Description: “Cities, like dreams, are made of desires and fears, even if the thread of their discourse is secret, their rules are absurd, their perspectives deceitful, and everything conceals something else” (Italo Calvino, *Invisible Cities*). This seminar investigates imaginative and affective relationships between the urban built environment and literature, film, and the visual arts. We will focus on writing that discusses how urban space is invested with significance on the levels of myth, history, and the body. The seminar relies upon the active participation of students who, in response to the common study of texts by the entire class, will be asked to introduce new materials into the seminar that focus on emblematic cases. Taking advantage of current exhibitions and documentary materials, one focus of the seminar this fall will be Expo 67, the Montreal Universal Exposition, itself a constructed cultural space, and its translation of, and influence upon, the urban imaginary.

Texts: Students must purchase Darran Anderson’s *Imaginary Cities: A Tour of Dream Cities, Nightmare Cities, and Everywhere in Between* (Chicago, 2015) and Italo Calvino’s *Imaginary Cities* (current paperback edition). Both are available at Librairie Paragraphe Bookstore, 2220 avenue McGill College (metro: McGill). A 15% discount is available upon presentation of your U de M student card. Other readings will be posted on StudiUM and distributed in class.

Structure: This seminar requires the active participation of students in the selection and presentation of texts. To this end, the course is divided into three principal segments: (1) A focus on Montreal in the first month, with onsite visits and associated readings. During these weeks, students should be reading ahead to prepare for segments (2): Theoretical...
texts on issues of space and the urban imaginary, with related, specific foci on New York City, Berlin, and Beirut, and (3) Student-led sessions on sections of Darran Anderson’s *Imaginary Cities*, along with presentations of texts selected by students. These texts may be ones taken up in Anderson’s book or others that you deem pertinent to his arguments.

**COURSE CALENDAR**

**SEPTEMBER**

5

*Introduction*

12

**Guided visit** (in English) of the exhibition “À la recherche d’Expo 67 “
Musée d’art contemporain de Montréal, métro Place des Arts

We will meet in the lobby of the museum at 1:45 p.m. The tour will begin promptly at 2:00 p.m.

**Preparatory Reading for the visit:**
- “Introduction” to *Expo 67: Not Just a Souvenir*
- Saskia Sassen, “The Global City” and “How Jane Jacobs Changed the Way We Look at Cities” (*The Guardian*, available online)

**Suggested preparatory exhibition visits** (on your own):
- “Expo 67: A World of Dreams “, Musée Stewart, métro Parc Jean-Drapeau
- “Écho 67 “, Biosphère Montréal, métro Parc Jean-Drapeau
- “Fashioning Expo 67 “, Musée McCord, métro McGill

19

**Walking tour**, Montreal’s Three Modernities

Departs from métro Mont-Royal promptly at 1:30 p.m.

**Preparatory reading:**
- Sherry Simon, “Montreal’s Third Space,” from *Cities in Translation*
- Alan Bloom, “Scenes,” from *The Imaginative Structure of the City*
- Burton Pike, “The City as Image,” from *The Image of the City in Modern Literature*

26

Georg Simmel, “The Metropolis and Mental Life”
Michel Foucault, “Of Other Spaces: Utopias and Heterotopias”
Kevin Milburn, “Following the Flâneur: a Methodological and Textual Critique”

Presentation of Flaneur Magazine (Berlin): the rue Bernard issue

OCTOBER

3

Walter Benjamin, excerpts from One Way Street

Henri Lefebvre, “Elements of Rhythmanalysis,” from Writings on the City

Films: How the Berlin Worker Lives (Slatan Dudow, 1930) and Kühle Wampe (Slatan Dudow and Bertold Brecht, 1932)


10

Ben Highmore, “Metaphor City”

Mark Kingwell, “The Imaginary City,” from Concrete Reveries

Marc Augé, “From Places to Non-Places,” from Non-Places: An Introduction to an Anthropology of Supermodernity

17

Italo Calvino, Invisible Cities. Guest speaker: Simon Ng (PhD, Études anglaises, 2016)

Joan Ramon Resina, “The Concept of After-Image and the Scopic Apprehension of the City”

31

Sarah Rogers, “Forging History, Performing Memory: Walid Ra’ad’s The Atlas Project”

Dina Al-Kassim, “Unearthing the Political Aesthetics of Hysteria in the Archaeology and Arts of the New Beirut”

Paola Yacoub and Michel Lasserre, “The City of Beirut is No Exception”
NOVEMBER

7 Paul Goldberger, “Buildings and the Making of Place”
Christopher Reed, “Imminent Domain: Queer Space in the Built Environment”
Hart Crane, “To Brooklyn Bridge”
John Keene, “Blues”, from Counternarratives

14 Darran Anderson, Imaginary Cities 1
“The Men of a Million Lies, or How We Imagine the World”
“The Alchemical Cities”

21 Darran Anderson, Imaginary Cities 2
“The Tower”

28 Darran Anderson, Imaginary Cities 3
“Remembering the Future”

DECEMBER

5 Darran Anderson, Imaginary Cities 4
“The Turk”

12 Darran Anderson, Imaginary Cities 5
“The Abiding Desire for No Place”
“Flotsam and Jetsam”

Assigned work:
1. Every student is expected to come to each class with at least two questions or observations about the day’s assigned readings. 10 pts)
2. Students are responsible for leading a class in the second half of the semester. In the first half of the class, students will present and discuss their assigned section from Darran Anderson’s Imaginary Cities. In the second half, students will present and discuss works they have selected in conjunction with the section of the Anderson book. Students may work in pairs on this assignment. Students will submit a presentation portfolio no later than one week after their presentation. (40 pts)
3. A 3500-word paper based on a work chosen by the student and supported by texts studied in the seminar and additional critical material. The due date for the paper is Tuesday, November 14. (50 pts) Papers submitted late will have their mark reduced by one letter-grade every two days.

4. DETAILED INSTRUCTIONS FOR ASSIGNMENTS WILL BE DISTRIBUTED IN CLASS.

Plagiarism: Students are expected to read and abide by all University standards and policies. See especially www.integrite.umontreal.ca

Suggested Fiction:
James Baldwin, Giovanni's Room (Paris)
Dionne Brand, What We All Long For (Toronto)
Raymond Chandler, The Big Sleep (Los Angeles)
Vikram Chandra, Love and Longing in Bombay
Samuel Delany, The Motion of Light in Water (New York City)
Anita Desai, Clear Light of Day (Delhi)
Mavis Gallant, Montreal Stories
Rawi Hage, De Niro's Game (Beirut)
Yoel Hoffman, The Book of Joseph (Berlin)
Alan Holinghurst, The Line of Beauty (London)
Christopher Isherwood, Goodbye to Berlin
Robert Majzels, City of Forgetting (Montréal)
Rohinton Mistry, A Fine Balance (an ‘unidentified’ city – Mumbai)
Elsa Morante, History: A Novel (Rome)
Heather O’Neil, Lullabies for Little Criminals (Montréal)
Grace Paley, The Little Disturbances of Man (New York City)
Orhan Pamuk, Istanbul
Giorgio and Nicola Pressburger, Homage to the Eighth District: Tales from Budapest.
Edouard Roditi, The Delights of Turkey (Istanbul)
Sarah Schulman, Rat Bohemia (New York City)
Gail Scott, My Paris
Matthew Stadler, Landscape: Memory (San Francisco)
Margaret Sweatman, Fox (Winnipeg, General Strike, 1919)
Colm Toibin, The Story of the Night (Buenos Aires)
Edith Wharton, The House of Mirth (New York City)