T CORE 104F
The City in Media

Autumn 2016
Tuesday/Thursday
10:15 am – 12:20 pm
ADMC WCG 209

Instructor: Keith Harris
gkh2@uw.edu
Office hours by appointment

Course website
https://canvas.uw.edu/courses/1069706

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Our thoughts about cities directly influence how we design and experience them, but what informs these thoughts? In many cases, they come from our own lived experiences: our daily interactions with the different people, practices, and the spaces of the city itself. But our perceptions and expectations of urban environments – especially those that we have not (yet?) experienced firsthand – are also shaped by representations of cities in literature, film, music, television, art, advertising, games, social media, etc. These various forms of representation suggest what different urban places were like previously, what they are like today, and what they could become in the future. Moreover, they influence our understanding of what kinds of places, people, and practices are “good” or “bad,” which in turn shapes decisions about places to visit or avoid, consider or dismiss, help or abandon.

The objective of this course is to examine some of the ways in which cities are represented, and to consider the effects on our perceptions of urban spaces, on cities themselves, as well as on how cities are designed and experienced. The broader course goals are to: stoke curiosity about our increasingly urban world; directly experience the ways cities affect us; and develop critical skills for “reading” various representations of the city. By the end of the course, students will have developed an understanding of how cities are represented, an awareness of the effects of different forms of representation, and some of the motivations that inform them.

CORE
The Core program consists of a coordinated series of courses that represent the various disciplines in the university. This course, along with the others in your cohort, fulfills one of the university’s general education requirements in each of the areas of knowledge plus composition. The courses are designed to both support and challenge you to develop the critical thinking, writing, research, and analytical skills you’ll need at UWT while introducing you to relevant topics in the social sciences, humanities, and sciences.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Inquiry and Critical Thinking
• Inquiry & problem solving: collect, evaluate, and analyze information and resources to solve problems or answer questions.
• Research methods & application: approach complex issues by taking a large question and breaking it down into manageable pieces.
• Synthesis & context: make meaningful connections among assignments and readings in order to develop a sense of the ‘big picture.’

**Communication/Self-Expression**

• Analysis: identify, analyze, and summarize/represent the key elements of a text.
• Expression of ideas: express ideas clearly in writing and speaking in order to synthesize and evaluate information before presenting it.

**Global Perspective – Diversity – Civic Engagement**

• Global perspective: interact with concepts, ideas, and processes related to the interdependences between personal, local, and global relationships.
• Diversity: think outside of cultural norms and values, including their own perspectives, to critically engage the larger world.

**Introduction to Humanities (VLPA)**

• Demonstrate an ability to situate one's self in relation to a broader human context
• Demonstrate an ability to critically read an artistic, literary, or historical text or artifact
• Demonstrate an ability to analyze a text or artifact by applying a theoretical or aesthetic framework

**REQUIRED TEXT AND MATERIALS**

*Open City*, by Teju Cole (available at most bookstores and online)

All other assigned readings for this class will be available through the course Canvas site.

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

The majority of class time in this course will be spent on discussion of the readings, review of various examples of urban imagery, and in-class assignments.

**Classroom participation**

Classroom participation is important in this class. Generally speaking, students are expected to come to each class having completed all the readings or other tasks assigned for that day and to be prepared for active participation in class discussions. There are two ways to get participation points. One is to engage in general discussions connected to the readings; another is to complete in-class exercises related to course themes and readings. Students must engage effectively in both areas to receive full points.

**Assignments**

There are four short research/writing assignments in this course. All Assignments are connected with particular themes from the readings. All Assignments must be typed and properly formatted to receive points.

**Late Work**

Assignments turned in late will be graded down by three (3) points for each day late, with the first ‘day’ beginning immediately following the due time (for example: if an assignment is due Monday at 8am, the first late ‘day’ begins on Monday at 8:01am).

