**ANT 391 NARRATIVES OF SPACE**

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<th>Unique</th>
<th>Day</th>
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<tr>
<td>31460</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>2:00 - 5:00</td>
<td>SAC 4.120</td>
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**WGS 393 NARRATIVES OF SPACE**

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>47240</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>2:00 - 5:00</td>
<td>SAC 4.120</td>
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**Instructor:** Sofian Merabet (sofian.merabet@austin.utexas.edu)  
Office hours: Wednesday 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.  
or by appointment in SAC 5.156

**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 fictional accounts. 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 and identities of race, class, and gender.
**Required Texts:** [ordered at the University Coop, www.universitycoop.com, 2246 Guadalupe Street, Austin, (512) 476-7211]


Lau, Lasse et al. (eds.) *Queer Geographies (Beirut, Tijuana, Copenhagen)*. ISBN-13: 978-8790690304


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 before 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 15-minute presentations (by two students/week) on the assigned readings. The presentations are intended to launch the general seminar discussions.
3) 3-page Students Term Paper Outline to be submitted to me after having been presented to the entire class on **Monday, March 20th**.
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 narratives of space due on **Friday, May 5th**. 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 term paper and its outline are 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.

Every student is **urged** to visit the **UNIVERSITY WRITING CENTER** (http://uwc.utexas.edu/grad/)

The UWC offers free support for UT graduate students in all departments. The Center’s services include individual consultations, writing groups, writing retreats, workshops, and presentations.

**Consultations**
Up to four consultations per month with a professional writing consultant

**Writing Groups**
Accountability, encouragement and feedback: join a community of writers

**Writing Retreats**
Focus on quiet, sustained writing at the UWC’s full-day writing retreats
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
- Monday, January 23rd
  - Introduction to the seminar

Week 2:
- Monday, January 30th

Week 3:
- Monday, February 6th

Week 4:
- Monday, February 13th

Week 5:
- Monday, February 20th

Week 6:
- Monday, February 27th
Week 7:  
- Monday, March 6th  

Week 8: Spring Break  
- No Class

Week 9:  
- Monday, March 20th  
- Lau, Lasse et al. (eds.) *Queer Geographies (Beirut, Tijuana, Copenhagen)*.
- Students Term Paper Outline due

Week 10:  
- Monday, March 27th  

Week 11:  
- Monday, April 3rd  

Week 12:  
- Monday, April 10th  

Week 13:  
- Monday, April 17th  

Week 14:  
- Monday, April 24th  
- Students Final Paper Project Presentations

Week 15:  
- Thursday, May 1st  
- Students Final Paper Project Presentations

Final Papers due on Friday, May 5th