

PhD Course Descriptions – Fall 2018

SPAN-GA 1120.001 - Foreign Language Teaching Methodology

Instructor: Jabier Elorrieta

Day/Time: Monday, 1:15 – 3:15pm

Room: TBA

SPAN-GA 2968.002 - Anti-coloniality: Theories and Practices*

*(*This course originates in Performance Studies)*

Instructor: Diana Taylor

Day/Time: Monday, 3:30 - 6:15pm

Room: 612 (721 Broadway)

SPAN-GA 3545.001 – Dissertation Workshop I

Instructor: Laura Torres-Rodríguez

Day/Time: Monday, 4 – 6pm

Room: 405 (19 University Place)

SPAN-GA 2967.001 – Mexican Muralism

Instructor: Eduardo Subirats

Day/Time: Monday, 6 – 8pm

Description: The Mexican Mural Movement has been one of the most energizing art movements in the Americas during the past century. Its major works had been done in Mexico and in the United States. This seminar will focus on the three main Mexican muralists (José Clemente Orozco, Diego Rivera and David Alfaro Siqueiros) from the days of the Mexican

Revolution to the sixties, and from the influences of European Expressionism and Cubism, to the rise of American Abstract Expressionism.

COMENTARIO

Este seminario pondrá de manifiesto la especificidad del muralismo mexicano como proyecto de renovación de las artes plásticas, contra su anulación por la escolástica de la “ruptura” y la gramática de la “abstracción”, promovidas por el *Museum of Modern Art* de New York como lingüísticas de una uniforme y unilateral modernidad. A este fin traza una revisión fundamental de los prejuicios que rigen la historiografía dominante del arte moderno global y latinoamericano.

“Por primera vez en la historia moderna se esclarece el significado mitológico de los murales de los Tres Grandes: La visión de un desarrollo humano en armonía con la naturaleza, bajo el signo de una hermandad de las culturas originales de México y el industrialismo moderno, en el templo a la Tierra fecunda de Chapingo, pintado por Rivera; la reflexión sobre el sangriento espíritu de la historia en las versiones de *Quetzalcóatl*, *Cristo* y *Prometeo* que coronan la obra de Orozco en Hannover y Guadalajara; el mito del progreso en la *Marcha de la historia de la humanidad* del *Polyforum*, realizado por Siqueiros.” De Eduardo Subirats, *El Muralismo Mexicano* (México D.F.: Fondo de Cultura Económica, 2018).

SPAN-GA 2978.002 - Regímenes de la alteración sensorial. Droga y literatura

Instructor: Julio Ramos

Day/Time: Tuesday, 2 – 4pm

Room: 405 (19 University Place)

Description: Este seminario explorará la condición farmacológica de la vida contemporánea en una selección de textos literarios, experienciales y teóricos. Aunque nos mueve de entrada una pregunta sobre la relación entre los psicoactivos, los límites del sujeto y las fronteras de la modernidad, anticipamos que la aproximación a la alteración sensorial –en escritos que dan cuenta 1. de su dimensión ritual, 2. de sus protocolos de experimentación, 3. en registros de la repetición compulsiva, 4. en la administración de la vida en las economías del abandono, ayudan también repensar algunas de las genealogías disputadas de la interpretación literaria en la encrucijada contemporánea.

Lecturas

Se anunciará luego la selección de textos de Juan Cárdenas, C. Alarcón, M. Moreno, F. Font Acevedo, Rita Indiana, C. Cardona, J. De Diego Padró, Angel Lozada, C. Rivera Garza y Heriberto Yépez y otrxs.

Herrera, Lizardo y Julio Ramos, eds. ***Droga, farmacolonialidad y cultura: la alteración narcográfica*** (Chile, 2018). Incluye textos de F. Ortiz, W, Benjamin, M. Muñiz, C. Marez, P.

Preciado, J. Duchesne, S. Buck-Morss, E. Kosofsky Sedgwick, A. Ronell, S. Valencia, R. Reguillo, etc. Bernard Stiegler, selección de *Una farmacología de la técnica*.

