Preliminary Syllabus: Graduate Liberal Studies Core Course (LS 750.02)

Spring 2016 -- The Self in the World: The Located Self
Seminar Room Four, the Link (Perkins Level One Rm. 070); Thursdays 6:15-9:15

Dr. Kent Wicker
(kent.wicker@duke.edu)

How do people make sense of themselves, their experience and their place in the world of others? How are our concepts of self and other influenced by culture, family, region, religion, class, race or gender? What new insights can we gain on identity and meaning through the disciplinary methods of history, the sciences, or the humanities?

In this introductory course for the Graduate Liberal Studies program, we will read an interdisciplinary range of historical and contemporary texts in order to discuss aspects of the modern self. Our focus for the Spring 2016 version of the Self in the World is the lived experience of place. How do our natural and built environments shape our identities and our relationships with others? How are our ideas of self and other written into the cultural landscape? What identities and relationships are possible within the spaces we inhabit – and what sorts of alternative geographies can we imagine?

Our ultimate goal is to explore how scholars think, read and write, with particular attention to: 1) the critical analysis so vital to graduate level work; and 2) the reading and writing skills necessary for interdisciplinary study.

Course Requirements & Evaluation

This is a seminar class in which active discussion, participation and communication are vital. Please email me ahead of time if you know you will be absent or late. (If absent, you are still expected to post on the weekly Sakai forum if you are in a position to do so.) If you are struggling to meet a paper deadline, or having trouble understanding a concept, or there are other obstacles to getting all that you can out of this course, let me know. I am always happy to meet. Email (above) is the best way to get hold of me; I also keep regular office hours.

- Seminar participation will form a significant part of the grade. This includes keeping up with readings, maintaining good communication, and participating actively and consistently both in our classroom discussions and in our online forum discussions on Sakai.

- Two short papers (2 pages; 3-4 pages)

- Research paper (10-15 pages). This includes:
  - Proposal for your research paper (non-graded)
  - Annotated bibliography relevant to your research paper, containing a minimum of six scholarly sources.
  - Oral Presentation of work in progress.

Grade Weights

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<tr>
<th>Grade Requirement</th>
<th>Weight</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Seminar participation</td>
<td>30%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Short papers</td>
<td>25%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Annotated bibliography</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research paper (incl. oral presentation)</td>
<td>35%</td>
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Please note that you must achieve at least a B grade for this course to remain in the GLS program. You may rewrite either of the first two papers if: 1) the grade is B or lower; and 2) you arrange for this by email before Week 11.

Integral to this class is our course Sakai site, where (in the Forum section) you will post your weekly Reading Response Journal excerpts. At the site, you will find further details about course procedures, assignments and expectations.
Readings

I. Books you need to obtain


II. Required Readings available on the course Sakai site


Hawthorne, Nathaniel. “Wakefield.” (1835)


Detailed Preliminary Course Schedule  (subject to change)

I. Introduction: Location, Identity and Value

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week 1 (Jan 14)</th>
<th>Some Approaches to Place and Identity</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Readings</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Kent Wicker – “Some Ways of Thinking About Self and Other”</td>
<td>summary of academic discussion</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Kent Wicker – “The Geography of Home Improvement” and “Separation By Design”</td>
<td>personal essays</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Marianna Torgovnick -- Excerpts from <em>Crossing Ocean Parkway</em></td>
<td>personal essays</td>
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<td>• IDS: The Scholarly Worldview; Thinking Critically</td>
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Post Your First Reading Response Journal Excerpt  
(on any 2 of our 3 Week One texts)  
In the Appropriate Sakai Forum (Week One)  
By midnight Mon. Jan 11  
Post Your Three Comments on Others’ Posts  
By noon Wed. Jan 13

II. Modern Urban Life: Eighteenth & Nineteenth Century London and Paris

Week 2 (Jan 21)  The Anonymity of the City

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<thead>
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<th>Readings</th>
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<tr>
<td>• Edgar Allan Poe -- “The Man of the Crowd”</td>
<td>(fiction)</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Nathaniel Hawthorne -- “Wakefield”</td>
<td>(fiction)</td>
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<tr>
<td>• IDS: Thinking Critically</td>
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Paper One (Close Reading)  
Due in Dropbox Noon  
Tues. Jan 26

Week 3 (Jan 28)  City and Country

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<tr>
<th>Readings</th>
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<tr>
<td>• Raymond Williams – “Pleasing Prospects” and “Change in the City” from <em>The Country and the City</em> (cultural criticism)</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Wendell Berry -- “Local Knowledge in the Age of Information”</td>
<td>(public essay)</td>
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• IDS: The Essay

