



INTL/USP 314U: The Global City In Film

Spring 2025 ♦ Fully Online Course

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Office hours: Mon/Wed 9:30-11:15 AM *or* by arrangement (in-person or on Zoom)

Office location: Cramer Hall Room 117

Course Description:

In this course, we critically examine social and physical representations of global cities and urbanized regions in popular feature films. In concert with other courses and literature on this subject, this class is intended to foster careful and critical observation and thinking, interpretation, and discussion of the diverse urban social, cultural, and political forces shaping globalized cities and the way they are represented on screen.

Course Learning Outcomes:

Throughout the course, students will:

- Identify and critique the global economic, political, social, and cultural process that shape cities around the world
- Examine the interconnectedness between cities in the Global North and Global South
- Explore how inhabitants of cities collectively challenge global forces and actively remake their surroundings to better meet their needs
- Critically analyze how cities are represented in film and how media influences our understanding of urban class, racial, gender, and power dynamics
- View film as a social text and apply different theoretical lenses and perspectives identify deeper meanings
- Construct original arguments using evidence from various texts to support one's ideas

This course also integrates the four University Studies program learning outcomes:

- ***Inquiry and Critical Thinking:*** Students will learn various modes of inquiry through interdisciplinary curricula—problem-posing, investigating, conceptualizing—in order to become active, self-motivated, and empowered learners.

- **Communication:** Students will enhance their capacity to communicate in various ways—writing, graphics, numeracy, and other visual and oral means—to collaborate effectively with others in group work, and to be competent in appropriate communication technologies.
- **Ethics, Agency, & Community:** Students will examine values, theories and practices that inform their actions, and reflect on how personal choices and group decisions impact local and global communities
- **Diversity, Equity and Social Justice:** Students will explore and analyze identity, power relationships, and social justice in historical contexts and contemporary settings from multiple perspectives.

This course fulfills the junior cluster requirements for three different University Studies clusters: Community Studies, Global Perspectives, and Popular Culture.

Required Materials:

All of the course materials are available for free on our Canvas site. The assigned films can all be streamed through the PSU library if you sign in with your ODIN account. This is a fully online, asynchronous course. There will be no in-person or Zoom meetings required.

Course Support:

If you have never used the Canvas learning management system, you can access introductory information [here](#). On this site, you will find links to directions for how to use tools like Assignments or Discussions in Canvas. [This online and remote learning at PSU site](#) also links to Canvas instructions, and it has a array of useful information about online learning. The site links to the Learning Center, which provides tutoring and one-on-one academic coaching, as well as various online resources that can help boost your study skills.

If you encounter any technological issues or Canvas problems, you can contact the [PSU Help Desk](#). You can speak with someone by phone (503-725-4357) weekdays from 8:00 AM-7:00 PM and weekends from 9:00 AM-5:00 PM. You can also chat with the Help desk or drop by (FMH lobby) weekdays from 9:00 AM-5:00 PM.

Disability Resources and Accommodations:

If you need accommodations, please visit the [Disability Resource Center](#). If you are already registered with the DRC, they will contact me with a list of accommodations. If you have not yet registered with the DRC, but need accommodations, please reach out to me to let me know how to best support you as you go through their process.

Course Policies:

Assignments/Late work:

“Finished crap can be edited. Unfinished greatness languishes forever” — Margarita Gakis

In other words, get it done, and get it done on time! Assignments in this course are divided into two categories: Discussion Post/Practice Film Analysis and Film Analysis Papers. Work in the first category must be completed on time. If you do not complete your discussion posts or practice writing assignment by the deadline, you will not receive any credit. If you turn a Film Analysis paper in late, I will deduct 10% from your grade for each day that it is late.

Academic Integrity and AI:

Higher education is about far more than just getting a piece of paper and hopefully a decent job. In college, you learn to think critically and systematically, to ask the right questions and determine how you can answer them, and to collaborate with others to solve problems and expand both your own and our collective knowledge. Some of the knowledge that is generated in our classrooms and on our campus has a broader impact. PSU's motto is: "Let knowledge serve the city." Much of the thinking and learning we do has the potential to improve lives beyond our own. For example, in recent years, PSU faculty and students have worked to reduce traffic fatalities, identified communities where residents are most at risk of dying of heat-related illnesses, and helped stop local manufacturers from producing harmful emissions.

In order to develop the skills that are necessary for producing knowledge that serves our community, we have to practice them. That means taking risks and avoiding short cuts. Learning isn't about perfection. Making mistakes or getting the wrong answer is part of the learning process. To truly learn, you have to do your own work, which includes your own reading, writing, and thinking.

PSU defines academic misconduct as: "actual or attempted, fraud, deceit, unauthorized use of materials prohibited or inappropriate in the context of the academic assignment, or any act that aims to achieve an unfair academic advantage. Unless otherwise specified by the faculty member, all submissions, whether in draft or final form, must either be the Student's own work, or must clearly acknowledge the source(s)." (<https://www.pdx.edu/dean-student-life/psu-code-student-conduct-and-responsibility>)

Whenever you complete an assignment, you will be asked to cite the sources that you borrowed information, ideas, or quotes from. In academic writing and research, there are two main reasons why it is important to acknowledge sources. First, it is unethical to take credit for someone else's ideas or work. Second, all academic research and writing is part of a larger conversation. Your reader may want to know how your ideas build upon others' work, or they might be interested in learning more about specific facts, concepts, or quotes that you included in your paper.

