

POLSC 304: Public Space
Prof. Leonard Feldman
Fall 2013
Hunter College, Department of Political Science

TUE, FRI: 12:45-2 pm, HW 706

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Office Hours: Tue 2:30-6pm, Fri 11:30am-12-30pm, and by appointment

This upper-division political theory special topics course is focused on the issue of public space. We will examine the connection between public space and democracy, new developments in the legal regulation and policing of public space and efforts to resist those regulations, the meaning of the concepts “public” and “private,” and the emergence of new technologically-mediated public spaces.

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Other issues

Cr/ NC requirements: College rules specify that to be eligible for credit/no credit, students must complete all course requirements. In this course, students who wish to be

graded on the credit/no credit system must have turned in on time at least 6 response papers, completed the midterm, and submitted the research paper. Failure to do so will void the CR/NC option and you will receive the appropriate letter grade.

Requirements:

1. One 3 page ethnographic report on an urban public space (3 pages): 10 percent of final grade
2. Class Attendance and Participation: 15 percent
3. Ten 2 page response papers: 25 percent
4. In-class Midterm Exam: 20 percent
5. Research Prospectus, Research Presentation and Research Paper (12-15 pages): 30 percent

Response Paper Rules

1. A paper copy of your response paper is due at the beginning of class.
2. Your response paper must be about the assigned reading for that day.
3. No late response papers will be accepted UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES.
4. You choose which 10 classes to submit response papers... *BUT*, you must complete 4 response papers before the midterm

Books to Purchase at Shakespeare & Company:

1. Orum and Neal, *Common Ground? Readings and Reflections on Public Space*
2. Don Mitchell, *The Right to the City: Social Justice and the Fight for Public Space*
3. Bernard Harcourt, *Illusion of Order: The False Promise of Broken Windows Policing*
4. Beckett and Herbert: *Banished: The New Social Control in Urban America*
5. Margaret Kohn, *Brave New Neighborhoods: The Privatization of Public Space*

Schedule of Classes and Reading Assignments

*Readings Available on Blackboard

8/30 Course introduction

SOCIOLOGICAL AND CONCEPTUAL FOUNDATIONS

I. Public Space as Structured Experience: What is the experience of being in urban public space? How do urban and suburban public spaces differ? How do publically-owned and privately-owned public spaces differ?

9/3: What exactly happens in public space?

Jacobs, Whyte, and Oldenburg in Orum and Neal, *Common Ground?*

9/10: Urban and Suburban Public Space

1. Baumgartner and Anderson in Orum and Neal, *Common Ground?*
2. Sharon Zukin* "Union Square and the Paradox of Public Space"

9/17: Hybrid private/public spaces

1. Jerold Kayden, *Privately-Owned Public Space: The New York City Experience*, excerpt*
2. Michael Kimmelman, "In Protest, the Power of Place"
<http://www.nytimes.com/2011/10/16/sunday-review/wall-street-protest-shows-power-of-place.html>*

II. The Public/Private Dichotomy: What is it and should we maintain it?

9/20: The multiple meanings of "public" and "private"

1. Jeffrey Weintraub, "The Theory and Politics of the Public/Private Distinction"
2. Ted Kilian, "Public and Private, Power and Space"

9/24: Critical theory, Feminist Theory and the public/private dichotomy

1. Jacques Ranciere* *Ten Theses on Politics* excerpt
2. Carole Pateman*, "Feminist Critiques of the Public/Private Dichotomy"

Due 9/24: 3 page ethnographic report on a privately-owned public space

POWER AND RESISTANCE IN AND ABOUT PUBLIC SPACE

III. Public Space and Systems of Power: What is and what should be the role of law and police in regulating urban public space?

