

LURB 3041 Immigrant Communities in the City: From Neighborhood to Enclave

Spring 2011

Class Time: F 12:00-3:20

Class Location: 65 W. 12th St., Room 050

Professor: Dr. Laura Y. Liu

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Office Hours: MW 2:00-3:00 & by appointment (make an appointment, even if you wish to meet during office hours.)

Description of the Course:

This course examines immigrant communities in the urban environment, ranging from mixed migrant neighborhoods to well-established enclaves to fragmented communities scattered throughout. The course will take New York City as its primary case study with a focus on immigrant communities and institutions as key forces shaping the urban landscape. A major emphasis will be on the intersection of immigration and labor as expressed in immigrant political activity. Other topics will include: understanding ethnic enclaves, immigrant community-based organizations, inter-group dynamics, immigrant cultural institutions, race and ethnicity, gender in immigrant neighborhoods, and immigrants and the state. This course is a Civic Engagement course in which students will engage in term projects developed with immigrant institution(s), organization(s), and/or city agencies actively involved in immigrant communities and neighborhoods. These projects will be shaped in collaboration with the community partner(s) and will be a major component of the course. *Significant dedication to out of class research projects is required for the duration of the term. Ability to work collaboratively with other students in groups and with community organizations is necessary for success in the course.*

Community Partner:

This semester we are partnering with Restaurant Opportunities Center of New York (ROC-NY), a community-based organization that works toward improving working conditions in the restaurant industry. New York City's restaurant industry is dominated by immigrant workers (roughly 2/3). This parallels the national picture, where the restaurant industry employs more immigrants than any other single industry. In partnership with ROC-NY, we will examine immigrant issues that both transcend and are confined to immigrant communities, workplaces, and neighborhoods.

Attendance and Lateness Policy (See College Policy on Attendance and Lateness below)

As per the College policy, more than four unexcused absences will result in a final failing grade. Each absence will affect your grade, whether you miss one class or four. If you are more than 10 minutes late, this will count as a partial absence. Any quizzes or exercises missed at the start of class cannot be made up. I do make exceptions for penalties in cases of emergencies as stipulated in the College Policy. Emergencies do not include colds or flus, transportation problems, or other events which may involve circumstances beyond your control. Regardless of whether you receive an excused or unexcused absence, it is always advisable to tell me in advance if you must be late or miss class. In cases of personal or medical emergencies, notify me immediately, as well as Jonathon White, Director of Academic Advising. You must provide documentation of the emergency.

Late Assignments

Assignments are due at the beginning of class. If an assignment is late, there is a penalty deduction of 10% per class that it is late (for reading responses) or 10% per day it is late (for other assignments) up to a maximum of 50%. An assignment is late if you do not turn in a hard copy in person in class on the day it is due. Absolutely no assignments will be accepted after the last due date of the semester.

Required Readings

Keeping up with the assigned readings is required. You must bring readings to class on the day they will be discussed. **Please note:** This is a book-based course. You are responsible for obtaining copies of these books in time to read them for class discussion. All are available at Bluestockings Bookstore, 172 Allen Street, between Stanton and Rivington, (212) 777-6028, open every day 11am-11pm.

- Das Gupta, Monisha. (2006). *Unruly Immigrants: Rights, Activism, and Transnational South Asian Politics in the United States*. Durham, NC: Duke University Press. ISBN 082233898X
- Smith, Robert Courtney. (2006). *Mexican New York: Transnational Lives of New Immigrants*. Berkeley: University of California Press. ISBN 0520244133
- Lin, Jan. (1998). *Reconstructing Chinatown: Ethnic Enclave, Global Change*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press. ISBN: 0816629056
- Dávila, Arlene. (2004). *Barrio Dreams: Puerto Ricans, Latinos, and the Neoliberal City*. Berkeley: University of California Press. ISBN 0520240936
- Stoller, Paul. (2002). *Money Has No Smell: The Africanization of New York City*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press. ISBN 0226775305
- Shah, Nayan. (2001). *Contagious Divides: Epidemics and Race in San Francisco's Chinatown*. Berkeley: University of California Press. ISBN 05202226291
- De Genova, Nicholas. (2005). *Working the Boundaries: Race, Space, and "Illegality" in Mexican Chicago*. Durham, NC: Duke University Press. ISBN 0822336154

* Additional course readings available through Blackboard. Go to <http://my.newschool.edu>, then click on "MyCourses" under "Bb." Readings are under "Assignments."

