

## Fall 2014: English 101/200

### BOSTON: CITY = CULTURE (Experiencing, Reading, & Writing the City)

#### UNIT ONE: CITY AS SPACE/PLACE

##### Week One:

Sept: 3 (Wed) Introductions

5 (Fri) *The City as a Space of Power*  
Bambara, "The Lesson"  
Jin, "Saboteur"

##### Week Two:

Sept: 8 (Mon) *The City as a Space of Imagination*  
Dybek, "The Palatski Man"

9 (Tues) Add/Drop ends

10 (Wed) *The City as a Space of Love*  
Joyce, "Araby"  
Gilb, "Love in L.A."  
Murakami, "On Seeing the 100% Perfect Girl One Beautiful April Morning"  
Diaz, "How to date a brown girl (black girl, white girl, or halfie)"  
Poem: Soto, "Oranges"

12 (Fri) *The City as a Space of Images*  
*Famous Images of the City:*  
Pound, "In a Station of the Metro"  
Whitman, "Crossing Brooklyn Ferry"  
Wordsworth, "Composed upon Westminster Bridge, September 3, 1802"  
Sandburg, "Chicago"  
*Images of the Everyday:*  
Brooks, "kitchenette building"  
Hongo, "Yellow Light"  
**Mini-Paper #1 Workshop**

##### Week Three:

Sept: 15 (M) Bunnell, "Great Public Spaces"  
Block, "How to Become a Great Public Space"  
**MINI-PAPER #1: Close Reading Paper**

17 (W) Whyte, William, *The Social Life of Small Public Spaces*, excerpt  
Lynch, Kevin, *The Image of a City*, excerpt

- 19 (F) Boston History: *A Short History of Boston*, Chpt 1; preview Chpt 4  
 BPL First Trustee’s Report (1852): PDF  
 O’Connell, Chapter 3 and 4 preview  
*Field Trip into Boston: Tour of Boston’s Back Bay/Copley Place;  
 Boston Public Library: Observation of a “Great Public Space”*  
 www.bpl.org

**Week Four:**

- Sept: 22 (M) Boston History: *A Short History of Boston*, Chpts 2 and 3  
 O’Connell, Chapter 1: Winthrop, Franklin, Adams, Wheatley
- 24 (W) Boston History: *A Short History of Boston*, Chpts 4 and 5  
 O’Connell, Chapter 2 and 3: Poe, Hawthorne, Emerson
- 26 (F) Boston History: *A Short History of Boston*, Chpts 6 and 7  
 O’Connell, Chapter 4 and 5: James, the Atlantic, 20<sup>th</sup> C  
*Field Trip into Boston: Tour of State House area—part 1*

**Week Five:**

- Sept: 29 (M) Glaeser, *Triumph of the City*:  
 Introduction & Chpt 1: What do They Make in Bangalore?  
**MINI-PAPER #2: Observation Paper**
- Oct: 1 (W) Glaeser, *Triumph of the City*:  
 Chpt 2: Why do Cities Decline? (Note section on Boston)  
 Chpt 9: How Do Cities Succeed? (Note section on Boston)  
 O’Connell, Chapter 6: 20<sup>th</sup> C
- 3 (F) Glaeser, *Triumph of the City*:  
 Chpt 3: What’s Good about Slums?  
 Chpat 6: What’s So Great about Skyscrapers?  
 Wheatley, “On Being Brought from Africa to America,” “On  
 Imagination”  
 Lowell, “For the Union Dead”  
*Field Trip into Boston: Tour State House area—part 2;  
 visit to African American Meeting House*  
<http://www.afroammuseum.org/site14.htm>

**UNIT TWO: CITY AS PEOPLE**

**Week Six:**

- Oct: 6 (M) NO CLASS (Columbus Day)

8 (W) Tangvik, *Don't Mess with Tanya* (selections TBA)  
**MINI-PAPER #3: Inquiry Paper**

10 (F) ***Class Speaker: Ken Tangvik, Don't Mess with Tanya (TBA)***

**Week Seven:**

Oct: 13 (M) Lahiri, *Interpreter of Maladies*: "This Blessed House"  
**MINI-PAPER #4: Application of a Theory/Concept Paper**

15 (W) Lahiri, *Interpreter of Maladies*: "The Third and Final Continent"

