

Performance and the City

This course focuses on the dynamics of the relationship between performance and the city, considering ways in which the two inform each other and potential analytics for examining them together. We will explore issues of performance in context using the particular case of the city as a means of asking broader questions about possible ways of conceptualizing and analyzing the relationship between art and society. Moreover, we will consider what we can learn about the city by studying it with and through performance, addressing how the city is constituted by and through performance, and how and whether performance serves as a mode of representation, lens, or other mode of understanding the city and urban processes.

Requirements

Participation, attendance, engagement with readings and cases	25%
Presentation on case	25%
Bibliography related to case	20%
Final paper (or dissertation proposal, dissertation section, article draft, etc.) Due Wednesday, June 11, 2008	30%

Week 1 (April 2)

Introduction

Week 2 (April 9)

Los Angeles Poverty Department/Downtown Los Angeles

Peterson, Marina. 2008. "Performing the City: The Los Angeles Poverty Department and Downtown Redevelopment in Los Angeles." Presented at the National Cityscapes Conference. Baker-Nord Center for the Humanities, Case Western Reserve University. Cleveland, Ohio, March 27-29.

Week 3 (April 16)

Wednesday, April 16 at 12:10

Computer Service Center 121B (across the street from Bentley)

Dr. Joanna Grabski, Denison University

"Urban Life, Creative Resources, and Beaux Arts in Dakar"

Certeau, Michel de. 2002. *The Practice of Everyday Life*. Berkeley: University of California Press.

General Introduction

Part III: Spatial Practices

Lefebvre, Henri. 1995. *Writings on Cities*. Oxford: Blackwell.

Introduction (Lost in Transposition – Time, Space and the City)

Right to the City (Philosophy and the City, Town and Country, On Urban Form, The Right to the City)
Elements of Rhythmanalysis (Seen from the Window, Rhythmanalysis of Mediterranean Cities)

Week 4 (April 23)

Roach, Joseph. 1997. *Cities of the Dead: Circum-Atlantic Performance*. New York: Columbia UP.

April 26

8 p.m.

AZA! African Ensemble Production (Templeton Blackburn Memorial Auditorium)

Week 5 (April 30)

Bridge, Gary and Sophie Watson (eds.). 2002. *The Blackwell City Reader*. Oxford: Blackwell.

“How to Study Cities,” Richard LeGates

“First-Person Accounts of Great Cities of the Medieval and Early Modern World,” Marco Polo, Ibn Battuta, Bernal Diaz, and Albrecht Dürer

“What is a City?” Lewis Mumford

“Whose Culture? Whose City?” Sharon Zukin

“Social Exclusion and Space,” Ali Madanipour

“What Would a Non-sexist City Be Like? Speculations on Housing, Urban Design, and Human Work,” Dolores Hayden

“Planning Sustainable and Livable Cities,” Stephen Wheeler

LeGates, Richard T. and Frederic Stout (eds.). 2003. *The City Reader*. 3rd Edition. New York: Routledge.

“Reinventing the Johannesburg Inner City,” Lindsay Bremner

Week 6 (May 7)

Sound and the city

Bull, Michael and Les Back (eds.). *The Auditory Culture Reader*. Oxford: Berg.

“Tuning into London c. 1600,” Bruce R. Smith

“The Diabolical Symphony of the Mechanical Age: Technology and Symbolism of Sound in European and North American Noise Abatement Campaigns, 1900-40,” Karin Bijsterveld

“A Rainforest Acoustemology,” Steven Feld

“Aural Postcards: Sound, Memory and the City,” Fran Tonkiss

“Sounds in the Crowd,” Les Back

7:30 p.m.

Spring Literary Festival

Week 7 (May 14)

“Jim Comes to Joburg”: The Limits and Possibilities of Imagining South African Urbanity through the Symbol of the Black Migrant (Spree MacDonald)

How to Be in the City: An Analysis of a Washington, D.C. Guidebook (Tim Pollock)

8 p.m. *Knock Me a Kiss (Baker Theater, Kantner Hall)*

Week 8 (May 21)

Experiments of Rhythmanalysis (Adel Wang)

On the Transmigration of Souls: Embodying the City in a Composition of Memories (Matt Gothard)

Week 9 (May 28)

John Waters' Baltimore as Seen in the Film *Pecker* (Whitney Porter)

Form and Function in Colonial Lima's Plaza Mayor (Peggy Murray)

Week 10 (June 4)

"I Am So Afraid this History Will Be Lost": Poaching de Certeau and Performing the Disability Bus Protest (Maggie Quinlan)

Antanas Mockus and Playful Social Change in Colombia (Karen Greiner)