

Urban Spectators & Cinetourism: Flaneur/ Flaneuse, Voyeurs/Voyagers, and Detectives

+ brief visual presentation on assigned date

Purpose: In just three weeks we've explored a variety of cinematic explorations of the city and have seen a variety of ways a film can move us, the viewers, through the city through a variety of spectatorial experiences. We can experience the city through the lens of the urban flaneur/ flaneuse, the voyeur, or the cop/detective. Sometimes a film can take us through a combination of spectatorial experiences (e.g. voyeur & detective takes us through Rear Window).

Other concepts you might consider: public vs. private space. Mobility vs. immobility. How gender, race, class, sexuality, and ability inform the way characters move through or experience the city.**

Method:

Choose 1 "city film" or a selection of 2-3 films to do a comparative approach (TV show works as well) that give us a tour of the city from one or a combination of the perspectives discussed and produce a visual essay. **You have 2 options for how to do it (choose 1):**

- (1) Use slides (PPT or google) to break down at least 2 scenes, either shot-by-shot or selecting a number of key illustrative shots to show the filmmaking techniques used to provide the "tour" of the city. In a 3-4 page paper (12 pt. double spaced) provide a complementary written explanation that clearly ties to readings.
- (2) **OR** Video essay! If you know how to do it. Must include a script of equivalent length to paper in option 1.

In either option: must use at least 3 sources (scholarly), at least 2 from class. Plus films/ series (the object of your analysis + any others that serve as an interesting point of comparison.

Final Assignment: Expand and Revise Urban Spectators & Cinetourism Paper / Project

Revise and expand your first paper project based on feedback provided. The final paper should be approximately 2500 words and usefully incorporate 5-6 scholarly sources. Final papers will not need a secondary visual component but should incorporate 3-4 images to illustrate key points. In most cases, this will involve strengthening the central claims and adding additional support from textual analysis and scholarly sources. The goal will be to include some papers in the

student voices section of [Mediapolis Journal](#). Even if you're sure you're going to take this option, do read the prompt below as it may give ideas for additional avenues to explore as you expand your current paper.

Select films (you may also propose another option):

Pretty much any Italian Neorealism (Bicycle Thief, Umberto D., for example)
Most French New Wave (Cleo listed above, Breathless, 400 Blows, Shoot the Piano Player)
70s NY movies: Shaft, Serpico, Marathon Man, Klute (starring Jane Fonda!), Taxi Driver, Midnight Cowboy, Superfly. Some great 70s San Francisco movies as well, like The Conversation (Frances Ford Coppola, 1974)
Rom Coms: When Harry Met Sally, Annie Hall (trigger warning: Woody Allen)
Variety (Betty Gordon, 84) – feminist take on Taxi Driver and other urban films. Ignore the bad reviews on Amazon Prime—they don't get it.
Smithereens or Desperately Seeking Susan (both Susan Seidelman, early 1980s)
After Hours (Scorsese, 84)
Shaft (the original please)
Frances Ha (or Mistress America)—Noah Baumbach/ Greta Gerwig collabs.
Tangerine (Sean Baker)
Cleo from 5 to 7 (Agnes Varda, French New Wave)
Girlhood (Celine Sciamma, contemporary French film)
The Florida Project (yes, I'm counting Orlando & its fringes as a city b/c it'll work!)
Good Time (Safdie Bros. follow Robert Pattinson through a weird night in Queens)
Do the Right Thing

TV Series & Episodes that would work:

Most of Sex & the City (esp first episodes)
Insecure episode: "Fresh Like" ("Fortress City" reading may also be helpful here)
High Maintenance: All of it
Bored to Death
Broad City: most episodes
The Wire "Old Cases" (season 1, ep 4)