THE AESTHETICS OF DECAY

Prof. Jorge Otero-Pailos

Tuesdays 4-6pm, 412 Avery Hall

From the Romantic picturesque to contemporary Ruin Porn photography, decay has functioned as a powerful aesthetic category through which architects, artists and intellectuals have articulated social
and political agendas. This seminar critically examines the aesthetics of decay, paying special attention to its rhetorical role in shaping the understanding of historiography, modernity and postmodernity within architectural discourse and related disciplines.

**Format:**

The seminar format is structured discussions. Students are expected to do the readings before class and bring observations and questions about the readings to the discussion.

**Grading:**

Students will conduct independent research and present their ongoing work first as a written draft (20% of final grade) then as a presentation at the end of the semester (30% of final grade) to present their findings to the group. Each student is also expected to write a research paper not to exceed 6000 words excluding footnotes (50% of final grade). For instructions on each assignment please refer to the assignments section of this website.

**Books:**

We will reading one book per week. Students are encouraged to purchase the books, or check them out from the library.

**Readings**

**Class 1 / Tuesday Jan 16**


**Class 2 / Tuesday Jan 23**


**Class 3 / Tuesday Jan 30**


**SITE VISIT / Friday Feb 2**

ESSEX COUNTY JAIL, Newark NJ

**Class 4 / Tuesday Feb 6**


**Class 5 / Tuesday Feb 13**


**Class 6 / Tuesday Feb 20**

**Class 7 / Tuesday Feb 27**


**Class 8 / Tuesday Mar 6**


**Class 9 / Tuesday Mar 13**


**Mar 17—SPRING BREAK**

**Class 10 / Tuesday Mar 27**

Book to be chosen by class

**Class 11 / Tuesday April 3**

—Paper presentations

**SITE VISIT / Friday April 6**

Visit to Lyndhurst

**Class 12 / Tuesday April 10**

—Paper presentations

**Class 13 / Tuesday April 17**

—Paper presentations
Bibliography


Clement, Maria. "Limpiar el Vaticano con bacterias entrenadas para 'comer' suciedad." In El Mundo.


Hirst, Damien. I Want to Spend the Rest of My Life Everywhere, with Everyone, One to One, Alway s, Forever, Now. New York: Monacelli Press, 1998.

Howard, Jacqueline. "'White Noise' For Your Nose Cancels Out Nasty Odors." In Huffington Post.


