

The Demos: Politics, Art and the City (Spring 2020)
Syllabus and Course Schedule

Times/Location: Wednesdays, 9am-12pm, Wurster 102

Instructor Contact Information:

Jason Luger, Ph.D., Urban Planning jdluger@berkeley.edu

Office Hours: Wurster 328, Thursdays 1-3pm (or by appointment)

Angela Marino, Ph.D., Performance Studies angela.marino@berkeley.edu

Office Hours: 15-O Dwinelle Hall, Wednesdays 2pm-3pm.

Course Description:

The “demos” refers to the people and, in particular, those who participate in a political process, generally considered the core of democracy. Yet, from its inception, exclusions and the promised benefits for those who operate within the demos (in western societies typically as white citizens with property) have generated long standing inequities and division. This course looks at contending struggles to undo and reconstitute the demos in urban spaces through art, performance, and media. We trace the ways in which various forms of collective political action take place in metro areas around the world. From murals to graffiti, to digital media and music, to bridges and public schools, students will be exposed to interdisciplinary methods to analyze how people move in built environments, how we work, eat, learn, listen and express ourselves in these environments. In particular, we are interested in developing research projects that recognize when people challenge meanings of the demos and create new ones. Sites of interest may also include voting districts, town halls, streets and alleyways, museums, trains, airports, eateries, parks and plazas as spaces of public political expression. Throughout the class, we will focus on a variety of research methods including digital mapping, sensory observation, print-making design, and participant-action planning.

This course is a core methods course for the Global Urban Humanities certificate program.

Suggested Books:

Evans, Fred. *Public Art and the Fragility of Democracy*. <https://www-jstor-org.libproxy.berkeley.edu/stable/10.7312/evan18758>

Massey, Doreen. *For Space* <https://uk.sagepub.com/en-gb/eur/for-space/book227109>

Readings

All readings (unless otherwise indicated) will be available on the bCourse site in the files folder and/or as linked to modules or the front page syllabus.

Required Events

There is a required talk event on March 5, time TBD, Performance and Participatory Democracy.

Schedule of Readings and Assignments

Unit I: Defining Terms: Basic theory/frameworks for what is democracy, what is the built environment and urbanism.

Week 1 | Jan 22

Course Introduction

Class Overview

Getting to know each other

Collective ideas on Democracy

Introduction of Readings (slide show)

Discussion of Readings

Readings:

Aristide, Jean-Bertrand, *Eyes of the Heart: Seeking a Path for the Poor in the Age of Globalization*, Chapter 5 “Democratizing Democracy,” (pdf).

Week 2 | Jan 29

Problems of Democracy I: Debates

Viewing:

Film (on Kanopy): Taylor, Astra. *What is Democracy?*

Readings:

Berlant, Lauren, “Uncle Sam Needs a Wife,” [link here](#).

Bromell, Nick. “Honest and Earnest Criticism” as the “Soul of Democracy: Du Bois’s Style of Democratic Criticism, (pdf), and DuBois, W. E. B. (1920) *Darkwaters*, Chapter VI, “Of the Ruling of Men,” [link here](#).

Chomsky, Noam. *On Contradictions of Capitalism and Democracy*, [link here](#).

Fraser, Nancy. “Rethinking the Public Sphere: A contribution to the critique of actually existing democracy,” (pdf).

Suggested Readings:

Aristotle, *Constitution of Athens*, pp. 211-19, 225-27, 243-63.

Brown, Wendy. *Undoing the Demos*, Chapter 1, (pdf).

Hesse, Barnor and Juliet Hooker, “On Black Political Thought Inside Global Black Protest,” [link here](#).

Mouffe, Chantal. *The Democratic Paradox*.

Plato, *Republic* 327a-362c, 368a-392c, 412b-445e.

Schaaf, Gregory, “...America’s Roots to Democracy,” (pdf).

Further Reading:

Arendt, Hannah. *On Revolutions*.

Cooke, Bill. *Participation: The New Tyranny*, [link here](#).

Karen Trapenberg Frick. “No Permanent Friends, No Permanent Enemies: Agonistic Ethos, Tactical Coalitions, and Sustainable Infrastructure,” [link here](#).

