

MDIA 409 Special Topic: Media and the City

Trimester 1 2015

2 March to 1 July 2015

30 Points



Source: Geoff Stahl

IMPORTANT DATES

Teaching dates:	2 March to 5 June 2015
Easter/Mid-Trimester break:	3 to 19 April 2015
Last assessment item due:	15 June 2015

Withdrawal dates:

Refer to www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/withdrawals-refunds. If you cannot complete an assignment or sit a test or examination, refer to www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/aegrotats.

CLASS TIMES AND LOCATIONS

Monday 9.00 - 11.50am 83 Fairlie Terrace FT83201

NAMES AND CONTACT DETAILS

Staff: Geoff Stahl

Email: geoff.stahl@vuw.ac.nz

Phone: 04 463 7472

Room: FT81 102

Office Hours: Thursday 1.00 – 2.00pm, or by appointment.

COMMUNICATION OF ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

If you are not going to use the Victoria email address set up for you, we strongly encourage you to set a forward from the Victoria email system to the email address you do use.

PRESCRIPTION

Students will consider the role of media in the city. Emphasis will be placed on media such as film, television, advertising, and music. A selection of cities will be discussed, including Paris, Berlin and Wellington, highlighting issues relating to the role media play in producing and reproducing urban space.

COURSE LEARNING OBJECTIVES (CLOS)

Students who pass this course will be able to:

1. understand the relationship between media and urban space.
2. have a strong grasp of different methodologies used to approach media texts as they relate to the city.
3. acquire and apply analytical and critical approaches to textual analysis of a selection of media texts.
4. identify and apply different critical approaches and perspectives taken on media and urban space.
5. work in pairs and larger groups, through peer assessment and collaborative exercises and
6. demonstrate written, researching and oral presentation skills.

TEACHING FORMAT

This course will be delivered as a weekly seminar and will involve formal presentations and extensive discussions. Students are to complete reading assigned for each week before the seminar. There will be several screenings, separate from seminar times, as noted above.

MANDATORY COURSE REQUIREMENTS

In addition to achieving an overall pass mark of 50%, students must:

- Submit the essays and assignments, on or by the specified dates (subject to such provisions as are stated for late submission of work).

WORKLOAD

The expected workload for a 30 point course is 300 hours over the trimester or 20 hours per teaching week.

1. Lecture attendance (10 sessions):	20 hours
2. Screening attendance (5 sessions):	10 hours
3. Reading:	140 hours
4. Urban Diaries (Assignment 1):	15 hours
5. Research Proposal (Assignment 2):	40 hours
6. Oral Presentation (Assignment 3):	15 hours
7. Peer Feedback (Assignment 4):	5 hours
8. Research Essay (Assignment 5):	55 hours

ASSESSMENT

Assessment items and workload per item	%	CLO(s)	Due date
1 Assignment 1: Urban Diaries (2x750) 1,500 words	20%	2 and 6	The following Fridays: 20 March, 15 May.
2 Assignment 2: Research Proposal 2,500 words	25%	1, 2, 3, 4 and 6	2pm, Friday, 1 May
3 Assignment 3: Oral Presentation 500 words	10%	5 and 6	Week 11
4 Assignment 4: Peer Feedback	5%	5 and 6	Week 11
5 Assignment 5: Research Essay 4,000 words	40%	1, 2, 3, 4 and 6	2pm, Monday 15 June

The assignments for this course are designed to develop research, writing and oral presentation skills. Accordingly, each piece of assessment is to be understood as a stage upon which the following piece can then be further developed, based on feedback from the Course Coordinator as well as peers.

ASSIGNMENT 1: Urban Diaries (2 X 10%) 2 X 750 words. Due dates: Friday 20 March; Friday 15 May.

The diary entries will take two forms. The first will be based on the Situationist notion of the *dérive* (or “drift”). In this exercise, a map of another city will be overlaid that of Wellington. Students will then attempt to follow selected streets or landmarks on their own and at their leisure as they are superimposed on Wellington and submit a single-authored entry. The second diary entry will consist of observations made about the city based on Henri Lefebvre’s notion of “rhythmanalysis,” details of which will be discussed in class closer to the due date. In this latter piece of assessment,

students will work together in small groups of 2 or 3 as observers in the city, and will submit the work as a collective diary entry agreed upon by each group. This group work is given a single grade for all students in the group. Students are encouraged to reflect on the city as by drawing upon course readings in making their observations.

ASSIGNMENT 2: Research Proposal (25%) 2,500 words. Due date: 2pm, Friday 1 May.