Course Requirements

All assignments must be completed in order to pass the class, even if they are handed in too late to get credit. For example, you cannot skip a required assignment worth 10% of your final grade and still pass the class, even if you did well on the remaining assignments.

20% Participation (& Attendance), Quizzes, & In-Class Assignments

Participation does not simply mean talking, but includes being prepared and being thoughtful. It is crucial that you complete assigned readings prior to the class for which they are assigned. Even if readings are not discussed, you are responsible for having read them. Each class, you should be prepared to present questions about and analysis of course material. Because participation requires your presence in class, your participation grade will also reflect your attendance, but you will receive a separate grade for each. There will be occasional unannounced quizzes at the start of class. There will also be in-class assignments which may be unannounced. These will count as part of your participation grade.

20% Mini-Book Reviews & Class Facilitation

For each set of readings, students are required to write a mini-book review. See handout for guidelines. These response papers and book reviews should be edited for grammar and clarity.

15% Take-home Midterm

Based on course readings from the class. Detailed instructions will be handed out.

15% Institutional Project (In groups): Midterm Report

Specific guidelines will be discussed.

10% Institutional Projects (In groups): Final Presentations

Specific guidelines will be discussed.

20% Institutional Projects (In groups): Final Papers

Research paper synthesizing findings and analysis of term projects. Specific guidelines will be discussed.

Please note: Written work in this class must be proofread for typos, grammatical, spelling, syntax and other errors. If you hand in a paper that is clearly a first or rough draft with numerous typos, grammatical errors, lack of editing, etc., I will not grade the paper. The paper will be returned ungraded for you to proofread and resubmit. Lateness penalties will apply to the graded paper.

Critical Thinking & Rules of Discussion

Seminars are about critical thinking and learning through discussion. While I very much encourage a critical approach, I also expect classroom discussion to reflect respect for other students' views and respect for the authors and texts we read. This means that, while productive disagreement is encouraged, "bashing" the text or each other is not.

Classroom Etiquette

No laptops. Turn off cellphones. No texting. No breaks during class. Discreet food and drink is allowed if kept brief, but please refrain from full meals.

Policy on Attendance and Lateness

- Any absences may justify some grade reduction and a total of four absences mandate a reduction of one letter grade for the course.
- More than four absences mandate a failing grade for the course, unless there are extenuating circumstances, such as the following:
 - an extended illness requiring hospitalization or visit to a physician (with documentation)
 - a family emergency, e.g. serious illness (with written explanation)
 - observance of a religious holiday

The attendance and lateness policies are enforced as of the first day of classes for all registered students. If registered during the first week of the add/drop period, the student is responsible for any missed assignments and coursework. For significant lateness, the instructor may consider the tardiness as an absence for the day. Students failing a course due to attendance should consult with an academic advisor to discuss options.

Plagiarism (Do not even think about it!)

Plagiarism is the unacknowledged use of someone else's work as one's own in all forms of academic endeavor (such as essays, theses, examinations, research data, creative projects, etc), intentional or unintentional. Plagiarized material may be derived from a variety of sources, such as books, journals, internet postings, student or faculty papers, etc. This includes the purchase or "outsourcing" of written assignments for a course. A detailed definition of plagiarism in research and writing can be found in the fourth edition of the MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers, pages 26-29. Procedures concerning allegations of plagiarism and penalties are set forth in the Lang catalog.

Disabilities

In keeping with the University's policy of providing equal access for students with disabilities, any student requesting accommodations must first meet with Student Disability Services. Jason Luchs or a designee from that office will meet with students requesting accommodations and related services, and if appropriate, provide an Academic Adjustment Notice for the student to provide to his or her instructors. The instructor is required to review the letter with the student and discuss the accommodations, provided the student brings the letter to the attention of the instructor. This letter is necessary in order for classroom accommodations to be provided. Student Disability Services is located at 79 Fifth Avenue - 5th Floor. The phone number is (212) 229-5626. Students and faculty are expected to review the Student Disability Services webpage. The webpage can be found at <http://www.newschool.edu/studentaffairs/disability/> and the office is available to answer any questions or concerns.