Nancy, Jean-Luc, *The Truth of Democracy*, [link here](#)

Rousseau, Jean-Jaques, *The Social Contract*, [link here](#)

Activity of note: San Francisco Film Festival: Feb 2-9th.

Week 3 | Feb 5

Problems of Democracy II: Space and the City

Readings:

Lefebvre, H (1974) Excerpt from ‘The Production of Space,’ pp. 2-24, (pdf).

Lefebvre, H (1968) Excerpt from ‘The Right to the City,’ pp.1-16, (pdf).

Massey, Doreen. “A Global Sense of Place,” (pdf).

McKittrick, Katherine and Clyde Woods, *The Geographies of Blackness..* Introduction, (pdf).

Boyce-Davies and B. M’Bow, in *The Geographies of Blackness..*, “Towards African Diaspora Citizenship,” (pdf).

Suggested Readings:

Tyner, James A. “Defend the Ghetto: Space and the Urban Politics of the Black Panther Party,” (pdf) and Tyner, J. “Urban Revolutions and the Spaces of Black Radicalism,” (pdf).

Hayden, Dolores. *The Power of Place*. Excerpts. <https://mitpress.mit.edu/books/power-place>

Fainstein, Susan. *The Just City*, [link here](#).

Soja, Edward. *Seeking Spatial Justice*. <https://www.upress.umn.edu/book-division/books/seeking-spatial-justice>

Spain, Daphne ‘Gender and urban space’ (2014), in *Annual Review of Sociology* (pdf).

Assignment #1: Response to Readings (Due Friday, Feb 7th)

Discuss problems in liberal democracy with regard to any issue of citizenship, land/territory, and/or representation/participation (500-800 words). How does the critique of liberal democracy address these issues? You may pick any contemporary issue of concern to focus on or situate your discussion on any of the specific contexts of the readings if you choose. Draw from at least two theorists from any of the readings (required or supplementary) while addressing your debate(s) as rigorously as possible.

Unit II: Place and Practice

Mixed theory with methods. Weeks 4-9.

Week 4 | Feb 12

Workshop Day: Fieldtrip Tour/Observe Plaza (details, logistics to follow).

Reading:

Emerson, et. al. *Writing Ethnographic Fieldnotes*, (pdf).

Assignment #2: Spatial Analysis/Observation and Visual Documentation (Due week 5)

Pick a site (see the Appendix Site List) and write a 500-800 word ‘spatial analysis’ of ‘field notes’ including any type of visual documentation or mapping of your site that you choose (photography, illustration, etc). In your analysis consider this “public space” (broadly construed) from the interconnected perspectives of the built environment and social interactions that you identify. Upload your observation to bCourses by Feb 17; prepare for discussion on Feb 19.

Week 5 | Feb 19

Plazas and Town Squares

Discussion of Site Observations

Readings:

Anderson, E. *The Cosmopolitan Canopy*, Chapter 4: Rittenhouse Square, (pdf).

Deutsche, R. *Evictions*, pp. 140-209, (pdf) (Book Part III: Public Space and Democracy).

Suggested Reading:

Garbin / Millington Piece on the Congolese Diaspora marching on Central London.

Daniel Goh, 2014. “Walking the global city: The politics of rhythm and memory in Singapore,” *Space and Culture*, 17(1), pp.16-28.

Mitchell, D. *The End of Public Space: People’s Park and Definitions of Democracy* (Mitchell discusses Harvey and Lefebvre).

Luger and Lees (2020) “Planetary public space,” in *Routledge Handbook to Public Space* (pdf).

Week 6 | Feb 26

Airports

Theory: globalism, transport networks, surveillance, and transnational circulation. Global capital and data.

Methods: systems, SDI indicators, airspace, space transports, satellite mapping

Mapping/Infographics

The Demos: Politics, Art and the City (Spring 2020)
Syllabus and Course Schedule

Readings:

Augé, Marc. Excerpts from “*Non-Places*,” Prologue (1-6) and ‘From places to non-places’ (75-115) [link here](#).

