Overview

If it is no longer strange to think of spaces and landscapes as “socially produced,” it is largely a reflection of the extent to which contemporary spatial and geographical thought has been transformed in its encounters with historical materialism, and in particular with conceptual language developed by the late French Marxist philosopher and sociologist Henri Lefebvre. This graduate seminar is designed as a close study of one of Lefebvre’s signature theoretical concepts and book, *The Production of Space*, situating the work in the context of Lefebvre’s lively career, its reception in Geography and related fields, and the currency of its concepts in and for contemporary research. Read alongside Lefebvre’s recently discovered treatise on the built environment, *Toward an Architecture of Enjoyment*, along with selections from his *State Space World, Introduction to Modernity, Critique of Everyday Life*, and other works, with contributions from Kristen Ross, Neil Brenner, Stuart Elden, Don Mitchell, Neil Smith,
Marshall Berman and others, our purpose is to “triangulate” the Production of Space in relation to key questions of (1)architecture and social space; (2) new urban forms (including the “rural city”); and (3) politics and state space.

Format and Requirements

Close reading and discussion of texts. Participants will take turns leading discussions. In addition, two short papers are required: a review essay; and an effort, perhaps highly speculative, to think through your own research problems using Lefebvrian categories. Some will want to combine these into a single full-length term paper.

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<th>Percentage</th>
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<tr>
<td>50%</td>
<td>Reading and seminar participation</td>
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<tr>
<td>25%</td>
<td>Review essay</td>
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<td>Categories essay</td>
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Plan to read ~75-125 pages per week for regular seminar meetings.

Key Texts

Available @ student store:


*Others, as indicated by week below, will be available via sakai.

Schedule

Jan 8: INTRODUCTIONS

Part I: Henri Lefebvre and The Production of Space - Approaches, Methods & Contexts

Jan 15:

- HL, “The Question” [AoE, 3-23]

Jan 22:
• HL, “Plan of the Present Work” (PoS, 1-33)

Jan 29:
• HL, “Plan of the Present Work” (PoS 34-67)
• David Harvey, “Afterword” [in Lefebvre, PoS, 425-434].

Feb 5:
• HL, “Social Space” [PoS, 68-111]
• HL, “The Scope of the Inquiry”; “The Quest” [AoE, 24-31; 32-49]
• HL, “Space and the Mode of Production” [SSW, 210-222]

Part II: Social Spaces

Feb 12:
• HL, “Social Space” [PoS, 111-168] [does this go w state?]
• HL, “Objections” [AoE, 50-59]
Feb 19:—NO CLASS; Individual student meetings to be scheduled (Feb 17-18)

Feb 26: Movie night: Chaplin and the Critique of Everyday Life
- 'Categories papers': roundtable workshop – sketches due in advance
- HL, “Philosophy” [AoE, 60-79]

Mar 5:
- 'Categories’ paper due
- HL, “Anthropology” [AoE, 80-86]

Mar 12: NO CLASS MEETING – SPRING BREAK

Part III: State Space
Mar 19:
- HL, “From absolute space to abstract space” [PoS, 229-291]
- HL, “The state and society” (SSW, 51-68)
- HL, “The withering away of the state” (SSW, 69-94)

Mar 26:
- HL, “The state in the modern world” [SSW, 95-123]
- HL, “Comments on a new state form” [SSW, 124-137]
- Japhy Wilson, “The devastating conquest of the lived by the Conceived”: The concept of abstract space in the work of Henri Lefebvre” Space and Culture 16(2013): 364-380.
- HL, “History” [AoE, 87-101]

April 2:
- HL, “Contradictory space” [PoS, 292-351]
- HL, “Space and the state” [SSW, 223-253]

Part IV: Dissolving city, planetary metamorphosis?

April 9:
• HL, “Differential space” [PoS, 352-400]
• HL, “Psychology and Psychoanalysis” [AoE, 102-116]
• David Pinder, “Reconstituting the possible: Lefebvre, utopia and the urban question” International Journal of Urban and Regional Research (2013)

April 16:
• HL, “Economics” [AoE, 128-135]
• HL, “The worldwide and the planetary” (SSW, 196-209)
• Neil Smith, Uneven Development (1984), (66-96)

April 23:
• HL, “Openings and Conclusions” [PoS, 401-425]
• HL, “Architecture” [AoE, 136-145]; “Conclusions (Injunctions)” {AoE, 146-153}
• Review/final papers -- roundtable workshop; sketch due

Final exam date: Review/final papers due