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

Course Description

The Statue of Liberty with welcome torch always raised. The Hollywood sign against golden California hills. Subways and freeways running like arteries above and below ground, offering to transport us around and across the city. Many iconic images of New York City and Los Angeles construct U.S. urban centers as a space of endless movement and possibility. 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. Highlighting interconnected and transnational moments like the New York immigration boom and growth of Spanish Harlem, the African American Great Migration and Harlem Renaissance, and the displacement of Chicano communities in the Chávez Ravine and East Los Angeles to make way for L.A freeways and ‘development,’ we will give special attention to the ways that New York and Los Angeles’ stories intersect with themes of immigration and shifting constructions of national ‘American’ identity, contests over urban spaces and representations of race and citizenship, segregation and the politics of urban renewal. In the process, we will explore representations of New York City and Los Angeles through writing, popular music, advertisements, maps, and visual media including photography and film.
**Prerequisites**

There are no prior course requirements.

**Instructor Information, Contact, Office Hours, and Communication**

**Course Instructor**

Karina Palau, PhD

**Graduate Student Instructors (GSIs)**

- Alex Brostoff
- Kathryn Crim

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 either the Zoom web conferencing tool or 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.

Questions & Answers 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 to 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

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 Canvas.

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 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 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. Do the assigned readings
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 writing assignments and the analytical essay
6. 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 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
Objectives that we use to design the learning activities and help you
reach the learning outcomes. For an at-a-glance view of due dates and
projects, refer to the course Calendar.

Participation in Discussion Forums

18% 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) 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 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 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.

**Participation in Close Reading Exercises**

*7% of your course grade*

Beginning in Module 2, each module contains a group discussion in which we ask you to conduct a close reading of a selected piece from our readings. These close readings will take place on Google docs via the Collaborations link. Discussion groups have been pre-assigned and include other members of your section.

**Weekly Reading Quizzes**

*10% of your course grade*

Each module will contain a short quiz designed to test your reading comprehension of the texts and materials 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. The essay is due at the end of Module 5. In preparation, you will need to post a one-page overview of your plans for the analytical essay in Module 3.

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.

Guidelines for the project can be found on bCourses. The project is due at the beginning of Module 8. In addition to sharing your Creative Project with the class, you will post your response to at least one classmate’s project 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

25% of your course grade

You will take a 2-hour, closed-book final exam on paper. The 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. 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 final exam for this course will be held on campus from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Thursday, August 9, 2018. *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>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Percentage of Grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Participation in discussion forums</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participation in close reading exercises</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weekly reading quizzes</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Analytical essay</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Creative project</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Proctored final exam</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

You must complete all assignments and 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. 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, 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 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)](http://dsp.berkeley.edu). 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](mailto: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. The evaluation does not request any personal information, and your responses will remain strictly confidential. A link to the evaluation will be made available via bCourses on July 26, 2018, and will be available until August 8, 2018. You will also be emailed a link to the course evaluation.
To access the course evaluation via bCourses:
1. Enter the course in bCourses.
2. Choose Course Evaluation from the left-hand navigation menu.
3. Complete and submit the evaluation.

**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

Discussion

- Introductions
- NYC as Dreamscape

**Module 1 Reading Quiz**

**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

"The Long-Lasting Legacy of the Great Migration," Isabel Wilkerson

Discussion

- Close Reading
Nella Larson's *Passing*

**Module 2 Reading Quiz**

**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

"Los New Yorks," Victor Hernández Cruz

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

**Discussion**

Close Reading

Reflection

Planning Your Analytical Essay

**Module 3 Reading Quiz**

**Week 4: Testing Mobility in the “Open” City?**

**Readings**

*Open City*, Teju Cole

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

Introduction to *Humans of New York*, Brandon Stanton

**Audio and Visual Materials**

*Humans of New York* photoblog

**Discussion**
Module 4 Reading Quiz

**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

*If He Hollers Let Him Go*, Chester Himes

**Audio and Visual Materials**

*The Exiles*, Dir. Kent MacKenzie

**Discussion**

Close Reading

Reflection

Analytical Essay is due

Module 5 Reading Quiz

**Week 6: Battles over Race and Space in “The City of Angels” (Chávez Ravine and the 1992 Los Angeles ‘Riots’)**

**Readings**

*Chávez Ravine*, Culture Clash

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

**Audio and Visual Materials**

*Chávez Ravine: A Los Angeles Story*

*Twilight, Los Angeles*, Anna Deavere Smith
Discussion

Close Reading
Race and Space in LA

Module 6 Reading Quiz

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

Readings

Zoot Suit, Luis Valdez
“Blood on the Pavements,” Carey McWilliams

Audio and Visual Materials

Zoot Suit, Dir. Luis Valdez

Discussion

Close Reading
Zoot Suit

Module 7 Reading Quiz

Week 8: Alternative Moves in and through Los Angeles

Readings

Poems by Verónica Reyes
"Beneath the Shadow of the Freeway" and "Freeway 280," Lorna Dee Cervantes
Excerpts from Tropic of Orange, Karen Tei Yamashita

Discussion

Close Reading
Closing Thoughts

Creative Project is due
Proctored Final Exam

*Please note that these are subject to change