9/27: "Broken Windows" Policing

1. Kelling and Wilson*, *Fixing Broken Windows*, *Atlantic Monthly*
2. Bernard Harcourt, *The Illusion of Order*

10/1: Broken Windows, cont'd

Harcourt, *The Illusion of Order*, cont'd

10/4: New Directions in the Legal Regulation of Public Space

1. Don Mitchell, *The Right to the City*, chpt 2
2. Beckett and Herbert, *Banished*

10/8: “Urban Banishment” and Stop and Frisk, cont’d

1. Beckett and Herbert, *Banished*
2. Stop and Frisk article TBA*

10/11: Vertical and Horizontal Surveillance in Public Space

1. Jane Jacobs, *Death and Life of Great American Cities*, excerpt
2. Joshua Reeves, “If You See Something, Say Something”
3. Mark Andreyivic, “The Work of Watching One Another” *Theorizing Surveillance* excerpts
4. Walsh “From Border Control to Border Care”

10/18: Surveillance, cont’d and Review

10/22: In-class midterm exam

IV. Homelessness and Class Conflict in Public Space

10/25: Struggles By and Against Homeless People

1. Neil Smith, Class Struggle on Avenue B,
2. Don Mitchell, *The Right to the City* chpts 5 and 6
3. Jeremy Waldron, “Homelessness and the Issue of Freedom”

10/29: The Relationship Between the Homeless and the Public

1. Samira Kawash, “The Homeless Body”
2. Leonard Feldman, “From Vagrancy Law to Contemporary Anti-Homeless Legislation”
3. Margaret Kohn, *Brave New Neighborhoods*, chpt 8.

11/1: Library Research Methods: Meet in library, room TBA

V. Public Space and Democratic Social Movements

11/5: Public Space and Democracy in Recent US Protests

1. *Beyond Zuccotti Park*, excerpt
2. Mitchell, *Right to the City* chpts 3, 4,
3. Kohn, *Brave New Neighborhoods* chpt. 3

11/8: Public Space and Democracy in Comparative Perspective

1. Timur Hammond and Elizabeth Angell, "Is Everywhere Taksim? Public Space and Possible Publics" http://www.jadaliyya.com/pages/index/12143/is-everywhere-taksim_public-space-and-possible-pub
2. Mohamed Elshahed, "Tahrir Square, Social Media, Public Space" <http://places.designobserver.com/feature/tahrir-square-social-media-public-space/25108/>

Extra Credit Option: read China Mieville's The City and The City, and analyze it using the ideas from 2 of the readings. Extra credit option due 11/19

DISAPPEARANCE AND EMERGENCE OF PUBLIC SPACE

VI. Is public space disappearing?

11/12: Political Theorists Mourn the Loss of the Public Sphere

1. Jurgen Habermas, *Structural Transformation of the Public Sphere* excerpt
2. Hannah Arendt, *The Human Condition* excerpt
3. Richard Sennett, *The Fall of Public Man* excerpt

11/15: The "Malling" of Public Space

1. Michael Sorkin, *Variations on a Theme Park*, excerpt
2. Margaret Kohn, *Brave New Neighborhoods* chpt 4

11/19: Complicating the Disappearance Narrative

1. David J. Madden, "Revisiting the End of Public Space: Assembling the Public in an Urban Park"
2. Rosalyn Deutsche, *Evictions: Art and Spatial Politics* pp. __

VII. Is public space reemerging online? Is there such a thing as a digital public sphere? What Happens to the Public/Private Dichotomy Online?

11/22: Social Networks as Public Spheres

1. Kohn, *Brave New Neighborhoods*, chpt 10
2. Danah Boyd, "Social Network Sites as Networked Publics"
3. Sherry Turkle, *Alone Together* excerpt
4. Article TBA on Facebook/Twitter and the Arab Spring

11/26: Surveillance, Publicity and Privacy in Online Social Worlds

Julie Cohen, "Privacy, Autonomy and Information" in *Configuring the Networked Self*

VIII. Research Presentations 11/27 (WED), 12/3, 12/6, 12/10, 12/13

Final Research Paper Due to turnitin.com by FRIDAY DECEMBER 20th at 6 pm.