The research proposal will include a brief introduction of the research question the student intends to pursue regarding media and the city. A synopsis of the project will include a provisional thesis, identification of their primary media text, a rationale as to the significance of this research, and a list of key concepts. A preliminary bibliography, with annotations and comprised of at least five entries, is to be included.

ASSIGNMENT 3: Oral Presentation (10%) 500 words. Due date: Week 11.

Oral presentations, 15-20 minutes in length (including questions), are to build upon the research proposal. The student will present to the class their project, outlining their research question, rationale and the concepts, ideas and/or key thinker students are drawing upon for their project. Students are also expected to respond to feedback on their research proposal at this stage, identifying what and how feedback will be taken on board. A written draft is to be circulated to those students selected to give feedback at least three days prior to the presentation itself.

ASSIGNMENT 4: Peer Feedback (5%). Due date: Week 11.

For each oral presentation, two peers from the class will be prepared to ask 3-4 questions of the presenter, based on the draft they have received no less than three days before the presentation. Peers will be evaluated on the quality of their feedback and questions. Those asking the questions are expected to communicate with one another prior to the scheduled session so as to avoid overlap. The peer feedback is not taken into account in the grading of the assessment under consideration.

ASSIGNMENT 5: Research Essay (40%) 4,000 words. Due date: 2pm, Monday 15 June

The final assignment is designed to realise work done over the trimester, developing the research proposal into a proper research essay.

Detailed instructions and the marking criteria for each piece of assessment will be made available at the beginning of the course and posted on Blackboard.

Alongside a hard copy submitted through the MDIA drop slot at 83 Fairlie Terrace, assignment 5 is to be entered through Turnitin.

Please note: Marks for Honours level assignments and final course grades are not finalised until feedback from the external examiner has been considered. Honours grades gained in individual courses remain provisional until the overall final classification made by the Honours programme examination committee.

SUBMISSION AND RETURN OF WORK

Work provided for assessment in this course will be checked for academic integrity by Turnitin. Follow the instructions provided in the "Assignments and Turnitin" section of Blackboard.

Each assignment is submitted in two formats:

- A hardcopy in the MDIA drop slot outside the administration office: [83 Fairlie Terrace](#). Attach an assignment cover sheet or extension form to your assignment, found on Blackboard or outside the administration office.
- Email your assignment as a MS Word file to media-studies@vuw.ac.nz

Your marked assignment will be handed back by your supervisor. Any uncollected assignments can be picked up from the Programme Administrator after the last day of teaching. Assignments will be held in the administration office until the end of the following trimester. You need to show your student identification to collect marked assignment from the administration office.

EXTENSIONS AND PENALTIES

Extensions

In exceptional and unforeseen circumstances an extension may be granted. To apply for an extension, email your Course Coordinator before the assignment is due. If granted, your Course Coordinator will inform you of the new due date. **No assignment with or without an extension will be accepted after Friday 19 June 2015.**

Penalties

Work submitted after the deadline will be penalised by a 2.5 percent deduction from your total mark per work day. Late work also receives only minimal comments from your marker.

SET TEXTS

Reading will be made electronically and on closed reserve.

RECOMMENDED READING

A list of recommended reading will be set aside on the Library Course Reserve.

CLASS REPRESENTATIVE

The class representative provides a useful way to communicate feedback to the teaching staff during the course. A class representative will be selected at the first lecture of the course. Students may like to write the Class Rep's name and details in this box:

Class Rep name and contact details:

STUDENT FEEDBACK

Enhancements made to this course, based on the feedback of previous students, will be covered during the course.

Student feedback on University courses may be found at

www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/feedback/feedback_display.php.

In week six or seven of the trimester your class representative will be invited to a meeting with the Programme staff. In week five your class representative will ask the class for any feedback on this course to discuss at this meeting.

OTHER IMPORTANT INFORMATION

The information above is specific to this course. There is other important information that students must familiarise themselves with, including:

