Orientation

Gender is a category of experience written onto the spaces and places of the city. As such, gender relations shape our cities as surely as do capital, technology, aesthetics, and governance. In turn, these gendered spaces shape our modes of living and habits of heart.

This course will examine the gendered dimensions of cities, suburbs, and metropolitan landscapes. Our main focus will be the varied ways in which urban institutions, behaviors, relations, and spaces come to be encoded with and in turn circulate gendered meanings. We will pay close attention to the shifting mechanisms, techniques, and discourses that describe power relationships between women and men in the city, and the ruptures and resistance that arise in response. Of particular concern are the ways in which the gendered city reflects, shapes, and refracts the complex intersections of race, class, and sexual orientation.

Like cities, gender relations are porous, unfinished, multifaceted, and contested—a constant work in progress. Students will become familiar with the literature on gender and the city as it emerges from disciplines such as history, geography, architecture, literary criticism, public policy, planning, and anthropology. The concept of gender as a system of meaning will provide the rubric for organizing these diverse perspectives into a common analytic framework. Students
will develop visual literacy for “reading” urban space, and for understanding the ways in which landscapes organize and reflect gendered meaning. The course will challenge students to construct analytic and interpretive frameworks for future research.

**Coursework**

This course is designed to be a colloquium. It is chiefly devoted to the collaborative examination of the topic, and to the development of critical reading and writing skills necessary for successful research at the intersection of gender and urban history.

**Readings:** In addition to a raft of articles available on e-reserve, required texts include:

- Sarah Deutsch, *Women and the City: Gender, Space, and Power in Boston, 1870-1940*
- Susan Porter Benson, *Counter Cultures: Saleswomen, Managers, and Customers in American Department Stores, 1890-1940*
- Daphne Spain, *How Women Saved the City*
- Victoria Wolcott, *Remaking Respectability: African American Women in Interwar Detroit*
- Lauren Rabinovitz, *For the Love of Pleasure: Women, Movies, and Culture in Turn-of-the-Century Chicago*
- Madelon Powers, *Faces Along the Bar: Lore and Order in the Working Man's Saloon*
- Kevin Mumford, *Interzones: Black and White Sex Districts in New York and Chicago*
- Nan Alamilla Boyd, *Wide Open Town: A History of Queer San Francisco*
- Rhonda Williams, *The Politics of Public Housing: Black Women's Struggles Against Urban Inequality*

**Class Discussions:** I take your participation in the life of the classroom very seriously. This means much more than simply reading the assigned materials. It also means coming to class prepared to share your insights and observations, and to engage your fellow students on a civil basis, in the spirit of collaboration and mutual respect. (10% of the final grade).

**Facilitation:** Each of you will be responsible for facilitating two class sessions, usually in groups of 2-3. Facilitators will introduce the material, summarize the main arguments, and provide a framework for discussion. Groups should coordinate efforts in advance. Each group will submit a one page document with a list of five summary points and five discussion questions. The group will provide a hard copy of this document for everyone. (10% x 2 = 20% of final grade).

**Primary Source Report:** Every student will give two short presentations on a primary source. These presenters will NOT be the same people that facilitate that week’s meeting. The presentation should: describe the source; analyze its components; discuss the nature, contexts, and time period of its production; and assess its significance for research into the course topic. Each reviewer will write a short summary (one double-spaced page), attach a photocopied sample, and make a copy for every student. (10% x 2 = 20% of final grade).
Mini Studio: In a course on gender and the city, we cannot let the one hundredth anniversary of Josephine Baker's birth in St. Louis pass by without due attention. In conjunction with The Sheldon Galleries, the Missouri Historical Society, and the St. Louis Public Library, the class will devise a small exhibit to accompany the range of larger installations at venues throughout the city. We will arrive at the nature, format, and design of the exhibit collaboratively. (20% of final grade).

Term Project: Each of you will select both the format and topic for your final project. Examples include broad synthetic essays, literature reviews, dissertation chapters, grant applications, and detailed project proposals. The research project may be geared to an academic or public audience. In any case, the project must cover a topic germane to the course, and should analyze or propose to analyze an aspect of the American urban landscape (30% of final grade).

Class schedule

| W1 || 01.17: The Spaces and Places of Gender |
|-----------------------------|
| Linda McDowell, "In and Out of Place: Bodies and Embodiment" in Gender, Identity, and Place |
| Linda McDowell, "Community, City, and Locality" in Gender, Identity, and Place |
| Elizabet Grosz, "Bodies-Cities," in Beatriz Colomina, ed. Sexuality and Space |

| W2 || 01.24: Gender, Modernity, and the Walker in the City |
|-----------------------------|
| Walter Benjamin / The Paris Arcades / The Flâneur |
| Other Voices: The (e).Journal of Cultural Criticism |
| http://www.othervoices.org/gpeaker/Passagenwerk.html#Arcade |
| Anke Gleber, "Female Flanerie and the Symphony of the City," in Katharina Van Ankum, ed. Women in the Metropolis |
Sally Munt, "The Lesbian Flâneur," in David Bell and Gill Valentine, eds. Mapping Desire

Mary Ryan, "Everyday Space: Gender and the Geography of the Public," in Women in Public: Between Banners and Ballots, 1825-1880