**Week 4 (Feb 4) Flâneur/Flâneuse: Walking in the City**

**Readings**

• Charles Baudelaire -- “Crowds,” “The Eyes of the Poor” & “The Loss of a Halo” from *Paris Spleen* (poetry)
• Deborah Epstein Nord -- “Rambling in the Nineteenth Century” from *Walking the Victorian Streets: Women, Representation, and the City* (history/cultural criticism)
• IDS: Reading & Research

**Week 5 (Feb 11) Research Day**

**Library Research Session I** -- with Greta Boers and Carson Holloway (meet in 023 Bostock 6:15-7:30)

**Readings**

• Graff and Birkenstein -- *They Say I Say: the Moves That Matter in Academic Writing*
• IDS: Reading & Research

**Paper Two (Short Paper)**

Due in Dropbox Noon
Mon. Feb 15

**Week 6 (Feb 18) A Case Study: Mid-Nineteenth Century Paris**

• David Harvey -- “Prologue,” “The Organization of Space Relations,” “Money, Credit & Finance,” “Consumerism, Spectacle and Leisure,” “Community and Class” and “Natural Relations” from *Paris, Capital of Modernity* (geography)
• IDS: Reading & Research

**Week 7 (Feb 25) Faculty Guest: Rosemary Fernholz**

**Readings**

• Arjun Appadurai, "The Capacity to Aspire: Culture and the Terms of Recognition"
• IDS: Writing Process
III. Contemporary Concerns

Week 8 (March 3) The Post-Colonial City

Readings
- Alaa Al Aswany -- *The Yacoubian Building* (fiction)
- IDS: Argumentation

Research Paper Proposal
Due in class Thurs. March 10:
Bring 5 copies

Week 9 (March 10) Workshop Day

Library Research Session II -- with Greta Boers and Carson Holloway (meet in 023 Bostock)

Paper proposal workshop

---------------------------------------- Spring Break -- March 12-20 --------------------------------------

Week 10 (March 24) Urban Planning and Policy

Readings:
- Jane Jacobs -- “Introduction” & “The Uses of Sidewalks: Contact” from *The Death and Life of Great American Cities* (policy)
- *Open Durham* (http://www.opendurham.org) -- (online archive). Browse a bit, then select a downtown Durham property and trace the history of that site.
- *Optional Reading:* David Harvey – excerpt from “The Conceptual Problems of Urban Planning” (geography)
- IDS: Sentences and Paragraphs

Annotated Bibliography
Due in Dropbox Noon
Thurs. March 31
V. Student presentations

Week 11 (March 31)

Student presentations

Reading
- IDS: Sentences and Paragraphs

Week 12 (April 7)

Student presentations

Reading
- IDS: Sentences and Paragraphs

Week 13 (April 14)

Student presentations

Course wrap up and evaluation

Final Research Paper
Due in Dropbox Noon
Tues. April 26
Schedule in Brief

Jan 11  Forum: Post First Response Journal Excerpt and Comments
Jan 13  Forum: Post First Comments on Fellow Students’ Posts
Jan 14  Week 1  Torgovnick, Wicker; IDS Scholarly Worldview; Thinking Critically
Jan 21  Week 2  Poe, Hawthorne; IDS Thinking Critically
Jan 26  Paper One due
Jan 28  Week 3  Williams, Berry; IDS The Essay
Feb 4   Week 4  Baudelaire, Nord; IDS Reading & Research
Feb 11  Week 5  Library Research Session (023 Bostock); Graff & Birkenstein
Feb 15  Paper Two due
Feb 18  Week 6  Harvey; IDS Reading & Research
Feb 25  Week 7  Appadurai; IDS Writing Process (Faculty Guest: Rosemary Fernholz)
Mar 3   Week 8  Al Aswany; IDS Argumentation
Mar 10  Week 9  Library Research Session (023 Bostock)
          Proposal Workshop – 5 copies of Draft Proposal due
Mar 12-20 -----------------Spring Break-------------------------------------
Mar 24  Week 10 Jacobs, Open Durham; IDS Sentences & Paragraphs
Mar 31  Annotated Bib due
Apr 7   Week 11 Student presentations; IDS Sentences & Paragraphs
Apr 14  Week 13 Student presentations; Course wrap up and evaluation
Apr 26  Final Research Paper due