Giving credit to others means that any fact, idea, or quote that you borrowed from a source should be cited within your paper (An in-text, parenthetical citation in MLA or APA format or a footnote in Chicago style) and the full bibliographic information for all of the sources you consulted should be listed in a Bibliography, References, or Works Cited list at the end. If you are unsure of how to properly cite sources, the [Purdue Online Writing Lab](#) is an excellent resource. We will also spend time in class reviewing citation formats.

If you commit academic misconduct, you will receive a zero for your assignment. Academic misconduct may also result in stiffer penalties.

Academic Misconduct and Artificial Intelligence

"For the machine, because of the way it is built, can work only in a given direction, no matter who pulls its levers" -Rudolf Rocker

“[T]he point in education is not to generate text artifacts. Rather, the point is to help us develop our own ability to think critically. Writing is a means to critical thinking, and we must do our own writing to cultivate our own true, not artificial, intelligence.”—Loretta Notareschi

The use of AI is prohibited in this course. If you use AI to do your research or writing, you will not receive credit for your assignment. The only exception is the use of AI grammar checking tools. However, if you use AI grammar checking tools, you must disclose this when you submit your assignment. You will need to disclose the specific tool you used, how you used it, and state (truthfully) that you did not use AI to generate text that was copied into your assignment.

Let's Talk

No matter how much time and effort you devote to your schoolwork, sometimes life just gets in the way. If something unexpected comes up that prevents you from completing an assignment or if you fall behind in the class, please reach out to me. The easiest way to reach me is by email. I'm also happy to meet with you in person (I hold on-campus office hours) or by Zoom. Even if you aren't struggling with the course, feel free to drop by and visit sometime. Online learning can feel isolating, and I enjoy meeting my online students in person!

Grading:

There are two categories of assignments in this course: Discussions/Practice Film Analysis and Major Assignments. The Discussions/Practice Film Analysis are each worth 25 points. If you complete these assignments **on time** and follow all of the instructions, you will receive all 25 points. No late work will be accepted in this category.

The Major Assignments are worth 100 points each. These will be graded on a percentage basis.

Assignment	Due Date	Points
Module I Discussion	Sunday, April 6th	25
<i>Maletero</i> Practice Film Analysis	Sunday, April 6th	25
Module II Discussion	Sunday, April 20th	25
Film Analysis: Theme	Sunday, April 27th	100
Module III Discussion	Sunday May 11th	25
Film Analysis: Character	Sunday, May 18th	100
Film Review	Sunday, June 1st	100
Module IV Discussion	Monday, June 8th	25
TOTAL		425

Course Schedule:

Learning Module	Films, Readings, Discussion and Assignments
Learning Module I: An Introduction to Global Cities and Film <i>Monday, March 31st--Sunday, April 6th</i>	Readings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The State of the World's Cities (just read the Overview and Key Findings Section) • Migration and Transnationalism • Informality Knows No Borders • Resources for watching and analyzing film (skim)

	<p>Film:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maletero <p>Discussion and Assignment Due Dates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Module I Discussion: Initial Post and Two Replies due Sunday, April 6th Practice Film Analysis, <i>Maletero</i> due Sunday, April 6th
<p>Learning Module II: Racism and Resistance in the Global City</p> <p><i>Monday, April 7th--Sunday, April 27th</i></p>	<p>Readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Algeria-Encyclopedia of Western Colonialism Entry (brief background and history) The Cite or the Casbah? Cine Qua Non: The Political Import and Impact of <i>The Battle of Algiers</i> Police Power and Race Riots in Paris <p>Films:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Battle of Algiers La Haine <p>Discussion and Assignment Due Dates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Module 2 Discussion: The City in the Battle of Algiers and La Haine -Initial Post and Three Replies due Sunday April 20th Comparative Film Analysis: Themes in <i>The Battle of Algiers</i> and <i>La Haine</i> due Sunday, April 27th
<p>Learning Module III: Precarity and Inequality in the Global City</p> <p><i>Monday, April 28th--Sunday, May 18th</i></p>	<p>Readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chapter 5: Labor and the City How Neoliberalism Puts People Over Profit move Melting Labor and Precarity in South Korea Parasite: A Window into South Korean Neoliberalism The Right to be Weary: Endurance and Exhaustion in Austere Times move <p>Films:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parasite I, Daniel Blake <p>Discussion and Assignment Due Dates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Module III Discussion: The City in Parasite and I, Daniel Blake-Initial Post and Three Replies due Sunday May 11th Film Analysis: Character in <i>Parasite</i> and <i>I, Daniel Blake</i> due Sunday, May 18th
<p>Learning Module IV: Migration, Journeying, and the Global City</p> <p><i>Monday, May 19th--Sunday, June 8th</i></p>	<p>Readings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stranded Migrants, Fragmented Journeys Audio/Podcast: The Moving Border even further South Family Separation, Removal, Deportation, and Return <p>Films:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Io Capitano

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sin Pais (short) <p>Discussion and Assignment Due Dates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Module IV Discussion: Journeys to and from the Global City in <i>Io Capitano</i> and <i>Sin Pais</i> -Initial Post and Three Replies due Sunday, June 1st • Film analysis: Scenes of Resilience and Transformation in <i>Io Capitano</i> and <i>Sin Pais</i> due Sunday June 8th
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