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: Tues 3:15-7:15pm by appt.  
Link for Appointments: http://goo.gl/K9GwY  
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Course: IDSEM-UG 1535  
Office: 1 Washington Place Room 615 & SCA-UA 721  
Semester: Spring 2017  
Time: Tues/Thurs. 2-3:15pm  
Location: 401, 1 Washington Place

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. In terms of attendance, students are entitled to one unexcused 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, due on Tuesday March 7th, will address how narrations of the past intertwine with narrations of places. The second essay, due on Thursday May 4th, will focus on the experiences and struggles of a particular community to imagine a place, especially a place of their own. The two essays, together comprising at least 20 pages of written work, are to be handed in at the beginning of class. In addition, digital copies must be submitted in NYU Classes by the assigned deadlines. Students should visit NYU Classes for detailed instructions about the writing of these essays.

The class presentation will be based on the second essay. Students will develop their own topic in close dialogue with the professor. The grade will depend on the rigorousness of the research, as well as on the creativity and effectiveness in communicating with class peers. The class presentation should help students think about their final essay.

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.

**Course Readings:**

The books can be purchased at the NYU Main Bookstore (726 Broadway) and/or accessed through the NYU Library website. The rest of the readings can be accessed through NYU Classes. The films are available at the Avery Fisher Center of Bobst Library.

**Course Schedule:**

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<tr>
<th>WEEK I</th>
<th>INTRODUCTION</th>
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<td>☢️ January 24th and 26th ☢️</td>
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Texts for Thursday:
WEEK II
THE POLITICS OF MEMORY
☞ January 31st and February 2nd ☞

Reaction One

In-class screening of:
History and Memory: For Akiko and Takashige. Dir. Rea Tajiri. Electronic Arts Intermix, 1991. —NYU Bobst Avery Fisher Center-

Texts for Tuesday:
Niños de la Memoria. Dir. María Teresa Rodríguez. Honey Alley LLC, Pata de Perro Productions LLC and Independent Television Service, 2012. —NYU Bobst Avery Fisher Center-

Texts for Thursday:
Taylor, Diana. “Performance and/as History.” The Drama Review 50:1 (Spring 2006): 67-86. —NYU Classes-
The Language You Cry In. Dir. Alvaro Toepke and Angel Serrano. California Newsreel, 1998. —NYU Classes-

WEEK III
THE POLITICS OF HISTORY
☞ February 7th and 9th ☞

Reaction Two

Text:

WEEK IV
NARRATING THE PAST IN PLACE
☞ February 14th and 16th ☞

Reaction Three

Texts for Tuesday:

Texts for Thursday:

WEEK V
NARRATING A SMALL (POST)COLONIAL PLACE: ANTIGUA

☞ February 21st and 23rd ☞

Reaction Four

Text:

WEEK VI
IMAGINING COMMUNITIES

☞ February 28th and March 2nd ☞

Reaction Five

Text:

WEEK VII
IMAGINING RACIALIZED, GENDERED AND COLONIAL COMMUNITIES

☞ March 7th and 9th ☞

First Essay Due on
Tuesday March 7th

Reaction Six

Text for Tuesday:

Texts for Thursday:

Cruz Soto, Marie. “Strategic Spaces, Disposable Peoples: Lessons on Imperial Learning and Colonial Unruliness from Vieques, Puerto Rico.” Work in progress. –NYU Classes–

WEEK VIII
EMPIRES AND THE MAKING OF PLACES AND COMMUNITIES

☞ March 21st and 23rd ☞

Reaction Seven
Texts for Tuesday:

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

WEEK IX
EVERYDAY PEOPLES, PRACTICES AND PLACES

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Text:

WEEK X
NARRATING THE FORGOTTEN: GUATEMALA

 реакци tion Nine

Texts:

WEEK XI
IMAGINING THE ETHNIC CITY: NEW YORK CITY

 реакци tion Ten

Text:

WEEK XII
CLASS PRESENTATIONS

反应ion Twenty

Text:
WEEK XIII
CLASS PRESENTATIONS
☞ April 25th and 27th ☞

WEEK XIV
CONCLUSIONS
☞ May 2nd and 4th ☞
Final Essay Due on
Thursday May 4th