ANTH 146a
Gender and the City

Spring 2018, Tuesday-Friday: 9:30-10:50 (Block G)

Instructor: Shilpa Phadke (http://www.tiss.edu/view/9/employee/shilpa-phadke/)

Madeleine Haas Russell Visiting Professor in Non-Western Studies at Brandeis University

Contact details and office hours:

Course Description

This course examines the ways in which cities reflect gender relations and in turn how gender relations impact the very fabric and politics of cities. Exploring gender and cities together enables us to look at the ways in which social and spatial structures are mutually constitutive.

The course will explore how ideas about gender are reflected in and refracted by cities and city spaces, not only because socio-cultural gender norms are imprinted on cities but also because gender is relevant to how cities are perceived. The written and visual texts we engage will move between what are regarded as 'first' and 'third' world cities focusing on continuities and connections even as we reflect on how such categories are created and maintained. The course seeks to reflect on power structures between cities and between people in cities, always conscious of the multiple and intersecting ways in which identities and structures work.

How are gendered discourses about cities shaped and reinforced? How are gender identities and social performances of gender connected to the material and social construction of urban spaces? How are varied claims to the city articulated? While the course title focuses gender, there will be a strong emphasis on the intersectionality of class, race, and community in engaging with how other social identities intersect with gender in shaping lived experiences in the city.

The course will reflect on questions of gendered embodiment, belonging, identity, femininity, masculinity, sexuality, respectability, risk, surveillance, and resistance as it navigates the everyday worlds of cities.

Course Goals

To familiarize students with the theoretical debates on private and public space, cities and citizenship; to engage with hierarchies of class, caste, gender, religion, physical ability and sexual orientation in the city especially as they are played out spatially; to think through questions of respectability and pleasure in relation to debates in feminism. The course will also enable students to reflect on cities and the power relations and structures within which cities are constructed and embedded.

Course Evaluation

Short Assignment – Participant Observation 20%

This is a participant observation exercise where you will be required to spend about 4-5 hours observing one public space and to write about it using concepts we are engaging with in the
course. You may use photographs to illuminate your writing. The length of the assignment is 4-5 pages.

**Mid Term Take Home Test – 25%**

The midterm take home test will be based on the readings, lectures, and films. You will be expected to reflect an understanding of scholarly texts as well as your own interpretations and analysis. You will be expected to write one essay of about 3-4 pages out of a set of four possible options. This is a 48-hour-test – completed papers are due 48 hours after the test has been circulated to the class.

**Final Term Paper– 40%**

An 8-10 page paper on a theme of your choice engaging with debates on gender and the city. Please clear your final term paper themes with me.

**Class Participation – 15%**

This includes attendance, timely completion of reading assignments, and thoughtful contributions to class discussions.

All written work must be submitted *both on LATTE and in person* as hard copies.

**Course Expectations**

Success in this 4 credit hour course is based on the expectation that students will spend a minimum of 9 hours of study time per week in preparation for class (readings, papers, discussion sections, preparation for exams, etc.).

**Disabilities**

If you are a student with a documented disability on record at Brandeis University and wish to have a reasonable accommodation made for you in this class, please see me as soon as possible.

**Academic Integrity**

You are expected to be honest in all of your academic work. Please consult Brandeis University Rights and Responsibilities for all policies and procedures related to academic integrity. Students may be required to submit work to TurnItIn.com software to verify originality. Allegations of alleged academic dishonesty will be forwarded to the Director of Academic Integrity. Sanctions for academic dishonesty can include failing grades and/or suspension from the university. Citation and research assistance can be found at LTS - Library guides.
Course Outline

Week One

Introductory Class 12 January
Discussion of syllabus, introductions, goals.

Thinking about the City and Adventure 16 January

Screening of Clip: Kavita Krishnan’s viral speech outside Sheila Dixit’s house in 2012: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rPfmIoiHxvc

Week Two

Cities: Insiders and Outsiders 19 January


Space and Gender: Engaging some Concepts 23 January


Week Three

Gendered Embodiment 26 January


(Trans)Gendered Cities 30 January
**Week Four**

**Work and the City**

02 February


Screening: *Dane Dane Pe* dir by Krishna Panchal, Mridula Chari, Nithila Kangasabai, and Nitya Menon, 28 minutes.

**Constructing Gender and Class in the City**

06 February


Film: *Do Andolan*

**Week Five**

**Sexuality and the City**

09 February


Screening: Part of *And You Thought You Knew Me*, dir by Pramada Menon

**Morality, Romance and the City**

13 February


Screening: *Morality TV and Loving Jihad* dir by Paromita Vohra

**Week Six**

**Narrating Danger: Gender and the Nocturnal City**

16 February


Masculinity and the City  
27 February


Screening: *Breakin’ Mumbai* (20 minutes)

Week Seven

*Identity|es in the City*  
02 March


Infrastructure: Toilets and Transport: Questions of Segregation  
06 March


Week Eight

Infrastructure: Parks  
09 March


Screening: *Under the Open Sky* dir by Shilpa Phadke, Nikhil Titus and Faiz Ullah (35 mins)

The Nation and its Spaces  
13 March


Week Nine
Surveillance

16 March


Risk and Resistance

20 March


Films: Do Andolan, Her Stories

Week Ten

No Class

Week Eleven

Digital Spaces and Feminist Possibilities

10 April


Michelle Rodino-Colocino (2014) #YesAllWomen: Intersectional Mobilization Against Sexual Assault is Radical (Again), *Feminist Media Studies*, 14:6, 1113-1115.


Consumer Heterotopias?

13 April


Week Twelve

**Flanerie and the Possibilities for a Flaneuse**


**Thinking about Fun in the City**


Week Thirteen

**Rethinking Cities and Gender**


**Concluding Class: Utopias?**


Feedback on the course.