**Extra credit**

Any student may receive up to three extra credit points by attending at least one urban lecture/event and completing a two-page essay that summarizes the panel comments and makes explicit connections to readings and themes from our class. Additional details will be discussed during the term.
The following is a breakdown of course requirements, with their point totals:

Classroom participation 10 points
Assignment One 20
Assignment Two 20
Assignment Three 20
Assignment Four 20
Reading Summaries 10
TOTAL 100 points

The grade breakdown is as follows:

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COURSE SCHEDULE

Week 1. Introduction

September 29 – Course Introduction, Review Syllabus, Streetwise vs. South Lake Union.

Week 2. Images of the City – some conceptual tools

October 4
Reading Summary #1 due in class.

October 6
In-class activity: Mapping UWT
Reading Summary #2 due in class.

Week 3. Urban Hell: The City in Film

October 11
Reading Summary #3 due in class.

October 13
In-class screening: Taxi Driver (Canvas discussion afterward)

Week 4. Urban Playgrounds (mostly): The City on Television

October 18
In-class screenings: Friends, Seinfeld, Sopranos, Felicity
Reading Summary #4 due in class.

October 20
In-class screenings: Girls, Teju Cole interview on The Leonard Lopate Show Book Club

October 24 (Sunday, midnight): Assignment #1 due on Canvas
Week 5. Urban Dreams: The City in Literature

October 25

October 27
No assigned reading
In-class readings:
In-class activity: Mimic Baudelaire or Perec on Pacific Avenue

October 30 (Sunday, midnight): Assignment #2 due on Canvas.

Week 6. Urban subcultures: hip-hop, grunge, and graffiti

November 1
Reading Summary #5 due in class.

November 3
In-class screening: Downtown 81
Reading Summary #6 + Downtown 81 annotations due in class.

Week 7. Urban Issues: The City in the News

November 8 (Election day)
Reading Summary #7 due in class.

November 10
Share Election Night Assignment (Assignment #3) – Due in class.

Week 8. For Sale: Consuming the City

November 15

Reading Summary #8 due in class.

November 17 (flexible)
Field Trip to South Lake Union Discovery Center (Seattle)

Week 9. Urban Tech: The City and New Media

November 22
Reading Summary #9 due in class.

November 24
NO CLASS - THANKSGIVING

Week 10. City as Media I

November 29
In class screening: The Social Life of Small Urban Spaces
Reading Summary #10 due in class.

December 1
In-class activity: Play “Cart Life”
Reading Summary #11 due in class.

Week 11. City as Media II

December 6
Reading Summary #12 due in class.

December 8
In class screening: Los Angeles Plays Itself
Assignment #4 Roundtable & Reflection
ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

Campus grading policies
http://www.tacoma.uw.edu/enrollment-services/grading-policies

Teaching and Learning Center
The TLC provides a wide variety of instructional resources and support for teaching and learning at UW Tacoma. Teaching and learning are ongoing processes that take practice, commitment, and time. We are here to assist you in achieving your goals and provide math/quantitative, writing, science, and other tutoring services.
http://www.tacoma.washington.edu/tlc/ (Links to an external site.)

Academic Standards/Plagiarism
All student work must be free of plagiarism. Plagiarism is defined in the University catalog and in the Student Handbook. Consult your professor if you have any questions.
A major part of your experience in the class will be reading, synthesizing, and using the knowledge and ideas of others. It is the responsibility of the faculty to help you in this process and to be certain you learn to credit the work of others upon which you draw. To plagiarize is to appropriate and to pass off, as one's own ideas, writing or works of another. Plagiarism is no less of a misconduct violation than vandalism or assault. Ignorance of proper documentation procedures is the usual cause of plagiarism. This ignorance does not excuse the act. Students are responsible for learning how and when to document and attribute resources used in preparing a written or oral presentation.
For more information, please refer to the “Student Academic Responsibility” document prepared by the Committee on Academic Conduct in the College of Arts and Sciences, UW Seattle:
http://depts.washington.edu/grading/pdf/AcademicResponsibility.pdf (Links to an external site.)