SPAN-GA 2960.001 - Archival Theory through Queer/Colonial/State Archives
(with Early Modern Spanish Paleography Practicum)

Instructor: Zeb Tortorici

Day/Time: Tuesday, 4 – 7pm

Room: 405 (19 University Place)

Description: The notion of a static and authoritative “archive” has increasingly come under scrutiny by scholars from a variety of disciplinary fields, and, as a result, the number of theoretical works on archives and archiving has virtually exploded in recent years. This course critically examines this trajectory, exploring archival theories and systems of classification through personal (and ethnographic) encounters with queer, colonial, and state archives. We will think through archives as colonial and nationalistic projects, and will also explore how archives and documentary collections can become sites of activism. This course interrogates the construction of colonial, state, and queer archives alongside other topics including ephemera, performative archives, relationships between scholars and archivists, feminist and LGBT archives, porn archives, alternative literacies, animals and archives, illegal trade in documents, processes of digitization, questions of access to documents, grassroots archiving, embodied research methodologies, oral history, and other public memory projects.

NOTE: This will be a 3-hour seminar, with the first 2 hours dedicated to traditional seminar discussions, and the third hour dedicated to learning how to read early modern Spanish paleography (from the seventeenth century to the early nineteenth).

Readings include Anjali Arondekar, Kathryn Burns, Ann Cvetkovich, Nicholas Dirks, Erica Fudge, Carlo Ginzburg, Jack Halberstam, Anne McClintock, Tavia Nyong’o, Juana María Rodríguez, Ann Laura Stoler, Kirsten Weld, and Luise White among others. Students will produce a final research paper on a relevant topic of their choice, and in conjunction with their own independent archival research.

SPAN-GA 2966.001- Seminar in Theory: Culture and Politics

Instructor: Sibylle Fischer

Day/Time: Wednesday, 1 – 3:15pm

Room: 223 (19 University Place)

Description: In this seminar we will interrogate the notion of “the political” in the realm of cultural production and cultural agency. The aim of the seminar is to develop an understanding of how to interpret, assess, and engage theoretical argument. We will read canonical pieces in the history of critical theory, from Marx to decolonial theory, feminism, and critical race theory. Some sessions will be devoted to keywords (invoking the tradition of Raymond Williams) such as “public sphere,” “post/modernity,” “archive,” “liberal imagination,” “politics of form,” “reflection theory,” “performativity,” and “coloniality.” Students are invited to submit suggestions for keywords before the start of the semester. There will be substantial writing assignments from week to week (2-3 pages), but no final essay. The class will be taught in English, readings in Spanish, Portuguese, and English.

SPAN-GA 2978.001- Latin@ NYC: Archival Avenues

Instructor: Urayoán Noel

Day/Time: Thursday, 2 - 4pm

Room: 405 (19 University Place)

Description: This seminar will examine the intricacies and complexities of Latin@ New York City through a range of archival perspectives and practices. These archival "avenues" will include visits to physical archives in the city as well as engagement with digital archives and creative counterarchival approaches. We will also host one or more speakers whose work responds critically and creatively to Latin@ New York City and its archives. Course texts may include works of New York Latin@ literature and performance, as well as critical interventions by scholars such as Ian Baucom, Arnaldo Cruz Malavé, Juan Flores, Lorgia García Peña, Nicolás Kanellos, Akira Mizuta Lippit, Antonio López, Nancy Raquel Mirabal, José Esteban Muñoz, Frances Negrón Muntaner, Diana Taylor, and Vanessa K. Valdés. Venues to be visited may include the Center for Puerto Rican Studies at Hunter College, The Dominican Archives at City College, the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, the Loisaida Center, and the Fales Library at NYU.

SPAN-GA 2968.001 - Stuff matters: objects, things and materialities between nature and culture

Instructor: Jens Andermann

Day/Time: Friday, 2 – 4:30pm

Room: 223 (19 University Place)

Description: Material culture has often failed to attract the attention it deserved in Hispanic, Latin American and Luso-Brazilian studies, despite the intimate relationship between their subject areas and the extraction, circulation and cultivation of resources and commodities, a disavowal that probably inherited and actualized the attitude Ángel Rama attempted to

