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 and technology play in the (re)imaging of cultural politics, nationalism and everyday life in the context of global relocations? What does it mean to negotiate the global and local in various aspects of immigrant lives? Through field trips, field work, discussion and lectures, students will be exposed to these contemporary issues and research.

Course Objectives

To expose students to current research and theory drawn from interdisciplinary sources in the comparative study of global mobility, media texts and practices in the context of 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 Proposal/Problem: Identify an area of interest that you will focus on for the paper - a one page statement of interest, followed by an update after the first week of class sessions (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%)

Required Texts

Course Reader available from New University Copy
11 Waverly Place (between Mercer & Greene)
212.473.7369

Campus/Classroom Location - London

Birkbeck College, Room G15
Malet Street, Bloomsbury
NYU London, R14 (03 January only: 9:30-11:30am)
6 Bedford Square
Google Map
Google Map

All class sessions will meet at Birkbeck College, Malet Street, Room G15, unless noted otherwise. We will be meeting at NYU London for the first class session only.

You will be provided with computer lab access at NYU London for the duration of the course.
Pre Trip

- Start following the suggested websites to follow current issues concerning immigration
- Get a head start on the readings -- we will be very busy in London, so prepare accordingly and try to read as many of the assigned texts before your arrival in London
- 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 7th in London: Update your original statement of interest, outlining a specific plan for the project.

In London:

- Orientation, Sunday, January 2, 6:00 - 8:00pm @ Yorkshire Grey – Pub & Kitchen
- We will meet every morning from 10:00am - 1:00pm (unless notified otherwise) for lecture and discussion.
- We will also have workshops either in the morning, or at designated times for project consultation; discussion of field notes will be ongoing throughout the course.
- Class trips and field visits are a significant part of the learning experience and you are expected to attend all of them
- In case of emergency, the NYU London Exchange can be accessed by dialing 0800-316-0469 (if phoned from the UK) or 011-44-800-316-0469 (if dialed from the US). Students should select option 2 for the NYU in London Duty Phone. You can reach the course instructors in case of emergency as well (dialing from the UK).
  - Radha Hegde @ 011 7327428957
  - Robert Wosnitzer @ 011 6462797228

Post trip

- Final papers are due on February 13, via email

**Mandatory Orientation | London | Sunday, January 2**

6:00 - 8:00pm
Yorkshire Grey Pub & Kitchen
2 Theobalds Road
London, WC1X 8PN
[http://www.theyorkshiregrey.co.uk/](http://www.theyorkshiregrey.co.uk/)
[Google Map](http://www.theyorkshiregrey.co.uk/)
Snacks & Soft Drinks will be served

*ALL students are expected to attend, unless arrangements have been made in advance*
Websites to follow: We will list websites of interest and related information on Blackboard but here are some to get started.

- Open Democracy
  [http://www.opendemocracy.net/globalization-migrationeurope/issue.jsp](http://www.opendemocracy.net/globalization-migrationeurope/issue.jsp)
  Follows issues on globalization, mobility, borders, etc – all themes related to this course

- The Guardian, BBC and other British media for current immigration related articles
  [http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk/immigration](http://www.guardian.co.uk/uk/immigration)
  [http://news.bbc.co.uk/](http://news.bbc.co.uk/)

- Migrant Rights Network
  [http://www.migrantsrights.org.uk/](http://www.migrantsrights.org.uk/)
  Twitter Feed: [http://twitter.com/migrants_rights](http://twitter.com/migrants_rights)
  Facebook Page: [http://on.fb.me/hZk9A6](http://on.fb.me/hZk9A6)

- Links for Southall Field Trip:
  This may prove helpful for those studying the south asian diaspora, and we will be visiting this section of London on 4 January

- Refugee Council
  [http://www.refugeecouncil.org.uk/](http://www.refugeecouncil.org.uk/)
  Familiarize yourself with this site, we will be visiting the organization while in London

- European Council of Refugees and Exiles

- Home Office and Rules regarding immigration to the UK

- Untold London is a good site to follow for information on London’s transnational communities

  [http://www.museumindocklands.org.uk/English/EventsExhibitions/Special/LSS/](http://www.museumindocklands.org.uk/English/EventsExhibitions/Special/LSS/)
  We will be visiting this museum with a guided tour by Dr. Tom Wareham on 11 January

- Dark Matter 101, edited by Ash Sharma
  [http://www.darkmatter101.org/site/](http://www.darkmatter101.org/site/)

- Transport for London: Tube & Bus Maps, General Info
Pre Trip Readings: To be completed by Sunday January 3


WEEK 1

Monday 01/03  Session 1: Migration and the Law  NYU London R14 9:30 - 11:00am


Suggested reading in preparation for walking tour:

