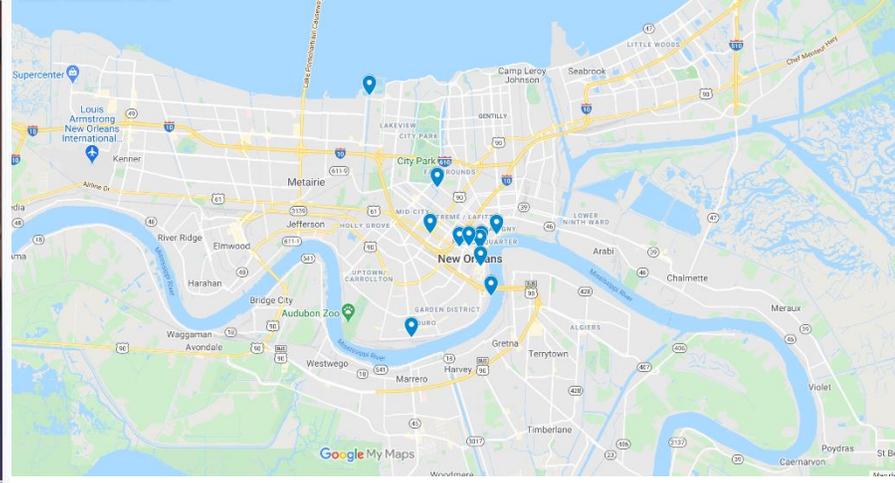
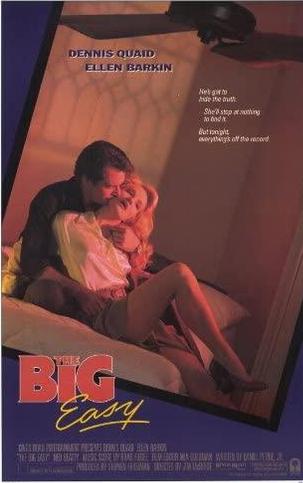


SSC 200: Mapping Cityscapes in Media Spring 2021



Course Instructor: Robert Joseph, Ph.D., Department of Communication

Meeting: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 11:00-12:15, Miriam Hall 201 (half of the class will meet Tuesdays, the other half Thursdays)

Email: josephr1@udayton.edu

Office Hours: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 12:30-1:30, via Zoom (also available by appointment)

Course Description:

SSC 200 is a theme-based course that varies across sections but shares common learning outcomes. The course applies social science methods and social theory to critically examine human issues and problems from the perspective of three social science disciplines. The course emphasizes outcomes related to scholarship, critical evaluation of our times, and the diversity of the human world.

Have you ever seen your hometown show up in a movie and think, "that's so cool!" or even "that's not right at all"? Have you ever wondered about why a particular city or location is chosen for a film, or why all film and TV seems like it's shot in Atlanta, New Orleans, and Vancouver? In "Mapping Cityscapes in Media," we will explore how American cities appear in narrative film and television. Particular attention will be given to the practice of mapping these media texts, identifying their relationship to those real-life cities, and what these relationships and representations reveal about the text's relationship to social power and political reality. By the end of this course, you will analyze a film or TV text of your own choice, and how it represents your chosen city. This course combines social science research, Google Maps, and detective work to look at how a media work *uses* a city, and what that representation says about that city.

Course Learning Objectives:

1. Students will demonstrate the ability to locate primary source, peer-reviewed social science literature using library and electronic sources.
2. Students will demonstrate the ability to utilize primary source, peer-reviewed social science research for academic inquiry.

3. Students will demonstrate knowledge of social science methods of inquiry.
4. Students will demonstrate knowledge of how various social theories facilitate the critical and imaginative evaluation of the ethical, historical, social, political, technological, economic, or ecological challenges of the times.
5. Students will demonstrate knowledge of how context, difference, and/or positionality shape social issues and the power to shape social issues.

Required Texts

All readings will be made available in PDF form or through URL links under each week's Lesson page on Isidore.

Course Structure

This course is a hybrid section that will combine in-person and distance learning. Quizzes, exams, lectures, and readings will be completed online outside of class, while in-person sessions will be dedicated primarily to discussion, activities, and film/TV screenings. While most weeks will have an in-person session, there will be weeks where we will be exclusively online. These weeks are indicated on the schedule as "online only." The first two weeks of this class will meet entirely over Zoom, after which the class will meet in-person.

To maintain social distancing guidelines, the in-person sessions will be divided between two groups, with each group meeting once a week. "Group 1" will always meet on Tuesdays, while "Group 2" will always meet on Thursdays. These groups will be assigned and announced in advance of Week 1. Students who opted out of in-person learning will fulfill their participation grade through alternative requirements dictated by the instructor.