Foucault, Michel. “Panopticism” excerpt from *Discipline and Punish*, (pdf).

Group #1: Being in the Airport -- 1

Brown, Simone. *Dark Matter*, Ch 4 “‘What did TSA find in Solange’s Fro’?” pp. 131-159, (pdf).

Hall, Rachel. *The Transparent Traveler*, Intro and Conclusion, (pdf)

Group #2: Districts and Mapping

McGann, Anthony J. et al. *Gerrymandering in America...*, Ch 4 “Geographic Explanations for Political Bias,” (pdf).

Taylor, Diana. “Remapping Genre...” (pdf).

Group #3: The Grid as Systems

Harrison, Conor. Race, Space, and Electric Power: Jim Crow and the 1934 North Carolina Rural Electrification Survey, [link here](#).

Rafael, Timothy. *The President Electric*, Chapters 1 and 2 (pdf).

Suggested Reading:

Andy Merrifield ‘*Politics of the Encounter: Urban Theory and Protest Under Planetary Urbanization*’, Chapters 2 and 3, (pdf).

Latour, Bruno. Actor-Network Theory.

Week 7 | Mar 4

Streets and Alleyways

Participatory Democracy

Venezuela Module (review articles and resources)

Guest Artists Workshop:

Darwin “Niky” García and Jerico Montilla (on democracy and popular arts in Venezuela).

Wear clothing for movement.

Readings:

Fernandes, Sujatha, “Radio Bemba in an Age of Electronic Media,” (pdf).

Harnecker, Marta. Participatory Planning, (pdf).

Marino, Angela. “Fiesta Politics in the Making of the Urban Barrio,” (pdf).

The Demos: Politics, Art and the City (Spring 2020)
Syllabus and Course Schedule

Suggested Readings:

Cresswell, Tim. 'Maxwell Street' [link here](#).

DaMatta, Roberto.

Fischer, Frank. Citizens, Experts, and the Environment: The Politics of Local Knowledge. [Link here](#).

Jacobs, Jane. 'Sidewalks, Safety', from 'Death and Life' (1961).

Quayson, Ato. "Oxford Street, Ghana: City Life and the Itineraries of Transnationalism," [link here https://www.dukeupress.edu/oxford-street-accra](https://www.dukeupress.edu/oxford-street-accra)

*Potential Field Activity: Class visit with guest speakers to 'Black Power' exhibition at the De Young Museum, San Francisco (Golden Gate Park).

Week 8 | Mar 11

The Commune

Communalism

Public Housing

Guest Artists Workshop:

Darwin "Niky" García and Jerico Montilla (on democracy and popular arts in Venezuela).

Wear clothing for movement.

Readings:

August, Arnold. *Democracy in Cuba...*, Ch. 3 "1959 The Culmination of a Century of Democratic Struggles," (pdf).

Akuno, K. and Nangwaya A. *Jackson Rising: The Struggle for Economic Democracy and Black Self-Determination in Jackson, Mississippi*. "The Challenge of Building Urban Cooperatives in the South" by Elandria Williams and Jazmine Walker. [link here](#).

Boggs, Grace Lee, a community of doing (from 'The Next American Revolution: Sustainable Activism for the 21st Century, 2011') (Ch 4: Detroit, A Place and Space to Begin Anew), [link](#). The Apartment Complex, "Introduction," (pdf).

Suggested Readings:

Boggs, James. "A new Concept of Citizenship," [link here](#).

Lenin, Vladimir. "Writings on the Paris Commune," [link here](#).

Week 9 | Mar 18

The Garden

Assignment #3 Infographics Posters Due

The Demos: Politics, Art and the City (Spring 2020)
Syllabus and Course Schedule

Film in class: *The Garden*

Readings:

Freedom Farmers, Introduction pp. 3-27, and Chapter 5, pp. 117-147, (pdf).

Baker, L. Tending Cultural Landscapes and Food Citizenship in Toronto” [link here](#).

Zeiderman, Austin. *Adaptive Publics: Building Climate Constituency in Bogota*, [link here](#).
(chapter pdf forthcoming).

