Narrating Memory, History and Place  
Gallatin School of Individualized Study  
New York University

Professor: Marie Cruz Soto  
Office: 1 Washington Place Room 615  
Office Hours: TR 8:20-9:20am/T 2-4pm by appt.  
Link for Appointments: http://goo.gl/K9GwY  
Contact: m.cruz@nyu.edu & (212) 992-7761

Course: IDSEM-UG 1535  
Semester: Spring 2016  
Time: Tues/Thurs. 9:30-10:45am  
Location: 403, Silver Building

Course Description:
The past is a contested terrain open to divergent interpretations in which the relationship between socio-historical processes and human narrations of such processes is not always clear or simple. The relationship, on the contrary, is mediated by everyday experiences and, perhaps more importantly, by everyday struggles over which narratives are deemed more accurate representations of the past. These struggles over historical narrations are many times urgent for the people and communities involved due to the power of such narratives in shaping and transforming common understandings of places. The meanings endowed to places, after all, can dictate the usage and the extent of control that people and communities exercise over these places.

This course examines how people imagine a place of their own through narrations of the past. It explores the relationship between memory and history as two different forms of historical narrations central to the process of transforming places. The exploration specifically aims to better understand how the relationship between memory and history can matter in the struggle of disempowered communities to claim a place of their own. The course, however, builds on an expanded definition of narration that includes but is not limited to writing and the written text. Narration, for this class, refers to human activities that endow meaning, attempt to structure time and space and plot daily life.

Course Objectives:
The main goals of the course are for students: to familiarize with some influential scholars in the study of memory, history and places, to explore multiple manifestations
of historical narrations, to delve into different communal struggles over places, and to understand the relevance of historical narrations in claims to places.

**Course Requirements:**
To successfully complete the course students are required to attend and participate actively in class, to write ten reactions and two essays and to do a class presentation based on the second essay. The final grade for the course is divided into four parts: participation, first essay, second essay and class presentation. The final grade is divided as follows: participation (30%), first essay (30%), second essay (30%) and class presentation (10%).

The participation grade depends on the careful reading of course texts, attendance, and active involvement in class discussions. Students are expected to contribute on a regular basis to discussions with respectful and informed comments that engage course texts. Students are also expected to arrive on time to class. Students, in addition, are entitled to one non-justified absence. Each absence thereafter will result in a one-fifth deduction of the participation grade.

The participation grade also depends on the writing of ten reactions. The reactions should identify connections between the readings and topic for a particular week. Reactions are not summaries, but rather critical and creative commentaries. The reactions are to be posted online at NYU Classes by the Saturday of the week assigned.

The first essay is due on Tuesday March 8th. This essay will address how narrations of the past intertwine with narrations of places. The second essay is due on Thursday May 5th. This essay will focus on the experiences and struggles of a particular community to imagine a place, especially a place of their own. Students will develop their individual topic for the second essay in close dialogue with the professor. The two essays are to be handed in at the beginning of class. In addition, digital copies must be submitted through NYU Classes by their assigned deadline. Students should visit NYU Classes for detailed instructions about the writing of these essays.

The class presentation (scheduled for Weeks XII and XIII) will be based on the student’s topic for the final essay. The grade will depend on the rigorousness of the research as well as on the creativity and effectiveness in engaging and communicating the topic.

**Deadlines:**
Reactions and essays should be submitted within the established deadlines. Late papers will not be accepted except with valid and preferably written medical excuses. Incompletes are not an option. If a student has a compelling reason for wanting an incomplete, the student should talk to the professor before the last day of class.

**Accommodations:**
Students who require accommodations because of a disability should visit the Henry and Lucy Moses Center (726 Broadway, 2nd Floor) and talk to the professor during the first week of class.
Writing:
Writing is an essential part of the course and of academic life in general. Great ideas can be lost if the writing is not clear, just like readers can be lost if the writing is not evocative. Students are therefore encouraged to visit the professor during her office hours and the Gallatin Writing Center (1 Washington Place, Room 423) in order to discuss the writing process.