The online work will be administered through the "Lessons" tab on Isidore, along with a checklist of every requirement that will be put forward for that week. Except for week 1, all quizzes will be due on Tuesdays by 10:00 am. All other online assignments will be due on Thursdays by 11:55 pm.

Class Modules

The first module of the class will introduce students to the concept of mapping cityscapes in film and television, and New Orleans, Louisiana, which will be the focus of this semester. These concepts will be introduced through the assigned readings and a discussion of the New Orleans-set film *The Big Easy* (Jim McBride, 1986).

The second module will be dedicated to introducing concepts related to the social science disciplines of this course: communication, economics, and sociology. In this module, students will learn about the methodologies of these respective disciplines, learn how to read social science journal articles for comprehension, and how to identify, research, and properly cite academic sources. This module will culminate with the course's midterm, and students will be graded on their research and citation skills through an annotated bibliography.

The third module will focus on the American city, and how to analyze it in a film or TV episode. This module will cover tools to analyzing cities in film, the history of New Orleans, and a review of the current issues and controversies currently facing the city. Students will be encouraged to consider these issues within a chosen theoretical approach to analyzing cities in film, using this approach in analyzing their city/media text.

The fourth module of the class will be dedicated to researching, presenting, and discussing students' final projects. This project will be a presentation that brings together all of the concepts explored throughout the semester.

Regardless of what is scheduled for that day, students will be expected to come prepared and ready to participate, having read the readings and online lectures for comprehension and completed the assigned work.

Technology in the Classroom

To maintain social distancing in the classroom, we will rely heavily on technology to complete group activities from a safe distance. Therefore, students will be required to bring their phones and laptops/tablets into the classroom for each in-person session.

Course Content Advisory

In this course, we will discuss a wide variety of issues, and consume media, that may include potentially explicit or offensive topics and representations. It is the responsibility of the student to read the syllabus schedule, preview the scheduled readings and screenings, and come to class prepared to discuss these topics. However, if a topic, issue, or work of media comes up (or will come up) in class that the student is unprepared to discuss or engage with, it is their responsibility to meet with the instructor to discuss these concerns as quickly as possible.

Attendance/Participation

Attendance is mandatory, and expected for all students who opt into in-person learning (see below for guidance if students are not feeling well). Students will be graded on regular participation in class discussion and activities. These activities are collectively worth 20% of your final grade. If students are perceived by the instructor as "checking out" or not actively contributing to the class, they will receive deductions from these activity assignments. Simply showing up and not participating actively will not result in an automatic 100%: you have to show up *and* participate. Students who are unable to attend class for health or excused reasons will be required to complete alternative assignments in order to make up the participation grade.

Students are expected to self-monitor their personal health. If you have COVID-19 symptoms, under no circumstances should you come to class.

Late Work/Make-Ups

All assignments must be turned on the assignments page on Isidore before class. It is the student's responsibility to keep track of deadlines and assignments. For every day that an assignment is late, a letter grade will be deducted from the student's grade for that assignment. After five days, no late work will be accepted, and the student will receive a 0 on the assignment. This policy does not apply to the syllabus or reading quizzes, which must be completed by their due date. **In the case of documented medical issues and personal emergencies, this penalty will be waived.** If you are unable to attend class for any reason, you need to contact the instructor as soon as is reasonably possible.

This course does not offer any extra credit opportunities. If extraordinary circumstances arise, it is the responsibility of the student to contact the instructor in advance of the assignment due date.

Plagiarism

Any instances of plagiarism in this class will be reported to the Dean of Students, and students will be penalized on a case-by-case basis. Penalties will range from failure of the assignment to failure of the entire course. Plagiarism includes: copying and pasting from online sources, using

nothing but citations to make your arguments, turning in somebody else's work as your own, and turning in the same paper/project multiple times (either in the same class or different classes). Do not try to pass off others' work as your own, or your own work multiple times. If you have any questions about potential plagiarism, it is your responsibility to ask me in advance of turning in any assignments (I will never judge or penalize you for showing me an article *before* you turn it in).

For specific university policies concerning academic honesty, see the University's Academic Honor Code in the Academic Catalog.

(http://catalog.udayton.edu/undergraduate/generalinformation/academicinformation/theacademic_honorcode/)

Disability Accommodations

If you have a documented disability that requires accommodation to participate in this course, please email me so that we can arrange for such accommodations to be made (in all cases, documentation must be provided in order for reasonable accommodations to be considered).