Mitchell, Timothy *Carbon Democracy: Political Power in the Age of Oil*.

Eco-cities in Abu Dhabi

Suggested Viewing:

Redmond, LaDonna. Food + Justice = Democracy (TED Talk), [link here](#).

Suggested Reading:

Solis, Octavio. *Mother Road* (a play), (pdf).

Film *Food, Inc.*

Pendergrast, Mark. *Uncommon Grounds: The History of Coffee and How it Transformed....*

Module: LEBOR (Lake Erie Bill of Rights), [link here](#).

Week 10: Spring Break No class (March 23-27)

Week 11 | April 1

Assignment #4 Proposal Drafts Due

In-class Makers Workshop I

Making 2-D and 3-D models, web-sites, video, or performances.

Week 12 | April 8

Pre-Draft Presentation

Prepare a pre-draft display (5 slides with visuals) expanding on your proposal with clarity on the following points: your object(s) of study, the argument you make, any problems you may be encountering, and your proposed thesis. Be sure to include any key interlocutors that you are collaborating with (i.e. community partners) by either inviting them to the presentation or including a slide on the process of your engagement. Be prepared to present in class.

Presentations are casual but should be succinct in under 5 minutes.

Week 13 | April 15

Assignment #5 Paper Draft Due: Please bring a hard copy to class double spaced for peer review.

In-class Writers Workshop (tbd)

Using writing methods to tell a story; cultural imagination; and making meaning towards demos/democracy. Expanding the possibilities of how they will connect their projects to demos, democracy, and other key terms through media, storytelling, and community engagement. Problem solving, Interpreting data. Designing an exhibition, group presentation, or website.

Week 14 | April 22

Review and Revisions Workshop

Reading:

Parkinson, John R. *Democracy and Public Space: The Physical Sites of Democratic Performance*, Oxford UP 2012. (pdf).

Week 15 | April 29

Final Presentations Symposium + Gallery (if applicable)

RR Week | No class (May 3-7)

Finals Week | May 13

Final Project Essay and Revised Materials Due

Assignment Descriptions

Various assignments are scheduled throughout the semester and are designed to extend the central concepts of class materials and to build on sequential steps of the final project (4-7).

Assignment #1: Response to Readings (Due Friday, Feb 7th)

Discuss problems in liberal democracy with regard to issues of citizenship, land/territory, and representation (500-800 words). How does the critique of liberal democracy address these issues? You may pick any contemporary issue of concern to focus on or situate your discussion on any of the specific contexts of the readings if you choose. Draw from at least two theorists while addressing your debate(s) as rigorously as possible.

Assignment #2: Spatial Analysis and Visual Documentation (Due Monday, Feb 17th)

Pick one of the sites from the Appendix Site List (below) and write a 500 word 'spatial analysis' of 'field notes' including any type of visual documentation (photography, mapping, drawing, etc.). Observe a "public space" (broadly construed) from the interconnected perspectives of the built environment and social interactions that you identify with democracy/demos. Upload your observation to bCourses by Feb 17th; prepare to discuss on Feb 19th.

Assignment #3: Infographic Poster (Due in class March 18th)

Create a poster or series of posters that presents data of any kind using any kind of visual design. You may choose to illustrate, use photography or collage, or charts of any kind. Tell a story through your poster(s) with linked information to key systems (i.e. arrows, legends, etc.) or other tools for interpretation as needed. Prepare to discuss in class on March 18th. See examples [here](#).

Assignment #4: Proposal (Due on Monday, April 1st)

This is a mature plan for the project. It outlines what the project intends to do and how you plan to achieve that outcome. The central questions of the final project should detail the project's relationship to particular people, sites and materials. A bibliography is required.

Assignment #5: Draft/Feedback Review (Due April 15th and April 17th)

In this near-final phase of the project, the paper will be presented for a critical peer review/showing among class and invited interlocutors. The assignment involves the submission of a written draft and a written review of one other project that will be submitted at the end of the week (Fri April 17). Feedback from these reviews should be integrated into the final project.