PART TWO: PUBLICS, PRIVATES, MEN AND WOMEN

W3 || 01.31: Modes of Control

Sarah Deutsch, Women and the City: Gender, Space, and Power in Boston, 1870-1940


Judith Walkowitz, "Jack the Ripper," in City of Dreadful Delight

W4 || 02.07: Capital, Class, and City Life

Susan Porter Benson, Counter Cultures: Saleswomen, Managers, and Customers in American Department Stores, 1890-1940

Christopher Breward, "Fashion and the Man: From Suburb to City Street. The Spaces of Masculine Consumption 1870-1914" in Sexual Geographies

Amy G. Richter, "A Ladies' Place: The Railroad and the Regendering of Victorian Public Life," Home on the Rails


PART THREE: MORAL PANIC AND ANXIOUS FREEDOM

W5 || 02.14: The Condition of Urban Liberties


Georgina Hickey, "Physical and Moral Health," in Hope and Danger in the New South City

Galen Cranz, "Women in Urban Parks," in Catharine R. Stimpson et al eds. Women and the American City
**W6 || 02.21: Zones of Urban Indiscipline**

Kevin Mumford, *Interzones*


Julia Costello, "The Archaeology of Prostitution in Los Angeles," in Gail Dubrow and Jennifer Goodman, eds., *Restoring Women's History Through Preservation*

**PART FOUR: URBAN REDEMPTION AS A GENDERED PROJECT**

**W7 || 02.28: Domesticating the City**

Daphne Spain, *How Women Saved the City*

Maureen Flannagan, "The Expansion of Women's Municipal Work, 1910-1916," in *Seeing With their Hearts*

Susan Wirka, "The City Social Movement" in Mary Sies and Chris Silver, eds., *Planning the Twentieth Century American City*


**W8 || 03.07: Race, Gender, and Civic Culture**

Victoria Wolcott, *Remaking Respectability: African American Women in Interwar Detroit*

Faith Ruffins, "Four African-American Women on the National Landscape," in Gail Dubrow and Jennifer Goodman, eds., *Restoring Women's History Through Preservation*

**PART FIVE: LEISURING THE METROPOLIS**

**W9 || 03.14: Haunting Pleasures of the Industrial City [Spring break]**

Lauren Ravinovitz, *For the Love of Pleasure: Women, Movies, and Culture in Turn-of-the-Century Chicago*

Nancy Nenno, "Femininity, the Primitive, and Modern Urban Space: Josephine Baker in Berlin" in Katharina Van Ankum, ed. *Women in the Metropolis*

Margaret Crawford, "Investigating the City: Detective Fiction as Urban Interpretation," in Diana Agrest et al, eds., *The Sex of Architecture*

**W10 || 03.21: Gender, Commerce, and the Changing Metropolis**

Madelon Powers, *Faces Along the Bar: Lore+Order in the Working Man's Saloon*


Alison Isenberg, “‘Mrs. Consumer,’ ‘Mrs. Brown America,’ and ‘Mr. Chain Store Man,’ Economic Woman and the Laws of Retail” in *Downtown America*

**PART SIX: LOVE AND TRADE IN SPACE: QUEERING THE CITY**

**W11 || 03.28: Sex, Identity, and Urbanism**

Nan Alamilla Boyd, *Wide Open Town: A History of Queer San Francisco*


Elizabeth Lapovsky Kennedy and Madeline D. Davis, "To Cover Up the Truth Would be a Waste of Time," *Boots of Leather, Slippers of Gold*

Peter Boag, "Gay Identity and Community in Early Portland" in *Same Sex Affairs*

Lillian Faderman, “Lesbian Chic: Experimentation and Repression in the 1920s," *Odd Girls and Twilight Lovers*

**W12 || 04.04: Placing Queer Subjects in City Places**

James Polchin, "Having Something to Wear: The Landscape of Identity on Christopher Street," in George Ingram et al, eds., *Queers in Space*


Yolanda Retter, "Lesbian Space in Los Angeles," in George Ingram et al, eds., *Queers in Space*
Lillian Faderman, “Naked Amazons and Queer Damozels: World War II and Its Aftermath,” *Odd Girls and Twilight Lovers*

Tamar Rothenberg, "And She Told Two Friends: Lesbians Creating Urban Social Space," in David Bell and Gill Valentine, eds. *Mapping Desire*

**PART SEVEN: ARCHITECTURE, URBANISM, AND GENDER**

**W13 || 04.11: Women / Design**

Beatrix Colomina, "The Split Wall: Domestic Voyeurism," in Beatrix Colomina, ed. *Sexuality and Space*


Leslie Kanes Weisman, "The Private Use of Public Space" in *Discrimination by Design*

**W14 || 04.18: Feminism and the Built Environment**


Frances Bradshaw, "Working With Women," in Matrix, eds, *Making Space*

Sue Francis, "Private Kitchens, Public Cooking," in Matrix, eds, *Making Space*
PART SEVEN: THE PERIL AND PROMISE OF THE CITY

W15 || 04.25: Gender Politics in the Inner City

Jacqueline Leavitt, "Through Their Eyes: Young Girls Look at Their Los Angeles Neighborhood," in Rose Ainley, New Frontiers of Space, Bodies, and Gender


Philippe Bourgois, "Redrawing the Gender Line on the Streets," In Search of Respect: Selling Crack in El Barrio

W16 || 05.02: Women Within and Against American Apartheid

Rhonda Williams, The Politics of Public Housing: Black Women's Struggles Against Urban Inequality

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