Documentation is provided by the Office of Learning Resources (OLR), located in the basement of the Roesch Library in the Ryan C. Harris Learning Teaching Center (LTC).

Assignments

Assignment due dates are listed in the course schedule. Starting in Week 2, all quizzes are due on Isidore at 10:00 am on the Tuesday of the assigned week at 10:00 am. All other assignments are due the Thursday of the assigned week at 11:55 pm. Assignments and point totals are subject to change by the instructor.

COURSE ASSIGNMENTS/GRADE PERCENTAGES

Syllabus and Reading Quizzes	12%	
<i>The Big Easy</i> Response Essay	3%	
Midterm	15%	
Final Project "Scaffolding" Assignments	30%	
List of 3 media texts/instructor Zoom meeting		10 points
Annotated bibliography		50 points
Class subsection My Google Map & reflection paper		40 points
City/media text analysis		50 points
Weekly Discussion/Activities	10%	
Final Project	30%	

Syllabus/Reading Quizzes

On weeks that there are assigned readings, students will be assigned reading quizzes to be completed either on Isidore in advance of that class, or in class as a part of a group activity. Additionally, there will be a syllabus quiz administered in the first week of class. These quizzes are worth 5 points each (the syllabus quiz is worth 10). Apart from Week 1, all quizzes must be completed every Tuesday by 10:00 am. The quizzes are cumulatively worth 12% of your final grade.

The Big Easy Response Essay

In the second week of class, we will be watching *The Big Easy* (Jim McBride, 1986), a film shot and set in New Orleans in the 1980s that presents the city in a compelling manner. Preceding each in-class screening, students will be assigned a 2-3-page (at least 500 words) response essay

that will analyze how it presents New Orleans on-screen. This essay is due Thursday, September 18, and is worth 3% of your final grade. More information can be found on the “Assignments” page on Isidore.

Midterm

The second module of the class will be focused on social science methodologies (specifically communication, economics, and sociology), how to read, find, identify, and cite them in APA format. These factors will be assessed in a midterm that will be administered online in the 8th week of the semester. The midterm opens on Tuesday, March 9 at 12:30 pm and closes Thursday, March 11 at 11:55 pm and is worth 15% of your final grade. More information on the midterm will be forthcoming.

Weekly Discussion/Activities

Students will be graded on regular participation in class discussion and activities. Active participation in and completion of these activities are collectively worth 10% of your final grade. Students will be graded based on what the instructor perceives as their active participation in class and/or on the Isidore Commons.

If a student opts out of in-person learning, or if this course shifts to an all-online format, these weekly discussions will be graded through alternative requirements dictated by the instructor.

Final Project

For the final project, you will choose a film or TV text that is set in a specific American city, mapping out its locations on a My Google Map, identifying the neighborhoods/areas of the city represented and filmed in, and analyzing the significance of those neighborhoods and how they are represented in your chosen text. This analysis will be in the form of a presentation that you will put together at the end of the semester. This assignment will be preceded by four “scaffolding” assignments that build towards this final project: a list of 3 media texts you would consider presenting, an annotated bibliography, a My Google Map you will complete collectively with your class subsection, and a preliminary analysis of both your chosen city and your chosen film/TV text.

The four “scaffolding” assignments are collectively worth 30% of your final grade. The final project itself is worth another 30% of your final grade. More information on final project and the scaffolding assignments can be found on the “Assignments” page on Isidore.

COURSE SCHEDULE

Unless otherwise indicated, class sessions for each week are in-person. Lessons, class session formats, and due dates are all subject to change.

MODULE 1: INTRODUCTION TO COURSE, MAPPING IN MEDIA

Week 1: January 18-22 (both class halves meeting over Zoom on their respective days)

Course introduction

Introduction to social science, mapping, and New Orleans

Week 2: January 25-29 (both class halves meeting over Zoom on Tuesday)

Reading: Elgin F. Hunt and David C. Colander, *Social Science: An Introduction to the Study of Society*, 16th edition, 1-14

In-class screening: *The Big Easy* (Jim McBride, 1986)*

Syllabus quiz and reading quiz #1 due on Isidore by 10:00 am on Tuesday

*This screening will be mediated through a Zoom screen share. Note that due to the film's runtime (100 minutes), this class session will run until 12:45. If you are unable to stay for the entire film, it is your responsibility to watch the film (available on Warpwire) on your own time before next week's class.

Week 3: February 1-5

Reading: H. Wayne Schuth, "The Image of New Orleans on Film," *The Southern Quarterly* 19, no. 4 (1981), 240-245; Richard Campanella, "The Seduction of Exceptionalism," *Louisiana Cultural Perspectives* (Summer 2014): 24-25; Roger Ebert, "The Big Easy," *Rogerebert.com*, August 21, 1987; David Baron, "'Big Easy' is Fun for N.O. Audiences," *The Times-Picayune*, August 21, 1987.

