google Doc. This activity is designed to encourage us to pay close attention to the texts we read, build conversations around the nuances of our course materials, and practice our analysis skills. A sample Collaboration will be available in Module 1 so that students have an example.

Analysis 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 2-4, we will also work through a series of short, online writing assignments designed to help you plan and write your paper.

Creative Project

10% 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 Exam

22% of your course grade

Due to the circumstances surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic all final exams for Summer Sessions 2020 will be taken online. In this situation, we must trust one another to uphold UC Berkeley's Code of Conduct, and act with academic integrity.

The final exam is cumulative and will contain short answer and short essay questions. We will provide an overview of the structure of the final exam by Module 6.

There will be no make-up exam. *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 14, 2020 but you will continue to have full access to the course site until August 21, 2020. After that date, you will have read-only access to the course.

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	25%
Weekly Close-Reading Collaborations	10%
Weekly reading quizzes	8%
Analysis essay	25%
Creative project	10%
Final exam	22%

You must complete all assignments and pass the Final Exam to pass the course.

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. Your final letter grade will be released 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 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, mail, and email submissions 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 students and working professionals, not to accommodate procrastination. Students should plan accordingly and get into the habit of checking the course website several times each week, as well as 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 and that an attitude of honesty, integrity, and respect will shape all your interactions with your classmates and their ideas, as well as your engagements with the materials that we study together.

Collaboration and Independence

Reviewing lecture and reading materials and studying for exams can be enjoyable and enriching activities to share with fellow students. We recommend that you collaborate with each other throughout our course. However, unless otherwise instructed, homework assignments, the essay, and the final exam are to be completed independently, and materials submitted as homework should be the result of your own independent work.

Cheating & Plagiarism

Anyone caught cheating on any assignment in this course will receive a failing grade for the assignment in question. They will also be reported to the University Center for Student Conduct and may receive a failing grade for the entire course.

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

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

All disability identities are welcomed in this class. If you require course accommodations due to a physical, emotional, or learning disability, contact [UC Berkeley's Disabled Students' Program (DSP)](). Notify the instructor and GSI through course email of the accommodations you would like to use.

UC Berkeley is committed to providing robust educational experiences for all learners. With this goal in mind, we have activated the ALLY tool for this course. You will now be able to download content in a format that best fits your learning preference. PDF, HTML, EPUB, and MP3 are now available for most content items. For more information visit the alternative formats link or watch the video entitled, "[Ally in bCourses]()."

Schedule of Readings and Materials

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

Readings

"The New Colossus," Emma Lazarus

"The Buttonhook," Mary Jo Salter

"How I Found America" & "The Open Cage," Anzia Yezierska

"Mannahatta," Walt Whitman

"The Lower East Side of Manhattan," Victor Hernández Cruz

Week 2: Migrations 'Great' and Small
(The Great Migration & Harlem Renaissance)

Readings

Passing, Nella Larson

"Harlem," "One-Way Ticket," "Juke Box Love Song," and "Let America Be America Again," Langston Hughes

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

Week 3: Harlem as Barrio, Harlem as "Nowhere"

Readings

"Sonny's Blues," James Baldwin

"Prologue," *Invisible Man* by Ralph Ellison

"Ode to the DiaspoRican," María Teresa "Mariposa" Fernández

"Nuyorican School of Poetry" & "Postcards of El Barrio," Willie Perdomo

Selections from *When the Spirits Dance Mambo*, Marta Moreno Vega

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

Readings

Open City, Teju Cole

Excerpts from *The Practice of Everyday Life*, Michel de Certeau

Audio and Visual Materials

Humans of New York photoblog

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

Readings

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

"Prologue" to *There There*, Tommy Orange

If He Hollers Let Him Go, Chester Himes

Audio and Visual Materials

The Exiles, Dir. Kent MacKenzie

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

Readings

Chávez Ravine, Culture Clash

Week 7: Re-thinking the "Zoot Suit" & "L.A. Riots"

Readings

Zoot Suit, Luis Valdez

"Blood on the Pavements," Casey Williams

Excerpts from *Twilight Los Angeles, 1992*, Anna Deavere Smith

Audio and Visual Materials

Zoot Suit, Dir. Luis Valdez

Twilight Los Angeles, 1992

Week 8: Alternative Moves in and through Los Angeles

Readings

Poems by Verónica Reyes

Excerpts from *Tropic of Orange*, Karen Tei Yamashita

**Subject to change