

Student Directed Seminar
ASTU 400D 002

Spring, 2009
M/W 4-5:30, Buch D313

Coordinator: Matthew Blunderfield
Faculty Sponsor: Dr. Gisèle M. Baxter

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Science Fiction & the City

Primary Texts:

Yevgeny Zamyatin, *We*
Arthur C. Clarke, *The City and the Stars*
J.G. Ballard, *Atrocity Exhibition*
William Gibson, *Neuromancer*
Shelley Jackson, *Patchwork Girl*
China Mieville, *Perdido Street Station*

Seminar Requirements:

Regular participation, attendance	15%
3 critical responses	30%
Term project proposal	5%
Term project (due date tba)	50%

Schedule:

January 5	Introduction
January 7	Re-introduction Yevgeny Zamyatin, <i>We</i>
January 12	Zamyatin cont'd William Hutchings, "Structure and Design in a Soviet Dystopia"
January 14	Zamyatin cont'd Owen Hatherly, "Art is a Branch of Mathematics: Zamyatin the Soviet Socio-Fantasy"
January 19	<i>Metropolis</i> (Screening on the 18 th)
January 21	<i>Blade Runner</i> Guest Lecture: Michael Filimowicz
January 26, 28	Arthur C. Clarke, <i>The City and the Stars</i>
February 2	J.G. Ballard, <i>Atrocity Exhibition</i> Andredj Gasiorek, <i>JG Ballard</i> (ch. 2: "Deviant Logics")

February 4	Ballard cont'd Jean Baudrillard, "Simulacra and Science Fiction"
February 9	Ballard con't Jonathan Crary, "JG Ballard and the Promiscuity of Form" Archigram's "Instant City"
February 11	Beyond paper architecture: a review of Megastructuralist projects critical response 1
February 16 – 20	Midterm Break
February 23, 25	On Theme parks and Pavilions (material to be formalized before break) Ray Bradbury, "The Lost City of Mars" Rem Koolhaas, <i>Delirious New York</i> ("Coney Island, The Technology of the Fantastic") Philip K. Dick, "How to Build a Universe That Doesn't Fall Apart Two Days Later"
March 2	William Gibson, <i>Neuromancer</i>
March 4	Gibson cont'd William Mitchell, <i>Me ++: The Cyborg Self and the Networked City</i> (ch 1 and 2)
March 9	Gibson con't critical response 2
March 11	Shelley Jackson, <i>Patchwork Girl</i> Believer Interview with Vito Acconci
March 16	Jackson con't Kristin Veel, "The Irreducibility of Space: Labyrinths, Cities, Cyberspace"
March 18	Jackson con't
March 23, 25	term project proposals
March 30	China Mieville, <i>Perdido Street Station</i>
April 1	Mieville con't critical response 3
April 3	Mieville con't
April 6, 8	conclusions