- Academic Integrity and Plagiarism: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/integrity-plagiarism
- Aegrotats: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/aegrotats
- Academic Progress: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/progress/academic-progress (including restrictions and non-engagement)
- Dates and deadlines: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/dates
- FHSS Student and Academic Services Office: www.victoria.ac.nz/fhss/student-admin
- Grades: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/progress/grades
- Resolving academic issues: www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/dvc-academic/publications
- Special passes: www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/dvc-academic/publications
- Statutes and policies including the Student Conduct Statute:
www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/strategy
- Student support: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/support
- Students with disabilities: www.victoria.ac.nz/st_services/disability
- Student Charter: www.victoria.ac.nz/learning-teaching/learning-partnerships/student-charter
- Student Contract: www.victoria.ac.nz/study/apply-enrol/terms-conditions/student-contract
- Subject Librarians: <http://library.victoria.ac.nz/library-v2/find-your-subject-librarian>
- Turnitin: www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/wiki/index.php/Turnitin
- University structure: www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/structure
- Victoria graduate profile: www.victoria.ac.nz/learning-teaching/learning-partnerships/graduate-profile
- VUWSA: www.vuwsa.org.nz
- School website: www.victoria.ac.nz/seftms

COURSE PROGRAMME

Week 1	2 March	<p>Introduction: Signs of/in the City</p> <p>Amin, Ash and Nigel Thrift. "The Legibility of the Everyday City." <i>Cities: Reimagining the Urban</i>. London: Oxford University Press, 2002. 7-30.</p>
Week 2	9 March	<p>Producing Urban Space</p> <p>Lefebvre, Henri. "The Plan of the Present Work." <i>The Production of Space</i>. Trans. Donald Nicholson-Smith. Oxford: Blackwell, 2000. 1-67. Print.</p>
Week 3	16 March	<p>Walking in the City</p> <p>de Certeau, Michel. "Walking in the City." <i>The Practice of Everyday Life</i>. Berkeley, CA: University of California Press, 1984. 91-110. Print.</p>
Week 4	23 March	<p>Gender and the City</p> <p>Mouton, Janice. "From Feminine Masquerade to Flâneuse: Agnès Varda's <i>Cléo in the City</i>." <i>Cinema Journal</i>. 40.2 (2001): 3-16. Print.</p> <p>Murphy, Amy. "Traces of the Flâneuse: From Roman Holiday to Lost in Translation." <i>Journal of Architectural Education</i>. 60.1 (2006): 33-42. Print.</p>
Week 5	30 March	<p>Driving in the City</p> <p>Thrift, Nigel. "Driving in the City." <i>Theory, Culture & Society</i>. 21.4/5 (2004): 41-59. Print.</p> <p>Zeilinger, Martin. "'Quit stalling...!': Destiny and Destination on L.A.'s Inner City Roads." <i>Culture Unbound: Journal of Current Cultural Research</i>. 1.2 (2009): 367-384. Print.</p>
Easter/Mid Trimester Break: Friday 3 to Sunday 19 April 2015		
Week 6	20 April	<p>Night and the City</p> <p>Dimendberg, Ed. "Introduction." <i>Film Noir and the Spaces of Modernity</i>. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2004. 1-20. Print.</p> <p>Blum, Alan. "Nighttime." <i>The Imaginative Structure of the City</i>. Montreal/Kingston: McGill-Queen's University Press, 2003. 141-163. Print.</p>
Week 7	27 April	NO CLASS THIS WEEK: Anzac Day observed – Public holiday
Week 8	4 May	<p>Scenes and Subcultures</p> <p>Blum, Alan. "Scenes." <i>Public: Cities/Scenes</i>. 22/23 (2001): 6-35. Print.</p> <p>Straw, Will. "Cultural Scenes." <i>Society and Leisure</i>. 27.2 (2004): 411-422. Print.</p> <p>*Optional Reading: Stahl, Geoff. "Tracing Out an Anglo-Bohemia: Musicmaking in Montreal." <i>Public: Cities/Scenes</i>. 22/23 (2001): 99-121. Print.</p>

Week 9	11 May	Non-Places and the Ethical City Augé, Marc. "From Places to Non-Places." <i>Non-Places: Introduction to an Anthropology of Supermodernity</i> . Trans. John Howe. London: Verso, 2000. 75-115 Print. Sennett, Richard. "Capitalism and the City: Globalization, Flexibility, and Indifference." <i>Cities of Europe: Changing Contexts, Local Arrangements, and the Challenge to Urban Cohesion</i> . Ed. Yuri Kazepov. Blackwell Publishing Ltd: Oxford, UK. 2008. 109-122. Print.
Week 10	18 May	The Virtual and Augmented City Burd, Gene. "The Mediated Metropolis as Medium and Message." <i>International Communication Gazette</i> . 70.3/4 (2008): 209-223. Print. Manovich, Lev. "The Poetics of Augmented Space." <i>Visual Communication</i> . 5.2 (2006): 219-240. Print.
Week 11	25 May	Oral Presentations
Week 12	1 June	NO CLASS THIS WEEK: Queen's Birthday – Public holiday