Discussion of *The Big Easy* and its representation of New Orleans

Reading quiz #2 due on Isidore by 10:00 am on Tuesday

MODULE 2: SOCIAL SCIENCE RESEARCH METHODS

Week 4: February 8-12

Communication, Economics, and Sociology

The Big Easy response essay due on Isidore by 11:55 pm on Thursday

Week 5: February 15-19

Reading Academic Articles

Reading: James Lee, "How to Read Academic Papers without Freaking Out," *Medium*, December 29, 2017; Trushna Parekh, "'They want to live in the Tremé, but they want it for their ways of living': Gentrification and Neighborhood Practice in Tremé, New Orleans," *Urban Geography* 36, no. 2 (2015): 201-220.

Reading Quiz #3 due on Isidore by 10:00 am on Tuesday

List of three possible media texts due on Isidore by 11:55 pm on Thursday

Week 6: February 22-26 (no class on Tuesday; Tuesday group attends class via Zoom during Thursday session)

Mapping Methodologies

Reading: Richard Koeck and Mathew Flintham, "Geographies of the Moving Image: Transforming Cinematic Representation into Geographic Information," in *Cinematic Urban Geographies*, ed. François Penz and Richard Koeck, 295-311.

Representation focus: Battersea, London

Reading Quiz #4 due on Isidore by 10:00 am on Tuesday

Week 7: March 1-5 (both sections meet in Roesch Library 240)

Using library sources

Locating and identifying peer-reviewed journal articles

Week 8: March 8-12

Midterm opens online on Tuesday at 11:00 am, closes on Thursday at 11:55 pm

MODULE 3: ANALYZING NEW ORLEANS IN FILM AND TV

Week 9: March 15-19

Theoretical approaches to film analysis

Reading: Siegfried Kracauer, “Basic Concepts,” in *Film Theory & Criticism*, 7th ed., eds. Leo Braudy and Marshall Cohen, 147-166; Maggy Baccinelli, *New Orleans Neighborhoods: A Cultural Guide*, 22-25

Representation focus: The French Quarter, New Orleans

Reading Quiz #5 due on Isidore by 10:00 am

Annotated bibliography due on Isidore by 11:55 pm on Thursday

Week 10: March 22-26

Economics of location filming

Reading: Scott Jordan Harris, “Hollywood South,” in *World Film Locations: New Orleans*, ed. Harris, 86-87; Chapter from Joshua Gleich and Lawrence Webb’s (eds.) *Hollywood on Location: An Industry History* OR Glen Creeber’s *Small Screen Aesthetics: From TV to the Internet* that aligns with the era of your chosen film or TV show (see this week’s lessons page on Isidore for more detail)

Representation focus: Tipitina’s, Uptown New Orleans

Reading Quiz #6 due on Isidore by 10:00 am on Tuesday

Week 11: March 29-April 2

History of the American city; New Orleans from founding to Hurricane Katrina

Reading: Andy Horowitz, *Katrina: A History, 1915-2015*, 115-137

Supplemental Reading: Richard Campanella, *Bienville’s Dilemma: A Historical Geography of New Orleans*, 19-74

Reading Quiz #7 due on Isidore by 10:00 am on Tuesday

Representation focus: The Bruning House, West End New Orleans

Week 12: April 5-9

When Neighborhoods Change

Reading: Richard Campanella, “Gentrification and Its Discontents: Notes from New Orleans,” *New Geography*, February 28, 2013; Campanella, “Mapping the Geography of Cool”

Representation focus: Iberville Projects, 6th Ward, New Orleans

Reading Quiz #8 due on Isidore by 10:00 am on Tuesday

Class Subsection My Google Map & City/Media Text Analysis due by 11:55 pm on Thursday

Week 13: April 12-16

New Orleans’ Politics Today

Reading: Ana Croegaert, “Architectures of Pain: Racism and Monuments Removal Activism in the ‘New’ New Orleans,” *City & Society* 32, no. 3 (2020): 579-602.

Representation focus: Charity Hospital, Mid-City New Orleans

MODULE 4: FINAL PRESENTATIONS

Week 14: April 19-23 (no class on Thursday; Thursday class session does not meet this week)

Final Presentations

Week 15: April 26-30

Final Presentations

Finals Week: Tuesday, May 4, 10:10-12:00

Final Presentations (only students from either class section who have yet to present their finals should attend)