Guest Speaker: Prakash Shah | University of London

Field trip: History of Transnational Communities | Walking Tour of London East End
Tour starts at 2:00pm, at Whitechapel Tube Station, Street Level Exit

*** Either meet at Whitechapel Station @ 1:45, or, Euston Square Tube @ 1:15 ***

Tuesday 01/04  Session 2: Diasporic Space & Identity  Birkbeck Room G15


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

Field Trip: Visit to Southall with Ash Sharma (leave together from Birkbeck)
Wednesday 01/05  
**Session 3: Migration Policy & Activism**  
Birkbeck Room G15


**Guest Speaker:** Juan Camillo | Migration Rights Network

**Field Trip:** National Theater, Men Should Weep @ 7:30pm (Meet in Lobby of National Theater @ 7:00pm)  
[http://www.nationaltheatre.org.uk/59867/productions/men-should-weep.html](http://www.nationaltheatre.org.uk/59867/productions/men-should-weep.html)

Thursday 01/06  
**Session 4: Multiculturalism & the Arts**  
Birkbeck Room G15

Readings: Articles from Guardian on theatre and multiculturalism

**Guest Speaker:** Kristine Landon-Smith | Artistic Director, Tamasha Theater Company

Friday 01/07  
**Session 5: Gender & the Politics of Representation**  
Birkbeck Room G15


**Guest Speaker:** Gholam Khiabany | Department of Applied Social Sciences | London Metropolitan University  
Milly Williamson | Senior Lecturer in Film & Television, School of Arts | Brunel University

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**Suggested Independent Field Trips/Exhibition:**

1. Exhibition @ London School of Economics - Andrew Jackson: The Golden Road: New photography, film and writing on contemporary Britain and economic migration  

2. Visit Edgeware Road (near Marble Arch) for Middle Eastern communities in London:  
### WEEK 2

#### Monday 01/10  
**Session 6: Refugees & Social Networks**  
Birkbeck Room G15

Readings:

**Guest Speaker:** Lucy Williams | University of Kent

#### Tuesday 01/11  
**Session 7: Education & Language**  
Birkbeck Room G15

Readings:
- De Block, Liesbeth & Buckingham, David (2008), *Global children, global media: Migration, media and childhood*. Palgrave, Chapters 2, 3

Suggested as preparation for Docklands visit:

**Guest Speaker:** Eona Bell | London School of Economics

**Field Trip/Discussion:** Museum of London Docklands: London, Sugar & Slavery Tour with Dr. Tom Wareham @ 1:00pm  
[http://www.museumindocklands.org.uk/English/EventsExhibitions/Special/LSS/](http://www.museumindocklands.org.uk/English/EventsExhibitions/Special/LSS/)  
***Meet at 12:00pm to take Tube to Museum***

#### Wednesday 01/12  
**Session 8: Migrants & Politics**  
Birkbeck Room G15

9:30 - 11:00am  

**Field trip:** Refugee Council | 240-250 Ferndale Road. London SW98B  
***Tube to Brixton; leave from class @ 10:30am***

#### Thursday 01/13  
**Session 9: Connectivity, Mobility & Transnational Communities**  
Birkbeck

Readings:

#### Friday 01/14  
**Session 10: Field Research**
Final Project

In a research paper of roughly 15 pages, you will examine an aspect of immigrant life, identity/experience as transformed or inflected by media, communication and representation. Using the readings and class discussions as a point of departure, frame and elaborate on an area of your interest that falls within the framework of the larger themes of the course – mobility, transnational communities, media, communication and representation.

The paper is an opportunity for you to discuss your topic by bringing together 1) observations from your field trips and learning experience in London and, 2) an engagement with literature drawn from the readings, combined with at least 4-5 additional sources that address your chosen area.

In the paper, you will both describe and advance an argument to demonstrate the significance of your subject area. Below is a suggested structure, but you can choose other ways of developing/presenting your work as long as you cover these expectations.

Rationale for the chosen area
Introduce the area. What are the various aspects/complexities in addressing the subject? Why is it a significant area in the context of the study of transnational communities in London? In short, set the rationale for the importance of this subject and the implications.

Description and Review
Lay out the issues to provide a comprehensive overview of the subject area. Incorporate details from your observations and field notes made while in London. Engage with the readings drawn both from course material and additional sources. The challenge is for you to integrate your mini ethnographies and field research with your readings and provide a critique.

Discussion and your commentary
Provide an overall summation and your thoughts about some research implications for further study.

This structure is to enable you to engage both with the larger landscape of migration and transnational forms of community and the particularities of your chosen area.

By December 30, or earlier, identify an area of interest that you will focus on for the paper - a one page statement of interest to be emailed to the instructors

Paper due February 13, 2011
via electronic submission as attachment in PDF format