Library
The UWT Library provides resources and services to support students at all levels of expertise. We guide students through the research process, helping them learn how to develop effective research strategies and find and evaluate appropriate resources. For more information about the Library and its services, see:
http://www.tacoma.washington.edu/library/ (Links to an external site.)

Electronic Devices
Electronic devices (including, but not limited to, phones, laptops, and tablets) may only be used in the classroom with the permission of the instructor. Activities that are non-relevant to the course, such as checking/sending email, playing games, and surfing the web, are considered disruptive activities when class is in session.

E-mail Policy
http://www.tacoma.washington.edu/policies_procedures/E-mail_Policy.pdf (Links to an external site.)

Student Health Services
Student Health Services (SHS) is committed to providing compassionate, convenient, and affordable health care for University of Washington Tacoma students, from care for illness and minor injury to women’s health and preventative medicine, including vaccination services. Insurance is not required. Funded by UW Tacoma student fees, office visits are provided free of charge. Treatment plans may incur costs, such as medications, labs, or vaccines, most of which are offered at discounted rates. For more information, please visit www.tacoma.uw.edu/shs or email at uwtshs@uw.edu. If you have questions or would like to schedule an appointment, please call (253) 692-5811 or stop by SHS at the Laborer’s Hall on Market Street.
Counseling Center (Student Success)
The Counseling Center offers short-term, problem-focused counseling to UW Tacoma students who may feel overwhelmed by the responsibilities of college, work, family, and relationships. Counselors are available to help students cope with stresses and personal issues that may interfere with their ability to perform in school. The service is provided confidentially and without additional charge to currently enrolled undergraduate and graduate students. To schedule an appointment, please call 692-4522 or stop by the Student Counseling Center (SCC), located in MAT 354.
http://www.tacoma.washington.edu/studentaffairs/SHW/sec_about.cfm/ (Links to an external site.)

Disability Support Services (Student Success)
The University of Washington Tacoma is committed to making physical facilities and instructional programs accessible to students with disabilities. Disability Support Services (DSS) functions as the focal point for coordination of services for students with disabilities. In compliance with Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act, any enrolled student at UW Tacoma who has an appropriately documented physical, emotional, or mental disability that "substantially limits one or more major life activities [including walking, seeing, hearing, speaking, breathing, learning and working]," is eligible for services from DSS. If you are wondering if you may be eligible for accommodations on our campus, please contact the DSS reception desk at 692-4522.
http://www.tacoma.washington.edu/studentaffairs/SHW/dss_about.cfm/ (Links to an external site.)

Campus Safety Information
http://www.tacoma.uw.edu/administrative-services/campus-safety

Safety Escort Program
For your safety, UW Tacoma encourages students, faculty, staff and visitors to use the Safety Escort Program. Campus Safety Officers are available to walk you to your car or other campus destinations during the following hours: Monday - Thursday — 6 a.m. to 11 p.m.; Friday — 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. The service is free of charge. During busy periods, the Campus Safety Officer may ask you to meet in a common location as to facilitate escorting multiple people. Dial 253-692-4416 to request a Safety Escort.

In case of a fire alarm
Take your valuables and leave the building. Plan to return to class once the alarm has stopped. Do not return until you have received an all clear from somebody "official," the web or email.

In case of an earthquake
DROP, COVER, and HOLD. Once the shaking stops, take your valuables and leave the building. Do not plan to return for the rest of the day. Do not return to the building until you have received an all clear from somebody "official," the web, or email.

Inclement Weather
Call (253) 383-INFO to determine whether campus operations have been suspended. If not, but driving conditions remain problematic, call the professor's office number. This number should provide information on whether a particular class will be held or not, and/or the status of pending assignments. If the first two numbers have been contacted and the student is still unable to determine whether a class will be held, or the student has a part-time instructor who does not have an office phone or contact number, call the program office number for updated information.