pinpoint in his *Lettered City*. Yet, from Fernando Ortiz's early ruminations on the cultures of tobacco and sugar to the interest in artisanry, fetishism and commodity consumption among early cultural studies theorists such as Mirko Lauer, Carlos Monsiváis and Néstor García Canclini, there has also been an ongoing interest in the cultural valences of things that has been taken up, more recently, by cultural histories of museums and collections as well as studies on the affective afterlives and political agencies of human and other material remains in the aftermath of dictatorship and civil war. Currently, these strands of critical engagement with material culture have received a new boost in the context of 'new materialisms' and 'object-oriented ontology' as well theoretical re-engagements with extractivism as a cultural and political logic. In the seminar, we shall try to develop a critical genealogy and assessment of these subsequent moments of theorization of matter and materialities, also situating their Latin American manifestations in the context of poststructuralist re-elaborations of the Marxist critique of commodity fetishism (Appadurai, Baudrillard) to postcolonial theorizations of collecting and the museum (Bennett, Hamon, Preziosi) and forensic archaeology's rethinking of the cultural work of bodily remains (Crossland, Fontein) as well as, more recently, some of the novel conceptualizations offered by contemporary new materialisms (Bennett, Grosz, Mitchell, Stoler).

Introductory readings:

Jean Baudrillard, *The System of Objects*. London: Verso, 2006.

Arnold J. Bauer, *Goods, Power, History. Latin America's Material Culture*. Cambridge, New York: Cambridge University Press, 2001.

Ann Laura Stoler (ed.), *Imperial Debris. On Ruins and Ruination*. Durham, NC: Duke University Press, 2013.

SPAN-GA 2965.001 - Theory, Practice, and Representation of Urban Space: Spain, 1760s to present

Day/Time: Monday, 11 – 1pm

Instructor: Jo Labanyi

Room: 223 (19 University Place)

Description: Taught in Spanish, this course introduces students to theoretical writing on urban space by Spanish, French, German, British, and American writers. We will also read historical studies of urban space in Spain from the late 18th century to the present. These texts will be put in dialogue with an eclectic range of fictional, journalistic, dramatic, poetic, musical, cinematic, and photographic texts from the 1760s to the 2000s, mostly Spanish representations of Madrid and Barcelona, but including one Austrian photographer of Barcelona and one Spanish text about New York. Particular attention will be paid to the evolving relation of human bodies and things to the city as we pass from the beginnings of urban modernity to late modern neo-liberalism. In the 18th and 19th centuries, the notion of capitality will be crucial. A key focus will be the city as movement and flux, fusing time and space in what Nigel Thrift has called "timespace." Related to this is the notion of the city as spectacle, reinforcing but also challenging vision as the mark of an orderly relationship of the individual to the material environment, and at the same time constructing but also breaking

down divisions based on class, gender, and ethnicity. The theoretical reading will include works by 19th-century urban planners Mesonero Romanos, Ildefonso Cerdà, and Arturo Soria, and 20th-century urban theorists Georg Simmel, Walter Benjamin, Guy Debord, Henri Lefebvre, Michel de Certeau, David Harvey, Richard Sennett, Nigel Thrift, and Manuel Castells.

Prescribed Cultural Texts

Ramón de la Cruz, *Sainetes* (one-act farces, 1860s-70s)

Ramón de Mesonero Romanos, *Escenas y tipos matritenses* (press articles, 1832-1851)

Benito Pérez Galdós, *La desheredada* (novel, 1881)

Federico Chueca and Joaquín Valverde, *La Gran Vía* (zarzuela, 1886)

Pío Baroja, *La busca* (novel, 1904)

Ramón Gómez de la Serna, *El Rastro* (prose, 1914)

César M. Arconada, *Urbe* (poetry, 1928)

Francisco Ayala, *Cazador en el alba* (novella, 1929)

Federico García Lorca, *Poeta en Nueva York* (poetry, written 1929-30)

Margaret Michaelis, photographs of 1930s Barcelona

Francesc Català-Roca, photographs of 1950s Barcelona and Madrid

José Antonio Nieves Conde, *Surcos* (fiction film, 1951)

Luis Martín-Santos, *Tiempo de silencio* (novel, 1962)

Daniel Calparsoro, *Salto al vacío* (fiction film, 1995)

Fernando León de Aranoa, *Barrio* (fiction film, 1998)

José Luis Guerín, *En construcción* (creative documentary, 2001)

Mercedes Álvarez, *Mercado de futuros* (creative documentary, 2011)

Stéphane Grueso, *15M: "Excelente. Revulsivo. Importante"* (documentary, 2012)

Basilio Martín Patino, *Libre te quiero* (documentary, 2012)