topographies of law
ANT 4930 Section 148G
Spring 2014

Tuesdays 3-4 (9:35 - 11:30am)
Thursdays 3 (9:35 - 10:25am)
MAT 0105

Instructor: Richard Kernaghan
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Office Hours:
Wednesdays 2:30-5:30pm
or by appointment

Description:
How do places become saturated with prohibitions or altered through controls imposed on the circulations of human and non-human beings, images as well as other sorts of signs? How does law acquire substance through spatial metaphors and attach itself to actual physical terrains? What social processes come into play when some areas or zones appear as if they were situated beyond legal protections of any kind at all?

In this course we examine how is law expressed, sensed and practiced depending on the material setting. We inquire into how the enforcement of specific laws may vary across distinct types of spatial formations: for instance, between cities, towns, rural areas or roads; seas with their pirates; forts and fortifications; islands or even island prisons. Indeed, one of our guiding objectives will be to ask how ethnographic writing can contribute to documenting the force of law as it inhabits particular landscapes and locales.

Holding fast to the deliberate open-endedness of such questions we will work towards building a semester-long dialogue that is rigorous, energetic and creative. Writings of Michel Foucault, Nancy Munn, Michael Taussig, and Franz Kafka, among others, will provide some theoretical support and inspiration. We will weigh their contributions to legal anthropology as we bring them into conversation with recent ethnographies of law, the state and affects of place.

Requirements: This class will be run as a seminar. Active participation in all discussions is expected. Each student will be asked to keep an ethnographic journal, write two brief response papers and give a couple of informal presentations. There will be a take-home mid-term as well as a research paper (in lieu of a final exam). As needed pop quizzes will be given to keep us all alert and engaged.
Objectives:
1. to grasp critical concepts and thematic concerns of spatial approaches to law
2. to hone skills of textual analysis and interpretation
3. to enhance understanding of ethnographic modes of research and representation
4. to become better writers

Required Texts:
Heller-Roazen, D. *The enemy of all* (Zone Books, 2009)
Hetherington, K. *Guerrilla auditors* (Duke University Press, 2012)
Weizman, E. *Hollow land* (Verso, 2012)

The above books have been placed on reserve at Library West. Yet considering that we will consult specific passages from them, I highly recommend that you obtain a copy for use during class. All remaining assigned and supplemental readings will be available to download from the Sakai course page.

Etiquette: Please arrive to all sessions punctually, prepared to share your informed questions, impressions and interpretations of the current week’s materials. You are welcome to use laptops or tablets to take notes but *not* to take part in activities unrelated to the course. To the extent possible please avoid leaving before the session’s scheduled end time. However, if you know beforehand you must depart early, simply sit near the door so as to minimize disruptions. Kindly turn cell phones to silent for the duration of all class meetings.

Attendance: A sign-up sheet will be circulated at the beginning of each session. If you need to miss a session, please inform me ahead of time (or as soon as possible) and provide appropriate documentation. In such cases you are responsible for contacting a classmate to obtain notes on materials and topics covered while away.

Absences for reasons of religious holiday, illness, and official university business are excused; however, proper notification should still be provided.

Please note: Since participation as well as assimilation of vital class materials depend upon attendance, multiple absences (4 & above) will necessarily undermine academic performance. Students who have a high number of absences risk failing the course. On the other hand, students with perfect or near perfect attendance will receive bonus credit.

For official UF Policy on attendance and absences please consult:
https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx
Evaluations – Final grades for the course will be calculated according to six criteria:

Participation (10%): Students should play an active, informed role in class discussions and in so doing contribute to the overall success of the course. You are also encouraged to meet with me in office hours at least two times during the semester to talk about your progress in the course as well as your plans for the final project.

Ethnographic Journal (10%): For this assignment choose a place (or a route) which in some respect is infused by explicit laws, unwritten norms or simply an odd sort of charge. Try to spend two hours a week there, observing. What do you see and sense in or around that place? Whatever it is do your best to document it. Then, reflect further upon your observations in writing. You may wish to supplement what you write with images (drawings, photographs, video) or sound recordings. Those images and sounds can then be analyzed as a means of enriching your journal.

A completion grade will be given for the journal at the end of the semester. However, you will be asked to incorporate materials or reflections from your journal directly into the final project paper, making it a crucial resource for thinking about space, place and law.

Short Commentaries (10%): 600 words each, two in all.

Reading Presentation (15%): Once during the semester you will be asked to give an oral presentation on an assigned text. The purpose of the presentation is not to summarize the reading but to situate it within the ideas and concepts of the course. Twenty-four hours prior to the scheduled presentation date you are also required to circulate a 600-word report on the assigned reading. Through your report and presentation you should strive to outline specific concerns and help us formulate or hone relevant questions for the class.

Mid-term Exam (25%): The mid-term will be a take-home essay exam distributed two weeks before the due date.

Term Project Paper (30%): Building upon the materials from your ethnographic journal the final paper should critically examine one of the class themes. The topic of your project must be elaborated in consultation with me (the instructor). Approximate length: 3300 words.

A concise 250-word abstract that clearly describes the objectives of the project will be due in early March. The term paper must be handed in no later than the last day of class.

All papers, exams and reports should be typed and double-spaced with one-inch margins and pages numbered. In addition to handing in a hard copy of the assignment, you are required to submit an electronic version via Sakai using the turnitin.org function to ensure proper attributions and acknowledgments.
Written assignments will be judged on content (the extent to which they succeed in explicating course material and relevant themes) but also in terms of style (coherence, persuasiveness and creativity).

