Professor Radha S. Hegde
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Transnational Communities and Media Cultures
London, UK Spring 08 Intersession
January 6-18, 2008
10am-1pm (unless notified)

CLASS LOCATION:
Birkbeck College Room 631 Malet St

STUDENT RESIDENCE LOCATION:
Cardington Street, Euston
North London, NW1 2LP
Phone: +(44) (0) 870 333 9107

Course Description
This course examines the emergence of transnational communities, recent patterns of
migration and the role of media forms and practices in redefining culture and national
belonging. We will explore how media practices define culture and identity for diasporic
groups within the landscape of global cities. What role do media play in the
(re)imagining of cultural politics, nationalism and everyday life in the context of global
relocations? How do technology and media enable new configurations of cultural
resistance and identification within (and between) different immigrant groups? What does
this mean in terms of negotiating the global and local in various aspects of immigrant
lives? Through field trips, field work, discussion and lectures, students will be exposed to
contemporary issues and research.

Course Objectives
• To expose students to current research and theory drawn from interdisciplinary
  sources in the comparative study of transnational mobility, diasporic identity and
  media forms and practices in urban landscapes.

Evaluation
• Students are expected to actively participate in daily seminars. Your
  participation, involvement in discussions and level of engagement in class
  will be graded. (30%)
• Research rationale/questions: This is a short paper of 3-5 pages where you
  will identify a project and area of interest. This will be the topic that you will
  explore in depth and will then turn into your final project. The project has to
  be one that is related to immigrant, transnational communities as they intersect
  with media broadly conceptualized. (10%)
• Final Research paper (15-20 pages) on a topic of interest that is related to the
  issue of transnational cultures, communities and media practices. The paper
  will combine theoretical discussion and data from research conducted on a
  specific question. (60%)
Course plan

Pre Trip:
- You will do some preparatory reading before we leave. I suggest you get a head start with the texts before we leave. Also go through the suggested websites to gain an introduction to current issues.
- By December 30th: Provide a brief overview of your research topic and you will post it on Blackboard. It is highly encouraged that students choose a topic that can be studied comparatively in terms of New York and London.
- By January 8th in London: Write a short 3 page paper which refines your area of research interest and a plan for how you will study it.
- Before classes start in London read the short novel by Selvon and the short story by Kureishi in your packet.
- There will be a tour of ethnic NY that we will schedule – optional before we leave.

In London:
We will meet every morning from 10-1 unless notified otherwise and we will discuss the issues, readings and also engage in ongoing discussion of your field notes and reflections. The first half of the class will be lecture and discussion. In the second half of the class on the dates scheduled, you will have an opportunity to hear speakers from the London area speak in our class. You are expected to come prepared to engage in discussion.
You are expected to attend all field trips.

Post trip
You will write the final paper and at this point you may choose to add a comparative element to the research. Papers will be 15-20 pages long. Papers are due on February 15.
TEXTS

Packet of readings available at New University Copy and Graphics (11 Waverly Place between Mercer & Greene)

Websites to follow:
1. Open democracy
   http://www.opendemocracy.net/globalization-migrationeurope/issue.jsp
   Once in this website go to globalization (in themes) and then access the section People Flow” and there are very interesting articles on the issue of migration, borders etc.

2. This web-site link will give you a sense of current debates on re-defining British identity. The link is to Gordon Brown's speech, and at the end of the speech you'll find links to various related things, such as remarks by others made at the conference, news articles on the conference etc.

3. Guardian and immigration related articles
   http://www.guardian.co.uk/immigration/story/0,,1958533,00.html

4. Refugee Council
   Familiarize yourself with this site, we will visiting the organization while in London
   http://www.refugeecouncil.org.uk/

5. This website has links to sites containing articles and information on transnational migrants, media etc.
   http://www.afterseptember11.tv/

6. Other sites and information of interest to the course will be posted on Blackboard.
SCHEDULE

Session 1. (1/7) Monday: Citizenship and Logics of inclusion/exclusion

Foner: Chps. 6, 7, 9

For today’s class, please check the following:
http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/programmes/the_westminster_hour/4129772.stm
http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/uk_news/politics/5410472.stm

Guest Speaker: Nadia Hashmi (Home Office, UK)

Session 2. (1/8) Tuesday: Modernity, globalization and migration


Field Trip: London Walk: “The Unknown East End”
2pm: Meet at Whitechapel Tube Station at Street Level Exit.