Assignment #6: Symposium/Final Presentation (April 29th)

Presentation of the final paper project (7 minutes) along with any gallery exhibit or performance piece that your final project may involve. Pin-ups for the gallery will begin the day before (Tuesday, April 28th) from 1pm-5pm in Wurster Hall (location to be confirmed).

Assignment #7: Final Project (Due May 13th)

Submission of all final project essay and materials to bCourses. Projects include a final research analysis paper, and may also include components such as a blueprint, model, a performance, a series of posters, soundtrack, etc. The length of the paper and research components will vary. The final project content should directly link to any of the **sub-topics** discussed in readings (see list below) and should integrate at least one of the methodologies we discuss in class.

Assignment #8: Participation (Throughout)

Discussion activity, attendance, and overall participation throughout the course.

Schedule of Assignments and Grading

Assignments	Date Due	% Grade
1. Text Analysis	Feb 7	10
2. Spatial Analysis/Visual Mapping	Feb 17	10
3. Infographic Poster	March 18	10
4. Proposal	April 1	10
5. Draft/Feedback Review	April 15	10
6. Symposium/Final Presentation	April 29	10
7. Final Project Essay	May 13	20
8. Participation	Throughout	20

Resources for Assignments

Workshops

In-class and separately offered workshops will complement assignment and final project media including infographics, websites, podcasts, and performance practice.

For more tools and examples [link here](#).

Focus Urban Sites Taxonomy, for Field Observation (Ideas; not Exhaustive):

I. The Square / The Plaza

Sproul Plaza, UC Berkeley

Civic Center, UN Plaza (San Francisco)

Ohlone Park, Berkeley

People's Park, Berkeley

Shattuck Square (Downtown Berkeley / plaza around BART station)

Montgomery St. and Market Street - Wall Street West (San Francisco)

Alamo Square, San Francisco

Fillmore Square (Fillmore Center) - San Francisco

Japantown Plaza

Mission and 16th Street, San Francisco

Union Square, San Francisco

Washington Square, North Beach, San Francisco

Berkeley Civic Square (City Hall / Library area)

Yerba Buena Square - near Moscone Center and Childrens' Museum (San Francisco)

Jack London Square, Oakland

POPOS in / near selected skyscrapers: (privately-operated, public spaces: <https://sfpopos.com/>)

e.g. - 'Redwood Park' at foot of Transamerica Tower

Salesforce Park, San Francisco

II. The Commune

International house, Berkeley

Halls of Residence, UC Berkeley

Berkeley Housing Authority - 1936 University Avenue

Berkeley Bowl Co-Op

Mandela Cooperative

The Buddha Head (Oakland)

The Chetwood - Artist-in-residency community, Oakland <http://www.thechetwood.com/about>

Bay Area housing cooperatives: <http://www.bayareaca.org/housing> and

<https://housing.barringtoncollective.org/>

The Demos: Politics, Art and the City (Spring 2020)
Syllabus and Course Schedule

Sausalito floating houses

SRO (Single-Room Occupancy) buildings - The Tenderloin, San Francisco

Maitri - last remaining AIDS hospice (Duboce Triangle, San Francisco)

Ping Yuen Center, Chinatown San Francisco (Housing Cooperative)

Tribe, new co-living development - San Francisco

https://www.tribecolivingsf.com/?gclid=EAIaIQobChMIzqnXu9_5gIVFr3sCh3uvvggZEAAYA_SAAEgL-n_D_BwE

Berkeley Recreation Sports Facility (RSF)

‘The Pub’ / the Caffè (Caffè Strada)

III. The Garden

Golden Gate Park (San Francisco)

The Albany Bulb (Albany)

Berkeley Botanical Garden (Berkeley)

Berkeley Rose Garden (Berkeley)

The Presidio (San Francisco)

Salesforce Park (San Francisco)

Lake Merritt Park (Oakland)

Waterfront Park (Berkeley)

San Francisco Botanical Garden (in Golden Gate Park)

Ocean Beach (San Francisco)

Chrissie Fields / Palace of Fine Arts Area (Marina District, San Francisco)

Dolores Park, San Francisco

IV. The Gateway

Port of Oakland

Port of San Francisco

San Francisco International Airport - Arrivals or Departures area; Art Gallery at Airport

