

Prof. Fatima Naqvi
naqvi@scarletmail.rutgers.edu
Fall 2014
172 College Avenue
16:470:671:01

Culture and Space

Sessions: Tuesdays, Thursdays 9:50–11:10, German House Seminar Room
Office hours: Tuesday 11:30-12:30 or by appointment, German House 303A

Description:

Since the 1960s, the humanities have witnessed a veritable explosion in theories regarding space. In this seminar, we examine some of the seminal texts that have accompanied this “spatial turn” and their relevance for the study of contemporaneous novels and films. Are current theories on dematerialized or topological spaces an outgrowth of an earlier interest in heterotopian or abstract space? How have the concept of place and the interest in affect inflected the discussion of space?

We will read philosophical and theoretical texts by Bloch, Foucault, Lefebvre, de Certeau, Burgin, Rhodes, and Vidler, and couple our discussions with an analysis of Thomas Bernhard’s works Amras, Correction, and Old Masters. Furthermore, we will look at excerpts from Elfriede Jelinek’s Children of the Dead. Film clips from Alexander Kluge, Michael Haneke, and Ulrich Seidl, as well as photos by Andreas Gursky, Candida Höfer und Thomas Struth will complement our discussions in class.

The goal of this course is to produce a final paper of publishable quality.

Requirements:

Active class participation/attendance (no more than one absence; additional absences will adversely affect your grade)
Weekly papers (1-2 pp.)
Oral Reports (10 min.)
Outline of Paper (2–4 pp.)
Draft of Paper (18–25 pp.)
Final paper (18–25 pp.)

Books:

Thomas Bernhard, *Amras in Three Novellas* (ISBN-13: 978-0226044323)
---. *Correction* (ISBN-13: 978-1400077601)
---. *Old Masters* (ISBN-13: 978-0226043913)
Marc Augé, *Non-Places* (ISBN-13: 978-1844673117)

Schedule:

Di. 02.09: Introduction: Candida Höfer, *Trinity College Library Dublin 1* (2004); Andreas Gursky, *99 Cent Diptychon II* (2001)

Thurs., 04.09: Foucault, "Of Other Spaces" (1967). In class: Thomas Struth, *Museo del Prado 8-3 Madrid* (2005)

Tues., 09.09: Henri Lefebvre, "Plan of the Present Work" from *The Production of Space* (1974); Edward Soja, *Thirdspace* (Kap. 1). In class: Alexander Kluge, *Yesterday Girl* (1966)

Thurs., 11.09: Michel de Certeau, "Walking in the City," "Spatial Stories" from *The Practice of Everyday Life (L'invention du quotidien)*. In class: Ulrich Seidl, *ImportExport* (2007)

Tues., 16.09: Ernst Bloch, excerpts from "Buildings Which Depict a Better World, Architectural Utopias" in *The Principle of Hope* (1959). In class: Frank Lloyd Wright, *Broadacre City*, Le Corbusier, *La ville radiense*

Thurs., 18.09: Marc Augé, *Non-Places*. In class: Michael Haneke, *Code inconnu* (2000)

Tues., 23.09: Thomas Bernhard, *Amras* (1964); excerpt from Ernst Cassirer, *Mythical Thought*

Thurs., 25.09: Thomas Bernhard, *Amras* (1964)

Tues., 30.09: Thomas Bernhard, *Correction* (1975)

Thurs., 02.10: Thomas Bernhard, *Correction* (1975)

Tues., 07.10: Thomas Bernhard, *Correction* (1975)

Thurs., 09.10: Thomas Bernhard, *Old Masters* (1985); Brian O'Doherty, "Inside the White Cube: The Ideology of the Gallery Space"

Thurs., 16.10: Thomas Bernhard, *Old Masters* (1985)

Tues., 21.10: Thomas Bernhard, *Old Masters* (1985)

Thurs., 23.10: Victor Burgin, "Geometry and Abjection"; Elfriede Jelinek, excerpt from *Die Kinder der Toten* (1995)/*The Children of the Dead*

Tues., 28.10: Anthony Vidler, Introduction and "Unhomely Houses" from *The Modern Unhomey*. In class: Clip from Herk Harvey, *Carnival of Souls* (1962)

Thurs., 30.10: John David Rhodes and Elena Garfinkel, Introduction to *Taking Place*

Thurs., 6.11: *Outline of Paper*

Thurs., 25.11: *First Draft of Paper*

Tues., 9.12: **FINAL PAPER DUE, 5 PM via email (no late papers accepted)**