

The Visual Landscape: Duality, Difference and the Modern

Chris Johnson

chrisjohnso@earthlink.net

Web Site

<http://blackvistas.com/index.html>

password "culture"

This course considers the notion of individual experience in the city. Through the examination of early twentieth century literature, architecture, and the visual arts of New York, we will question how individuals' sense of self evolved from inner-directed to other-directed and how urban environments are maintained as either inclusive or exclusive.

All readings will be available via the course web site.

Participants are required to write two essays of approximately five pages in length each. The first essay will be due at mid semester and the second near the end of the term. Essay topics will be chosen from course readings and themes.

All writing assignments must be typed. Please double-space the lines and use one-inch margins on all sides of the page.

Final grades will depend 60% on submitted work and 40% on class participation.

Please inform me of any medical issues that may influence your attendance and performance in class.

More than four class absences result in automatic failure of the course. Recurring tardiness will be reflected in the final grade.

Plagiarism occurs when one writer copies the words of another writer without attributing the words to the source. Unattributed copying will result in course failure.

Course Calendar (subject to change)

Week	Theme
One	Experience
Two	Colonial
Three	Faith
Four	Class Discussion
Five	The Picturesque
Six	Immigrant
Seven	Skyscraper
First Essay	
Eight	The Streets
Nine	Leisure
Ten	Gender
Eleven	Technology
Twelve	White
Thirteen	Possession
Second Essay	
Fourteen	Space

Course Readings (subject to change)

Experience

1. "Only in New York": The New York City Personal Experience Narrative

Cody, Cornelia.

Journal of Folklore Research, Volume 42, Number 2, May-August 2005, pp. 217-244

Colonial

2. Seeking Freedom in the Atlantic World, 1713-1783

Foy, Charles R.

Early American Studies: An Interdisciplinary Journal, Volume 4, Number 1, Spring 2006, pp. 46-77.

Faith

3. From Salvation To Self-Realization: Advertising and the Therapeutic Roots of the Consumer Culture, 1880-1930

Lears, T. J. Jackson, 1947-

Advertising & Society Review, Volume 1, Issue 1, 2000

Literature

4. Habitations of Modernism: Henry James's New York, 1907

Follini, Tamara.

The Cambridge Quarterly, Volume 37, Number 1, 2008, pp. 30-46

The Picturesque

5. The Urban Picturesque and the Spectacle of Americanization

Bramen, Carrie Tirado, 1964-

American Quarterly, Volume 52, Number 3, September 2000, pp. 444-477

Immigrant

6. The Shtetl by the Highway: The East European City in New York's Landsmanshaft Press, 1921-39

Kobrin, Rebecca.

Prooftexts, Volume 26, Number 1&2, Winter/Spring 2006, pp. 107-137

Skyscraper

7. The Footprint of the Twentieth Century: The American Skyscraper and the Modernist Poem

Newcomb, John Timberman.

Modernism/modernity, Volume 10, Number 1, January 2003, pp. 97-125

The Streets

8. Streets, Sounds and Identity in Interwar Harlem

Corbould, Clare.

Journal of Social History, Volume 40, Number 4, Summer 2007, pp. 859-894

Leisure

9. Crowds and Leisure: Thinking Comparatively Across the 20th Century

Cross, Gary S.

Journal of Social History, Volume 39, Number 3, Spring 2006, pp. 631-650

Gender

10. Good, Bad, and Beautiful: Chester Himes's Femmes in Harlem

Crawford, Norlisha.

NWSA Journal, Volume 18, Number 2, Summer 2006, pp. 193-217

Technology

11. Technology and Its Discontents: On the Verge of the Posthuman

Dinerstein, Joel, 1958-

American Quarterly, Volume 58, Number 3, September 2006, pp. 569-595

White

12. Philoctetes Revisited: White Public Space and the Political Geography of Public Safety

Feldman, Allen.

Social Text, 68 (Volume 19, Number 3), Fall 2001, pp. 57-89

Possession

13. Race for Sale: Narratives of Possession in Two "Ethnic" Museums

Hilden, Patricia.

TDR: The Drama Review, Volume 44, Number 3 (T 167), Fall 2000, pp. 11-36

Space

14. Farewell to the El: Nostalgic Urban Visuality on the Third Avenue Elevated Train

Stalter, Sunny.

American Quarterly, Volume 58, Number 3, September 2006, pp. 869-890

Folklore

15. Grove Street Grimm: Grand Theft Auto and Digital Folklore. Kiri Miller.

Journal of American Folklore. Summer 2008.