Gallatin Statement on Academic Integrity:
“As a Gallatin student you belong to an interdisciplinary community of artists and scholars who value honest and open intellectual inquiry. This relationship depends on mutual respect, responsibility, and integrity. Failure to uphold these values will be subject to severe sanction, which may include dismissal from the University. Examples of behaviors that compromise the academic integrity of the Gallatin School include plagiarism, illicit collaboration, doubling or recycling coursework, and cheating. Please consult the Gallatin Bulletin or Gallatin website [www.gallatin.nyu.edu/academics/policies/policy/integrity.html] for a full description of the academic integrity policy.”

Additional Information:
The use of laptops and/or other electronic devices is not permitted in class. Appointments for office hours can be made through the following link: http://goo.gl/u9WkY. Students should also note that there will be a trip to the Lower East Side outside of regular class time.

Course Readings:

The rest of the readings can be accessed through NYU Classes. The books can be purchased at the NYU Main Bookstore (726 Broadway) and/or accessed through the NYU Library website.

Course Schedule:

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<th>WEEK I: INTRODUCTION</th>
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<td>α January 26th and 28th ☞</td>
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Readings for January 28th:
Said, Edward W. “Invention, Memory, and Place.” Critical Inquiry 26 (Winter 2000): 175-192. -NYU Classes-

WEEK II:
THE POLITICS OF MEMORY
☞ February 2nd and 4th ☞

Reaction One

Films:

Reading for February 2nd:

Reading for February 4th:
Taylor, Diana. “Performance and/as History.” The Drama Review 50:1 (Spring 2006): 67-86. -NYU Classes-

WEEK III:
THE POLITICS OF HISTORY
☞ February 9th and 11th ☞

Reaction Two

Reading for February 9th and 11th:

WEEK IV:
NARRATING THE PAST IN PLACE
☞ February 16th and 18th ☞

Reaction Three

Readings for February 16th:
Readings for February 18th:

WEEK V:
NARRATING A SMALL (POST)COLONIAL PLACE

☞ February 23rd and 25th ☞
Reaction Four

Reading for February 23rd and 25th:

WEEK VI:
IMAGINING COMMUNITIES

☞ March 1st and 3rd ☞
Visit from Julian Cole Phillips on March 3rd
Reaction Five

Reading for March 1st:

Reading for March 3rd:

WEEK VII:
IMAGINING RACIALIZED AND GENDERED COMMUNITIES

☞ March 8th and 10th ☞
First Essay Due on
Tuesday March 8th
Reaction Six

Reading for March 8th:

Readings for March 10th:

WEEK VIII:
EMPIRES AND THE MAKING OF PLACES AND COMMUNITIES

March 22nd and 24th

Reaction Seven

Readings for March 22nd:

Reading for March 24th:
Kaplan, Amy. “Where is Guantánamo?” American Quarterly 57:3 (September 2005): 831-858. -NYU Classes-

WEEK IX:
EVERYDAY PEOPLES, PRACTICES AND PLACES

March 29th and 31st

Reaction Eight

Reading for March 29th and 31st:

WEEK X:
NARRATING THE FORGOTTEN INTO THE CITY

April 5th and 7th

Reaction Nine

Reading for April 5th:

Readings for April 7th:
WEEK XI:
IMAGINING THE ETHNIC CITY

April 12th and 14th

Reaction Ten
Field Trip to Lower East Side

Reading for April 12th and 14th:
Martinez, Miranda. Power at the Roots: Gentrification, Community Gardens, and the
& NYU Classes

WEEK XII:
CLASS PRESENTATIONS

April 19th and 21st

WEEK XIII:
CLASS PRESENTATIONS

April 26th and 28th

WEEK XIV:
CONCLUSIONS

May 3rd and 5th
Final Essay Due on
Thursday May 5th