Course Syllabus

Conflict Urbanism: Language Justice

Course Number:
ARCH A4890

Course website available here

Friday 11-1pm, Ware Lounge, Avery Hall

3 Credits

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Office Hours, By Appointment

Tutorial Assistance, TBD

This is the second in a series of multidisciplinary Mellon seminars on the topic of Conflict Urbanism, as part of a multi-university initiative in Architecture, Urbanism and the Humanities. This year, we will focus on how language is a major force in shaping cities, both through a theoretical lens and through fieldwork in linguistically diverse neighborhoods throughout New York City.

**Conflict Urbanism: Language Justice in New York City** This spring, the seminar will focus on the role of language as a structuring principle of cities, highlighting the ways that urban spaces and the world are physically shaped by linguistic diversity, and examining the results of languages coming into contact and conflict. For this work we will use New York City as our laboratory. The New York City metropolitan area is the most linguistically dense city in the world, hosting an estimated 700 different languages. To better understand this diversity, we will look closely at micro-neighborhoods such as Little Senegal (Manhattan), Little Korea (Queens), and Little Ramallah (Paterson, New Jersey). In thinking about the transnational and translingual nature of the city, we will consider structures from digital technology to remittances (small amounts of money sent “home”) and their role in language preservation and language extinction. Finally, through visualizing and mapping how language is situated in these micro-neighborhoods, we will begin to explore the cultures, languages, informal structures and architectures that migrants bring to the city.

**Methods and Course Requirements:** Our work will be, by necessity, multidisciplinary across history, architecture, politics, law, literature and linguistics as related to the topic of Conflict Urbanism. Our work will also be multi-media. Students will create a web-based map as well as written reflections, incorporating analogue as well as digital media. We will use a flipped classroom method in the technical workshops where students will develop mapping and visual storytelling skills. Each student is responsible for completing a minimum of four tutorials, and an optional maximum of eight tutorials. No previous technical skills are necessary for registration; students will not be graded on technical expertise, but on the quality of their individual work. Professors will set individual guidelines for each student based on their disciplinary expertise.
Midterm, Final, and Presentations: Students in the class are expected to complete a minimum of 4 and maximum of 8 mapping tutorials as well as weekly readings in order to complete the assignment for the semester, which involve the creation of online maps. The midterm evaluation will be in the form of a written project proposal where students will have an opportunity to get feedback on their project idea, methodology, a data collection plan. Near the end of the semester, students will present the results of their fieldwork and status of their final projects. These presentations are an integral component of the course as they give students an opportunity to share the findings from their fieldwork and explain the decisions they made both in data collection and presentation. This is also an opportunity for students give and receive feedback before the final project is submitted. The final project will be submitted after the presentations, and be a combination of writing and maps in which students share qualitative and quantitative information about their chosen neighborhood.

Note: Students will not be graded on their technical proficiency with the tools, but their work in the seminar as a whole. Teamwork and collaboration will be encouraged, but students will be evaluated on their individual contribution to the work.

**Grading Breakdown - Graduate**

*Technological skill is not factored into the grade*

10% Participation
20% Tutorials (completion)
20% Presentation
50% Final project

**Grading Breakdown - Undergraduate**

*Technological skill is not factored into the grade*

10% Participation
20% Tutorials (completion)
15% Midterm
15% Presentation
40% Final project

**Weekly Plan**

1. **Introduction**


2. **Conflict Urbanism and Representing Conflict**


3. Environmental Justice


4. Linguistic Human Rights


5. Case Studies of Conflict Urbanism and Language Justice


6. Migration, Transnationalism and Remittances


7. **What is a Multi-Lingual Space?** **MIDTERM DUE**


8. **Language Projections and Map Projections:**


9. **Art and Architecture, Rural and Urban Languages**


which was on view at the Cartier Foundation in Paris, France as part of “Elsewhere starts here.” Presented by the Fondation Cartier at the Palais de Tokyo, on the occasion of the Cop21, the United Nations Conference on Climate Change. http://fondation.cartier.com/#/en/art-contemporain/26/exhibitions/294/all-the-exhibitions/2564/exit/ (Links to an external site.)


10. **Student Presentations**

Reading assignment based on student projects

11. **Student Presentations**

Reading assignment based on student projects

12. **Student Presentations**

Reading assignment based on student projects

13. **Student Presentations**

Reading assignment based on student projects

14. **Final Seminar Panel Discussion**

Students present their work to a panel of discussants