

Instructor: Grazyna Drabik (English Dept.)
Off. Hours Wed. 12:30 – 2:30 pm
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Instructional Technology Fellow: Andrés Orejuela

Schedule of class sessions, readings and written assignments:

1. M Aug. 31 Introduction to the course:
Sept. 2 the arts, the city, and us
2. M Sept. 7 no classes. College closed – Labor Day
Sept. 9 Selection of poems from *Poems of New York*
Th Sept. 10 cont. *Poems of New York*
3. M Sept. 14 no classes. College open – Rosh Hashanah
Sept. 16 Colum McCann, *Let the Great World Spin*
4. M Sept. 21 cont. *Let the Great World Spin*
Sept. 23 no classes. College open - Yom Kippur
5. M **Sept. 28** cont. *Let the Great World Spin*
Paper #1 due: on *Let the Great World Spin*
Sept. 30 On theatre – in preparation for performance of *Cloud Nine*
A short critical intro to Churchill’s work by Peter Buse is available on British Council’s site: <http://literature.britishcouncil.org/caryl-churchill>
- F Oct. 8 pm, at Linda Gross Theatre 336 W. 20th St. - TBC
Atlantic Company Theatre: *Cloud Nine* by Caryl Churchill, directed by James MacDonald
6. M Oct. 5 Discussion of *Cloud Nine* performance
Oct. 7 On music & opera – in preparation for *Tosca*
7. M Oct. 12 no classes. College closed - Columbus Day
Oct. 14 Selection from *Tosca* libretto by Luigi Illica & Giuseppe Giacosa
Note: libretto in English (& lots of info on *Tosca*, Puccini, & other operas):
<http://www.opera-guide.ch/opera.php?id=286&uilang=en>
Th Oct.15 Al-Hijara - Islamic New Year
- F Oct. 16 at 7:15 pm at the fountain in front of Metropolitan Opera, Lincoln Center (ca. 3 hrs.)
Opening night of Giacomo Puccini, *Tosca*. Production: Luc Bondy; conductor:
Plácido Domingo; with Oksana Dyka (*Tosca*), Massimo Giordano (Cavaradossi),
Roberto Frontali (Scarpia)
8. M Oct. 19 Discussion of *Tosca*
Oct. 21 On the nature of “performing arts” & the art of writing about performances

W Oct. 21 at 7:20 pm at The Public Theater 425 Lafayette St. (at Astor Pl.)
 Gob Squad, *Before Your Very Eyes* (ca. 2 hrs.) – TBC

9. M Oct. 26 Mysteries of time: art vs. science?

Oct. 28 On dance: classical & modern
 Discussion of *Dancemaker* (1999), a doc. film by Matthew Diamond about Paul Taylor

St Oct. 31 Halloween; 1-2 Nov. All Saints & All Souls Day

10. M **Nov. 2** **Paper #2 due:** on dance & musical performances chosen individually
 Tu Nov. 3 Election Day
 Nov. 4 Intro to Patti Smith, *Just Kids*

11. M Nov. 9 cont. *Just Kids*
 Nov. 11 cont. *Just Kids*

St. Nov. 14 at 7:30 pm BAM Harvey Theater 651 Fulton St., Brooklyn – TBC
 B.O.X. (Baroque Orchestration X), Shara Worden, Andrew Ondrejcek,
You Us We All (a kind of opera-video fusion)

12. M Nov. 16 On the art of photography: New York & New Yorkers through the lens of
 Alfred Stieglitz, Edward Steichen, Lewis Hine, Henri Cartier-Bresson,
 James van der Zee, Margaret Bourke-White, Elliott Erwitt, Inge Morath,
 Helen Levitt, Gordon Parks, Bruce Davidson, Mary Ellen Mark, Susan Meiseles,
 Paul Fusco, Camilo José Vergara, Chien-Chi Chang, Brandon Stanton...

Nov. 18 Power of images vs. power of words?
 Discussion of *Waste Land* (2010), doc. film by Lucy Walker about photographer
 Vik Muniz and his project in Jardim Gramacho, nr. Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

13. M Nov. 23 Discussion of *Man on Wire* (2008), doc. film by James Marsh about Philippe
 Petit and his walk, on August 7th of 1974, between the NY World Trade center's
 twin towers

Nov. 25 **Group reports due:** on the “city as art.”
 Walking along the city edges and a visit to its heart.

Th Nov. 26 Thanksgiving Day Nov. 26-29 no classes. College closed.

14. M Nov. 30 Groups' presentations of their chosen area & work on the web-project
 Dec. 2 cont. group presentations

15. M Dec. 7 cont. group presentations
 Dec. 9 cont. group presentations

16. M Dec.14 General session