**Assignment Deadlines:**
1) Short Commentaries: January 21 & February 11
2) Mid-term Exam: Feb. 27
3) Reading Presentation: TBA
4) Term Paper Abstract: March 11
5) Term Paper & Ethnographic Journal: April 22

**Late work & make-up exams:** While again all assignments must be submitted by the beginning of class of the deadline date, assignments handed in late but still within one (1) week of the original due date will be docked a letter grade. After one week, they will no longer be accepted. That said, there are two exceptions to the late policy. There will be **no extensions granted for the final term paper.** There will also be no second chances to take missed quizzes.

**Academic Honesty:** As you are aware, plagiarism and cheating are serious academic offenses. All work submitted for a grade must be free from unauthorized assistance or deliberate misrepresentations of one’s own effort. The penalty for plagiarism or cheating is a grade of zero points on the assignment in question. In such cases an incident form will also be sent to the Office of the Dean of Students.

If you have questions about what constitutes academic misconduct, please consult the UF Honor Code as well as the UF Policies on Academic Honesty, Student Rights and Responsibilities. These are available online at [http://www.dso.ufl.edu/studenthandbook/studentrights.php#academichonestyguidelines](http://www.dso.ufl.edu/studenthandbook/studentrights.php#academichonestyguidelines)

**ADA Statement:** “Students with disabilities, who need reasonable modifications to complete assignments successfully and otherwise satisfy course criteria, are encouraged to meet with the instructor as early in the course as possible to identify and plan specific accommodations. Students will be asked to supply a letter from the Disability Resource Center to assist in planning accommodations.”

**Grading:** The following scale will be used for grades on all assignments and exams: 94-100=A; 90-93=A–; 87-89=B+; 83-86=B; 79-82=B–; 76-78=C+; 72-75=C; 69-71=C–; 66-68=D+; 62-65=D; 59-61=D–; 58 and below=E (failing).
Regarding university grading policies, be advised that a grade of C- is not valid for major, minor, Gen Ed, Gordon Rule, or for college basic distribution credit. For questions about minus grades, please see [http://www.isis.ufl.edu/minusgrades.html](http://www.isis.ufl.edu/minusgrades.html).

You may consult current UF policy on how grade point averages are calculated at [https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx#calculating](https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx#calculating).

**Additional UF Resources:**
Reading & Writing Center (Broward Hall, 392-0791)
Career Resource Center (Reitz Union, 392-1601)
University Counseling Center (301 Peabody Hall, 392-1575),
Student Mental Health (Student Health Care Center, 392-1171), and
Sexual Assault Recovery Services (Student Health Care Center, 392-1161)

_I may make minor adjustments to readings or assignment requirements during the semester. Any and all modifications will be announced ahead of time._
Course Schedule

week 1  opening remarks: why topographies of law?
1/7    Kafka, “The Burrow”
        Foucault, “Of Other Spaces”
1/9    Benda-Beckmann, “Anthropological Perspectives on Law & Geography”
        supplemental reading:
        Kernaghan, “Furrows & Walls”

week 2  taboo, territory, milieu
1/14   Munn, “Excluded Spaces”
        Deleuze & Guattari, “Of the Refrain” (excerpts)
1/16   Gordillo, “Places that Frighten”

week 3  proper marks
1/21   Locke, “Of Property”
        commentary due
        Serres, “Salad Meals - Stercoral Origin of Property Rights”
        Braverman, “Uprooting Identities”
        Blomley, “Law, Property, & the Geography of Violence”
1/23   Verdery, “The Elasticity of Land”
        supplemental:
        Detienne, “Digging In”
        Grisaffi, “We are originarios... We just aren’t from here”
week 4  what is state-space?

1/28  Heller-Roazen, *The Enemy of All*, Chapters 1, 3 & 4

Lefebvre, “Space & the State”


*supplemental:*
Ferguson & Gupta, “Spatializing States”


*supplemental:*
Brighenti, “On territorology”

week 5  frontier publics

2/4  Yeh, “Two publics in a Mexican border city”

Jusionyte, “On and off the record”

Film: Ackerman, “From the Other Side”

2/6  discussion

week 6  pass/port

2/11  Seghers, *Transit*  

*commentary due*

*supplemental:*
Arendt, “The Rights of Man”
2/13 Torpey, “Coming & Going: On the State Monopolization of the Legitimate ‘Means of Movement’”

mid-term distributed

week 7 bandit hideaways

2/18 Heller-Roazen, Enemy of All, Chapters 5, 6 & 7

2/20 Uribe-Uran, “Iglesia me llamo: Church Asylum & the Law in Spain and Colonial Spanish America”

week 8 island (prisons)

2/25 Deleuze, “Desert Islands”

Taussig, My Cocaine Museum (selected chapters)
  - “Gorgona”
  - “Islands”
  - “Underwater Mountains”
  - “Sloth”

2/27 Comaroff, “Terror & Territory: Guantánamo & the Space of Contradiction”

mid-term due

*** Spring Break no class 3/4 & 3/6 ***

week 9 of rivers, seas and shores

3/11 Raffles, In Amazonia: Chapter 3: “In the Flow of Becoming”

Parry, Discovery of South America: “The Rivers”

Cohen, “Fluid States”

project abstract due
3/13 Detienne, “The Old Man of the Sea”

week 10 fortresses

3/18 Virilio, Bunker Archeology, pp. 9-180

3/20 Weizman, Hollow Land: Chapter 2: “Fortifications”

week 11 thinking through fiction

3/25 Kafka, The Castle

3/27 Deleuze & Guattari, Kafka, Chapter 8: “Blocks, Series, Intensities”

week 12 passageways

4/1 Weizman, Hollow Land: Chapter 6: “The Wall”

Tawil-Souri, “Qalandia Checkpoint as Space and Non-place”

4/3 discussion

week 13 land deeds

4/8 Hetherington, Guerrilla Auditors (selected chapters)

4/10 Hull, “Documents and Bureaucracy”
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