17 (F) Lahiri, *Interpreter of Maladies*: "Sexy"  
***Field Trip into Boston: Christian Science Building Mapparium***

**Week Eight:**

Oct: 20 (M) **BOSTON OBSERVATION/INQUIRY PAPER DUE**

22 (W) Read the Story selected for this year's Boston Book Festival's  
"One City, One Story" event: Jennifer Haigh, "Sublimation"  
<http://www.bostonbookfest.org/attend/1c1s/>

Student Selection: Read the Story selected for a past Boston Book  
"One City, One Story" event

--2010: Tom Perrota, "The Smile on Happy Chang's Face"

--2011: Richard Russo "The Whore's Child"

--2012: Anna Solomon: "The Lobster Mafia Story"

--2013: Rishi Reddi: "Karma"

24 (F) ***Field Trip into Boston: Boston Book Festival, October 23-25,  
Copley Square***

**REVIEW (FINAL ASSIGNMENT) EXPLAINED**

**Week Nine:**

Oct: 27 (M) Healey Archives: Thompson Island Collection  
[Lahiri, *Interpreter of Maladies*: "When Mr. Pirzanda..."]  
**INQUIRY PORTFOLIO**

29 (W) Healey Archives: Thompson Island Collection  
[Lahiri, *Interpreter of Maladies*: "Interpreter of Maladies"]  
**INQUIRY PORTFOLIO**

31 (F) ***Field Trip: Boat Trip out to Thompson Island***  
**INQUIRY PORTFOLIO**

### UNIT THREE: CITY AS VOICE

#### Week Ten

Nov: 3 (M) Moth Radio Hour: Listen to selected short stories from: [themoth.org/radio](http://themoth.org/radio)  
Whitehead, *The Colossus of New York* (excerpt)

5 (W) Slam Poetry: Listen to selected slam poems online  
*Poems about America*  
Whitman, Walt, "I Sing America"  
Hughes, Langston, "I, Too, [Sing America]"  
McKay, Claude, "America"  
Hughes, Langston, "The Negro Speaks of Rivers"  
Baca, Jimmy Santiago, "So Mexicans are Taking Jobs from Americans"  
Lim, Shirley Geok-Lin, "Learning to Love in America"  
Sanchez, Sonia, "right on: white America"

7 (F) ***Class Speaker: UMass Boston Slam Poetry Group (TBA)***  
**INQUIRY PORTFOLIO/REFLECTION DUE**

#### Week Eleven

Nov: 10 (M) Cisneros, *House on Mango Street*, all

12 (W) Cisneros, *House on Mango Street*, Listen to selected sections in audio; select sections to read aloud in class

### UNIT FOUR: CITY AS UTOPIA/DYSTOPIA

14 (F) Jackson, "The Lottery"  
LeGuin, "The Ones Who Walk Away from Omelas"  
Thompson, *Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas* (excerpt)  
Selby, *Last Exit to Brooklyn* (excerpt)

#### Week Twelve

Nov: 17 (M) Literary analysis assignment/Auster, *City of Glass* reading  
OR  
Interview analysis assignment/*Common Ground* reading  
**ANALYSIS PAPER ASSIGNED**

19 (Tues) Course Withdrawal

21 (W) Literary analysis assignment/Auster, *City of Glass* reading  
OR  
Interview analysis assignment/*Common Ground* reading

23 (F) ***Field Trip into Boston: MFA: Connect Confessional Poetry to Painting***

**OR**

***Isabella Stuart Gardner Museum: Class and Crime: Observe an Object***

**Week Thirteen**

- Nov: 24 (M) Literary analysis assignment/Auster, *City of Glass* reading  
OR  
Interview analysis assignment/*Common Ground* reading
- 26 (W) ***No Class: Thanksgiving***
- 28 (F) ***No Class: Thanksgiving***

**Week Fourteen**

- Dec: 1 (M) *City of Glass: Graphic Novel*  
OR  
Interview
- 3 (W) *City of Glass: Graphic Novel*  
OR  
Interview
- 5 (F) *City of Glass: Graphic Novel*  
OR  
Interview  
**ANALYSIS PAPER DUE**

**Week Fifteen**

- Dec: 8 (M) Final Sharing of **REVIEWS of Events**
- 10 (W) Final Sharing of **REVIEWS of Events**
- 12 (F) Last Day of Classes

(Dec 15-19: Final Exam Period)