

Race and the City: Multi-Ethnic New York

Instructors: Julie Sze js446@nyu.edu Office Hours
Thursdays 4-6 at A/P/A office (269 Mercer St. 609
beginning week 3)

Sujani Reddy sujreddy@hotmail.com by appointment
Spring 2002

Mondays 3:30-6:10 p.m. 802 Main. Recitation
4.55-6.10pm in waverly 567
v15.0310.001

Course Description

This course examines the 20th century U.S. city and the intersection of urban space and racial formation and the nature of the relationship between racial and spatial/ geographic identity, with a particular emphasis on contemporary multi-ethnic New York City.

In many respects, the story of the city in the United States in the 20th Century is synonymous with the history of racial change. The narrative of urban ascendance and decline is inseparable from the experiences of racial minorities in the city. Studies engage the topic of race in the City from a variety of different methods, including historical, sociological, anthropological/ ethnographic, spatial/geographic and marxist analyses. A third of the course will be looking at how „New Immigration“ from Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean is transforming New York City and its local neighborhoods. The socio-demographic transformations are evident in an emergence of multi-racial and multi-ethnic immigrant neighborhoods. We will take a multi-disciplinary approach to multi-ethnic communities & coalition-building, as well as look at how racial/ethnic/ immigrant communities play an active role in popular culture, community planning and policy arenas, and in the shaping of their local communities in a transnational context.

Course Requirements & Grading

This course is designed as an upper division class in which students are expected to read weekly assignments and actively participate in classroom discussion. In addition with keeping up with readings and discussion, students are expected to complete response papers, lead a discussion, and write a final paper, either individually or in a group (10-15 double-spaced pages). Attendance is mandatory.

Reading responses 25%

Group presentation 15%

Class Participation and attendance 30%
Final Paper 30%

Reading Responses: you will be responsible for writing a 2 page reading response to the readings for weeks 3, 5, 6, 8, and 10. This is a short writing assignment graded on a check, check plus and check minus. DO NOT regurgitate the content of the readings. Rather, elaborate on a particular point or theme you thought interesting and end with two discussion questions.

Students will be assigned into one of five groups, that will present collectively on the readings for 3, 5 6, 8 or 10 and lead a discussion for that week. We will further split into two discussion sections for the second part of the class. Read the book on the syllabus for that week in its entirety and answer the following at a minimum as a way to facilitate discussion: what are the main arguments of the book? ; What did you learn that you did not previously know?; how did this book help you understand either race in the city, or contemporary multi-ethnic New York.

Your final paper can be on any topic related to this course. Extra credit will be given to people who work collectively. For example, you could do a group project on a particular immigrant/ multi-ethnic neighborhood.

Process for final paper: You must email us a 2 paragraph idea for your final paper by Spring Break, and meet with one of us to discuss your idea the week of March 18th. We welcome work that uses a variety of methods (interviews, fieldwork, academic sources- but do not use the internet as a source of a citations, but as a research guide only). You will be required to discuss your paper the last day of class as part of your final paper grade.

Week 1. Jan 28th Introduction
Introduction to course topics and course requirements.

Week 2 Feb 4th Overview of Census & NYC Political Re-districting Process (JS)
Elizabeth Ouyang, Guest Speaker, formerly from Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund
Newspaper readings
Tchen and Lau Affidavits on Reserve at Bobst or available at A/P/A

Week 3 Feb 11th Historical Origins. Black, Latino,

Asian Urban America

Prologue and Chapter Seven „Fruit of the Class Struggle% from Craig Steven Wilder,s A Covenant With Color: Race and Social Power in Brooklyn (Reserve)
Chan, Kenyon and Shirley Hune. „Racialization and Panethnicity: From Asians in America to Asian Americans.% (Reader)
Introduction and Chapter 1 „Beginnings% from Escobar, Eduardo. Race, Police, and the Making of a Political Identity. (Reserve)

Computer training on census and NYC information.
(tentative)

Week 4 NO CLASS Feb 18th (President,s Day)

Week 5 Feb 25th Historical Origins. Post-war housing policy and suburbanization
Chapter 11 and 12 from Kenneth Jackson,s Crabgrass Frontier: The Suburbanization of the United States. (Reserve)
Introduction and Chapter Three „The Movement% from Steven Gregory,s Black Corona. Race and the Politics of Place in an Urban Community. (Reserve)
Introduction and Chapter 1 from George Lipsitz,s The Possessive Investment of Whiteness: How White People Profit From Identity Politics. (Reserve)
Selections from Christopher Mele,s Selling the Lower East Side: Culture, Real Estate and Resistance
Walking Tour of Lower East Side and gentrification
(tentative)

Week 6 March 4th Immigration, Urbanization & Racialization Theoretical Overview
Davis, Mike. „Magical Urbanism: Latinos Re-invent the U.S. Big City% (Reader)
Rumbaut, R.G. (1997). „ Immigration and Incorporation.% (Reader)
Schiller, Nina Glick, Linda Basch and Christina Szaton Blanc. „From Immigrant to Transmigrant: Theorizing Transnational Migration.% (Reader)
New York Times Article, „New Immigrant Tide: Shuttle Between Worlds% (Reader)
Saskia Sassen (1991). „Rebuilding the Global City: Economy, Ethnicity and Space.% (Reader)
Introduction, Chapters 3 to 5, 10, 15 from Sanjek Roger. The Future of Us All: Race and Neighborhood Politics in NYC. (Reserve)

Week 7 NO CLASS March 11th Spring Break

Week 8 March 18th Post-Industrialism/ New Immigration & New York City Introduction

Chapter 1 and 14 from John Mollenkopf Manuel Castells,
Dual City: Restructuring New York. (Reserve)
Chapter from Waldinger, Roger. Still the promised
city? : African-Americans and New Immigrants in
Postindustrial New York . (Reserve)
Rose, Tricia. Black Noise: Rap Music and Black Culture
in Contemporary America. (Reader)
Christopher Smith. „Asian New York: The Geography and
Politics of Diversity% International Migration Review.
(Reader)
Chapters from: Jones-Correa, Michael. Between Two
Nations: the Political Predicament of Latinos in New
York City. (Reserve)

Week 9 March 25th Jackson Heights
Walking Tour of Jackson Heights

Week 10 April 1st Urban Planning and Environmental
Justice
Chapter on racial zoning. Thomas and Ritzdorf, eds.
Urban Planning and the African American Community: In
the Shadows. (Reader)
Sandercock, Leonie ed. Introduction from Making the
Invisible Visible: A Multicultural Planning History.
(Reader)
Tom Angotti: „Race, Place & Waste%
(Reader)
View „Breathless%
Computer training on census and NYC demographic data

Week 11 April 8th (JS)
Walking Tour of Sunset Park

Week 12 April 15th Global Restructuring and Urban
Social Movements Part I
Taxi Workers Alliance Speaker, Domestic Worker
Organizing

Week 13 April 22nd Multi-Ethnic Social Movements Part
II
Speaker on Anti-Police Brutality Activism
Readings from Zero Tolerance (Reader)

Week 14 April 29th
Presentation of Final Papers?

Week 15 May 6th Last Day of Classes
Everything Due

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