REL 525-001-Identity & Place

Spring 2024

Credit Hours: 3

Seminar

Contact Information

Edith Szanto
Email: eszanto@ua.edu
UA Campus Directory:
https://www.ua.edu/directory/

Course Description

This graduate seminar introduces students to terms and ideas related to issues of identification and place and their relevance to the academic study of religion. Throughout the course, a specific case study will serve as a site where students will apply theories discussed to analyze examples relevant in Religious Studies. Each student will also select an important work or issue in their chosen field of study in consultation with their advisor and analyze that work in depth in relation to the various issues discussed in the course.
Required Texts

NONE / NO TEXT REQUIRED
Subtitle: NONE / NO TEXT REQUIRED

Other Course Materials

Articles will be sent out by the instructor.

Student Learning Outcomes

• Students understand conceptual issues to do with identity and place, as raised by specific social theorists.
• Students apply these theoretical issues to the analysis of various examples in class.
• Students use these theorists to analyze publications and data related to a central case study.
• Students present their analysis persuasively and professionally in a written format.
• Students present effectively their analyses of readings and examples orally in class.

[NOTE TO INSTRUCTORS: If no Student Learning Outcomes are initially present, they must be manually listed here.]

Outline of Topics

1) Thursday, January 11, 2024 Introduction to the Course

2) Thursday, January 18, 2024 Imagining Communities

3) Thursday, January 25, 2024 Defining Terms

4) Thursday, February 1, 2024 Theorizing Place
5) Thursday, February 8, 2024 Governing Place and Biopower

6) Thursday, February 15, 2024 Necropolitics

7) Thursday, February 22, 2024 Colonizing Places

8) Thursday, February 29, 2024 Decolonizing Places

9) Thursday, March 7, 2024 Modernizing Places

10) Thursday, March 14, 2024 SPRING BREAK

11) Thursday, March 21, 2024 Traveling and Pilgrimage

12) Thursday, March 28, 2024 Examples I

13) Thursday, April 4, 2024 Examples II

14) Thursday, April 11, 2024 Maps and Movement

15) Thursday, April 18, 2024 Reflecting on Place and Identity

16) Thursday, April 25, 2024 Paper presentations

**Exams and Assignments**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Weekly reflections 11 x 4 points each</td>
<td>44 points</td>
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<tr>
<td>Two in class presentations 2 x 8 points each</td>
<td>16 points</td>
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<tr>
<td>Meeting with me</td>
<td>5 points</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bibliography and proposal</td>
<td>5 points</td>
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<tr>
<td>Presentation of the final paper</td>
<td>5 points</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final paper</td>
<td>25 points</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>100 points</strong></td>
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**Grading Policy**

97-100 = A+; 92-96 = A; 90-91 = A-; 87-89 = B+; 82-86 = B; 80-81 = B-;
77-79 = C+; 72-76 = C; 70-71= C-; 60-69 = D; 0-59 = F.

**Policy on Missed Exams and Coursework**

Do not wait until the last minute to submit your assessments. Work submitted after the due dates listed in Blackboard may result in a grade of zero. The instructor is solely responsible for determining whether provisions will be made for unforeseen circumstances. You must report these circumstances as soon as possible after the event. You will be required to produce documentation.

Please contact the instructor if there are questions about missed due dates.

**Attendance Policy**

Attendance is key to success. Please contact the instructor immediately with any concerns.

**Controversial Topics**

Some of the topics in this course may be considered controversial. One of the core purposes of a university is to discuss important topics through a scholarly lens. When members of a class find themselves feeling strongly about a topic, that is a signal that the topic is important enough to be discussed rather than avoided. Differences of opinion are expected and will result in rich discussions. In these discussions students will be expected to demonstrate a thorough understanding of concepts presented in the course materials and to ground their positions in concepts and evidence relevant to the course. This in turn will entail coming to class prepared, asking relevant questions, sharing perspectives, having a willingness to listen, and practicing open-mindedness when encountering the perspectives of others. In this course we will assume the positive intentions of all class members when discussing important topics, and we will give them the benefit of the doubt when considering their perspectives and sharing our own.

**Notification of Changes**
The instructor will make every effort to follow the guidelines of this syllabus as listed; however, the instructor reserves the right to amend this document as the need arises. In such instances, the instructor will notify students in class and/or via email and will endeavor to provide reasonable time for students to adjust to any changes.

**Statement on Academic Misconduct**

Students are expected to be familiar with and adhere to the official Academic Misconduct Policy.

**Statement On Disability Accommodations**

The University of Alabama is committed to ensuring the full participation of all students in its programs. If you have a documented disability (or think you may have a disability) and need reasonable accommodation(s) to participate in this class, contact the Office of Disability Services (or ODS; 205-348-4285, ods@ua.edu, Houser Hall 1000, www.ods.ua.edu) as soon as possible. If you have been approved to receive accommodations through ODS, please meet with your instructor or College designee during office hours or by appointment to review your accommodation letter and discuss how accommodations can be implemented in this course.

**Severe Weather Protocol**

Please refer to the Severe Weather Guidelines located on the Office of Emergency Management website.

**Pregnant Student Accommodations**

Title IX protects against discrimination related to pregnancy or parental status. If you are pregnant and will need accommodations for this class, please review the University’s FAQs on the UAct website.

**Religious Observances**
Under the Guidelines for Religious Holiday Observances, students should notify the instructor in writing or via email during the first two weeks of the semester of their intention to be absent from class for religious observance. The instructor will work to provide reasonable opportunity to complete academic responsibilities as long as that does not interfere with the academic integrity of the course. See full guidelines at Religious Holiday Observances Guidelines.

**UAct Statement**

The University of Alabama is committed to an ethical, inclusive community defined by respect and civility. The UAct website provides extensive information on how to report or obtain assistance with a variety of issues, including issues related to dating violence, domestic violence, stalking, sexual assault, sexual violence or other Title IX violations, illegal discrimination, harassment, hate or bias incidents, child abuse or neglect, hazing, threat assessment, retaliation, and ethical violations or fraud.

**Wellness Resources**

College can be a stressful time. If you or someone you know is facing a challenging time or dealing with academic or personal stress, anxiety, depression, or other concerns, we strongly encourage and support you to seek assistance or to help friends find the care that they may need by reviewing the Campus Resource List for Students.

If you are experiencing a personal crisis and need urgent assistance, you can also contact the following resources:

**Counseling Center**

Monday-Friday during routine Center hours (205-348-3863).

Weekends, holidays, after-hours (contact UAPD at 205-348-5454 and ask to speak with the on-call counselor).

You may also text BAMA to 741-741 to text with a trained volunteer.

**Women and Gender Resource Center**
Monday-Friday during routine Center hours (205-348-5040).

Weekends, holidays, after-hours: contact UAPD at 205-348-5454 and ask to speak to the on-call advocate for the WGRC.