Session 3. (1/9) Wednesday: Citizenship and Logics of inclusion/exclusion

Read debates:
http://fabians.org.uk/events/new-year-conference-06/

Readings to be announced

Guest Speaker: Leah Haus, Political Science, Vassar College

Theatre: 19.30 Statement of Regret at the National Theatre National Theatre South Bank, London SE1 9PX Meet at 7pm outside theatre
Directions: see on last page of syllabus

Session 4. (1/10) Thursday.
Diaspora and belonging


Additional reading suggested by speaker will be provided as pdf.

Field Visit: 11.15am Refugee Council 240-250 Ferndale Road, London SW98BB
Contact: Andrew Keefe Tel: 020 7346 6747
Location: http://www.refugeecouncil.org.uk/contactus/maps/brixton.htm

Session 5. (1/11) Friday:

Cultural production and politics


Guest Speaker: Ashwani Sharma, School of Social Sciences, Media and Cultural Studies, University of East London

Weekend – 1/12, 1/13 – Your time

Session 6. (1/14) Mediascapes in the making


Guest Speaker: Sara Wajid, freelance feature writer and editor of UntoldLondon.

Session 7. (1/15) Tuesday: Cultural politics of race

Sharma, A. 2006 'Shooting the Brazilian: white anxiety and the terrors of multiculturalism', Rising East online
www.uel.ac.uk/risingeast/archive04/academic/sharma.htm (also posted on Blackboard)


Žižek S. 'Multiculturalism, or, the Cultural Logic of Multinational Capitalism' in New Left Review 225, 1997, pp. 44-5.


Other suggested readings on Blackboard.

Field trip: 1.30pm Britain’s Museum of Immigration & Diversity
19 Princelet Street
London E1 6QH
Directions on the last page of syllabus.

Session 8. (1/16) Wednesday:


Group Forum: 3-5pm: Choice & Identity; Birkbeck Room B04.
This cross disciplinary session will bring together students from all three NYU intersession classes to address the larger themes of ‘choice’, ‘identity’ and how it relates to issues we have been examining. (Optional reading by Appiah posted as pdf)
Session 9. (1/17) Thursday: Migration, Children & Media
Readings to be announced.
Guest Speaker: Liesbeth deBlock, Center for the study of children, youth and media. London Knowledge Lab, Institute of Education.

Session 10. (1/18) Friday: Concluding session
Project reports/discussion & wrap up.
Paper due when we return: February 15.
**Directions**
Tuesday 15 January at 1330

Britain’s Museum of Immigration & Diversity  
19 Princelet Street  
London E1 6QH  
(0)20 7247 5352

http://www.19princeletstreet.org.uk

On the tube: From Russell Square tube station, take the Piccadilly Line west one stop to Holborn. Change at Holborn onto the Central Line going east. Take the Central Line 4 stops to Liverpool Street station. When leaving Liverpool St station, walk to Bishopsgate and turn left on Bishopsgate. Turn right onto Brushfield St (you will pass Spitalfields Market on your left). Follow this until you cross Commercial St and follow the road which becomes Fournier St. Once on Fournier St you will make a quick left turn onto Wilkes St and a quick right turn onto Princelet St.

To see its location on a map, go to:  
http://www.streetmap.co.uk and type in the post code E1 6QH  
http://www.tfl.gov.uk/ for Tube maps

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**Directions for play on Wed. 9 jan at 19.30**  
‘Statement of Regret’

National Theatre  
South Bank, London SE1 9PX  
Group Bookings (0)20 7452 3010 £15  
http://www.nationaltheatre.org.uk

The closest tube stations are Waterloo (on the Northern, Bakerloo & Jubilee lines), Southwark (on the Jubilee line) or walk over the the Hungerford Bridge from Embankment (on the Northern, Bakerloo, District and Circle lines).

To see its location on a map, go to:  
http://www.streetmap.co.uk and type in the post code SE1 9PX  
http://www.tfl.gov.uk/ for Tube maps