Emeryville Amtrak Station

Oakland International Airport

BART stations (Berkeley, Oakland, San Francisco, Richmond)

Salesforce Transit Center (San Francisco)

CalTrain Station (San Francisco)

Muni Station(s)

Alameda airfield (site of flea market)

Ferry terminal (San Francisco/ Ferry Building; Oakland, Alameda)

V. The Corridor

The Adeline Corridor - Berkeley / Oakland

Haight Street - Haight Ashbury, Lower Haight (San Francisco)

The Demos: Politics, Art and the City (Spring 2020)
Syllabus and Course Schedule

Market Street / Castro Streets (Castro, San Francisco)

Mission Street, Valencia Street, Guerrero Streets, surrounding alleys (Balmy Alley; Clarion Alley), The Mission

Telegraph Corridor - Berkeley / Oakland

International Boulevard, Oakland

Grant Street, Chinatown, San Francisco

Uptown Oakland

'The Fillmore' - Fillmore Street, San Francisco

VI. The Monument / Memory

Ohlone Park, Berkeley

14th and Peralta Streets, Oakland: former Black Panther's headquarters

It's all good Bakery - 5622 MLK Way, Oakland

The Oakland Community School - 6118 International Boulevard

DeFremery Park - 1651 Adeline St.

Oakland Museum of California

Civic Center - UN Plaza California (various monuments and memorials) - inc. Simon Bolivar; 'Pioneer Memorial plinth' (statue removed)

San Francisco City Hall - memorials to Harvey Milk and Mayor Moscone; other past leaders

The Castro - Harvey Milk Plaza (Castro St. and Market Street by Muni station)

Jane Warner Plaza (Castro)

California Volunteers Sculpture - Dolores St. and Market St, San Francisco

AIDS Memorial grove - Golden Gate Park, San Francisco

Calle 24 / Latinx cultural area, the Mission

Sun Yat Sen Memorial Hall, Chinatown

Comfort women memorial, Chinatown - St Mary's Square

Coit Tower - (Firefighter's memorial) - San Francisco

Mission Dolores / Mission Dolores Cemetery (San Francisco)

The Buddha Head, Oakland

VII. The Digital City

Twitter Building / Headquarters: San Francisco

Facebook / Google offices - San Francisco (or Silicon Valley)

Uber Headquarters - San Francisco

Facebook

Pinterest

Twitter

Hoodline

Tik-Toc

SF Gate

Youtube

Curbed

Vine

Nextdoor.com

Tumblr

Instagram

Topic List in Relationship to Demos/Democracy:

Topics may include *but are not limited to* the following:

1. Origins, historical formation of...
2. Race, gender, and class exclusions to...
3. wealth/property/land and/or citizenship as qualifying measures of...
4. districting/regional representation in.. ,
5. migration and/or climate change factors in...
6. the role of schools/education in.. ,
7. the internet and social media as.. ,
8. non-western models/critiques of.. ,
9. the role of money/economics in...
10. voter mechanisms/voter suppression...
11. polling/media and opinions about...
12. democratic cultures and social life...
13. issues of national/regional sovereignty...
14. coercion/tyranny and authoritarianism...
15. technology and...
16. buildings and/or spaces of ...,
17. signage/slogans, language of...
18. campaign strategy/handlers...
19. campaign media...
20. voting/polling places...
21. religion and...
22. prison abolition/incarceration and...
23. violence and...
24. Occupy...
24. Other..

Academic Integrity

Plagiarism is presenting as your own: a phrase, sentence or passage authored by another without quotation marks; facts, ideas or written text gathered or downloaded from the Internet without citation; another person's work with your name on it; or a purchased paper or 'research' from a paid source. See [here](#) for more information on UC Berkeley's policy regarding plagiarism and our shared, "Principles of Community."

Accommodations

Disabled Students Program at Cal facilitates accommodations that may be needed by students to make a more equal opportunity for learning. If you believe that you might need DSP support to help you succeed in this course (or any others), please visit DSP (260 Cesar Chavez Student Center) to enroll in the program and consult with instructors as needed.