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| **Tamar Katz**  70 Brown Street, Rm. 301, 3-1959  Office Hours: W 1:00-2:30 and by appt.  Tamar\_Katz@brown.edu | MWF 9-9:50  Rock 205 |

**Course description:**

This class will discuss a range of 20th and 21st century novels alongside related work—movies, short stories, essays—to think about the way cities have been represented and the way literary form affects how we think cities work. Some of the questions we will ask include: How do cities shape the way we grow up, move, see, and imagine the world? How do they embody the structures of modern economic and cultural life: immigration and globalization, public and private spheres, social mobility and constriction? How do novels ask us to imagine the possible plots available in the city? In what ways is the city made up as we see it?

**Requirements:**

**Three papers--the first two 5-6pp each, the third 8pp**

**All papers should be uploaded to the Canvas site as a .doc or .docx file**

There will be a range of assigned topics for each; you are also welcome to construct your own topic; you must clear it with me one class in advance.

Late papers where extensions have not been arranged at least one class in advance will be marked down by one notch (e.g. B+ to B) for each day late.

**Final exam**

2 hours: combination i.d., short answer, essay

**Attendance, class participation and in-class writing:**

This class will run as a mixture of informal lecture and discussion, with the balance depending on the final size of the class. The course requires that you attend regularly, arrive prepared, and participate. *More than three absences will affect your grade*.

Periodically I may ask you to write on a passage in class or to turn in responses to reading or screening questions. I will collect all assigned writing. Active participation is required and counts toward your final grade.

**Grade Breakdown**

20%- Paper 1

20%- Paper 2

20%- Paper 3

25%- Final Exam

15%- Participation

**Technology policy**

No computers or electronic devices may be used during class. Any student found texting, updating status, checking email, etc. will be asked to leave and will be counted as absent for that day.

# (Please let me know—either after class, through email, or in office hours—if you have a condition that requires accommodations or modification of any course procedures. For more information contact Student and Employee Accessibility Services at 401-863-9588 or [SEAS@brown.edu](mailto:SEAS@brown.edu).)

# Required books (available at the campus store):

Stephen Crane, *Maggie: A Girl of the Streets*

Virginia Woolf, *Mrs. Dalloway*

Richard Wright, *Native Son*

Sandra Cisneros, *The House on Mango Street*

Aravind Adiga, *The White Tiger*

Italo Calvino, *Invisible Cities*

Teju Cole, *Open City*

Zadie Smith, *White Teeth*

Colson Whitehead, *The Colossus of New York*

**Additional readings** are available through the course **Canvas** site (via the e-reserves link on the left) and directly through the **OCRA** links on the library website. You must print out these readings, annotate them as you read, and bring them to class.

**Films** for the class are also available through Canvas.

The password for OCRA, should you access it directly through the library homepage, is **city.**

# Schedule

W 9/3 Introductions

F 9/5 Woolf, “Street Haunting” (Canvas/OCRA)

# Week 1

M 9/8 Crane, *Maggie* (through Ch. 14)

W 9/10 Riis, *How the Other Half Lives* Chs: Intro, 1-4, 10, 15-17(Canvas/OCRA)

F 9/12 *Maggie* (finish)

# Week 2

M 9/15 Woolf, *Mrs. Dalloway* (to p. 103)

W 9/17 *Mrs. Dalloway* (finish)

F 9/19 *Mrs. Dalloway*

# Week 3

M 9/22 Poe, “The Man of the Crowd” (Canvas)

W 9/24 Baudelaire, “The Painter of Modern Life,” sections 3-4, 9-12 (esp. 3) (Canvas/OCRA)

F 9/26 Paper writing workshop

# Week 4

M 9/29 film: “Berlin: Symphony of a Great City” (Canvas/OCRA)

W 10/1 Benjamin, “Paris, Capital of the Nineteenth Century” (Canvas/OCRA)

F 10/3 film: “The Big Sleep” (Canvas/OCRA)

**Paper #1 due Friday, October 3rd by 10pm**

# Week 5

M 10/6 Wright, *Native Son* (through Book I), “How Bigger Was Born”

W 10/8 *Native Son* (through Book II)

F 10/10 *Native Son*

# Week 6

M 10/13 FALL WEEKEND

W 10/15 *Native Son* (finish)

F 10/17 Jane Jacobs, from *The Death and Life of Great American Cities* (packet)

short film: Helen Levitt, “In The Street” (Canvas/OCRA)

Also: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fyBEWD3M5r4

**Week 7**

M 10/20 Cisneros, *House on Mango Street* (finish)

W 10/22 *House on Mango Street*

F 10/24 *House on Mango Street*

# Week 8

M 10/27 Aravind Adiga, *The White Tiger* (through 144)

W 10/29 *The White Tiger* (finish)

F 10/31 *The White Tiger*

**Paper #2 due Friday, October 31st by 10pm**

# Week 9

M 11/3 Calvino, *Invisible Cities* (through p. 82)

W 11/5 *Invisible Cities* (finish)

F 11/7 *Invisible Cities*

# Week 10

# M 11/10 Teju Cole, *Open City* (through Book One)

W 11/12 *Open City* (finish)

F 11/14 *Open City*

# Week 11

M 11/17 *White Teeth* (try to get through 217)

W 11/19 *White Teeth* (through 217)

F 11/21 *White Teeth* (through 339)

**Week 12**

M 11/24 *White Teeth* (finish)

W 11/26 THANKSGIVING

F 11/28 BREAK

**Week 13**

M 12/1 Whitehead, *Colossus of New York* (through p. 85)

W 12/3 *Colossus of New York* (finish)

F 12/5 Wrap-ups

Final paper due Monday, December 8th, by 10pm

Final exam: December 13th, 2pm, room tba