ANT 391 NARRATIVES OF SPACE

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<td>31875</td>
<td>TH</td>
<td>2:00 - 5:00</td>
<td>SAC 5.118</td>
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Instructor: **Sofian Merabet** (sofian.merabet@austin.utexas.edu)
Office hours: Tuesday 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.
or by appointment in SAC 5.164

**Course Description:**

This graduate seminar deals with the anthropological analysis of space, with a special emphasis on urban culture. It does not provide an inclusive overview over the extensive literature on the subject, but attempts at communicating important concepts and philosophies that form part of contemporary debates within Urban Studies. This includes the close reading of texts from different academic disciplines, as well as a fictional account. Further, the material to be read will enable us to assess the impact of colonial policies on cities and territories in various geographical areas around the globe. Finally, the seminar will critically consider how some of the theoretical issues raised in class can be applied to the study of present-day cities in the US and abroad, especially in terms of differing understandings of what constitutes private and public space.

**Required Texts:** [ordered at the University Coop, www.universitycoop.com, 2246 Guadalupe Street, Austin, (512) 476-7211]


**Course Requirements for Registered Students:**

The class relies on the intellectual commitment and active participation of all students. It will be run primarily as discussions within a seminar format. In order for the course to be effective, all students must have the reading assignments completed and ready for in-depth discussion for each class. Regular attendance is required. Attendance in class, however, does not constitute participation. You must come to class having carefully read all materials and be prepared to discuss, question, and argue about issues raised in the readings. It will be beneficial for you to take excerpts/notes on any material that you find enlightening, controversial, or objectionable. You should also take notes in class on themes, key terms, and debates we tackle. These note-taking strategies will be crucial when you write your weekly response papers. In short:

1) Do all assigned readings (while taking excerpts/notes!) by the date indicated on the syllabus and participate actively in the general class discussion.
2) Regular one to two 15-minute presentations on the weekly readings to be assigned to students. They are intended to launch the general seminar discussions.
3) Three-page description of the research paper (“Project Outline”) to be submitted to me and presented to the rest of the class on Thursday, March 6th.
4) 10-minute presentations on the respective final research project during the two last meetings of the semester.
5) 15 to 20-page term paper on any relevant topic dealing with the anthropology of space due on Friday, May 2nd. Focused topics that raise a central research issue or query are best. Avoid general or overview topics. You must include at least 25% of the readings in your paper.

The writing assignment is designed to develop critical reading, analytical, and writing skills. Evaluation criteria include: critical and integrative analysis of texts, clarity of thought, ability to synthesize readings and, occasionally, class discussions into your own argument, and ability to formulate a theoretical grounding for it.
Grading Procedure:

- Term Paper: 70%.
- Presentations of weekly readings: 15%.
- Presentations of own work (in process as well as final): 15%.

*Please note that the instructor reserves the right to make changes in the syllabus when necessary to meet learning objectives.*

Reading Schedule: (this schedule is tentative and subject to possible revision)

Week 1: Narratives of Space

- Thursday, January 16th - Introduction to the seminar

Week 2:


Week 3:


Week 4:

Week 5:
- Thursday, February 13th  

Week 6:
- Thursday, February 20th  

Week 7:
- Thursday, February 27th  

Week 8:
- Thursday, March 6th  
  
  - Students Term Paper Outline Presentations

Week 9: Spring Break  
- No Class!

Week 10:
- Thursday, March 20th  

Week 11:
- Thursday, March 27th  
  - Preface, Introduction, and Chapters 1 to 3 in Kanna, Ahmed (2011) *Dubai: The City as*
Corporation, The University of Minnesota Press, pp. ix-xiii and 1-134.

Week 12:
- Thursday, April 3\textsuperscript{rd} - Chapters 4 to 5 and Conclusion in Kanna, Ahmed (2011) \textit{Dubai: The City as Corporation}, The University of Minnesota Press, pp. 135-218.

Week 13:
- Thursday, April 10\textsuperscript{th} - Introduction and Chapters 1 and 2 in Halim, Hala (2013) \textit{Alexandrian Cosmopolitanism: An Archive}, Fordham University Press, pp. 1-178.

Week 14:
- Thursday, April 17\textsuperscript{th} - Chapters 3 and 4, and Epilogue/Prologue in Halim, Hala (2013) \textit{Alexandrian Cosmopolitanism: An Archive}, Fordham University Press, pp. 179-311.

Week 15:
- Thursday, April 24\textsuperscript{th} - Alameddine, Rabih (2014) \textit{An Unnecessary Woman, a Novel}, Grove Press.

Week 16: Term Projects
- Thursday, May 1\textsuperscript{st} - Students Presentations

Final Papers due on Friday, May 2\textsuperscript{nd}!
**Emergency Evacuation Policy:**

Occupants of buildings on The University of Texas at Austin campus are required to evacuate buildings when a fire alarm is activated. Alarm activation or announcement requires exiting and assembling outside.

Familiarize yourself with all exit doors of each classroom and building you may occupy. Remember that the nearest exit door may not be the one you used when entering the building.

Students requiring assistance in evacuation shall inform their instructor in writing during the first week of class.

In the event of an evacuation, follow the instruction of faculty or class instructors.

Do not re-enter a building unless given instructions by the following: Austin Fire Department, The University of Texas at Austin Police Department, or Fire Prevention Services office.

Behavior Concerns Advice Line/BCAL: 232-5050

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Additional Information under: [http://www.utexas.edu/emergency/](http://www.utexas.edu/emergency/)