**Los Angeles: Case Study of A Global City**  
CAS SO 347 / Fall 2011  
Friday 1-4 pm

Instructor: Terri Anderson  
Email: doctorta@gmail.com (please title your subject heading “re: BU Los Angeles”)  
Email is the best way to contact me, as I check my email daily.  
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Office Hours: by appointment

**Course Statement**

“On my first visit to Los Angeles I was conventionally prepared for almost anything  
except for what it really looked like -- a quite beautiful place.”  
Nathan Silver

“Now I know subjective opinions can vary, but personally I reckon L.A. as the noisiest,  
the smelliest, the most uncomfortable, and most uncivilised major city in the United States.  
In short, a stinking sewer.”  
Adam Raphael

“Los Angeles makes the rest of California seem authentic.”  
Jonathan Culler

They're beautiful. Everybody's plastic, but I love plastic. I want to be plastic.”  
Andy Warhol

“If most American cities are about the consumption of culture, Los Angeles and New York are  
about the production of culture - not only national culture but global culture.”  
Barbara Kruger

“Los Angeles is a microcosm of the United States. If L.A. falls, the country falls.”  
Ice T

“Tip the world over on its side and everything loose will land in Los Angeles.”  
Frank Lloyd Wright

Everyone comes to Los Angeles with an idea of what they’re going to find…and they’re usually  
wrong. And right. And wrong again. L.A. is a complex place.
Los Angeles’ image and reputation are of a mecca of entertainment and leisure. This is true...and false. Home of the American film industry and a major center in media and communications, Los Angeles has unrivalled global influence in culture, for better or for worse. But its population is as internationally and racially diverse as one can imagine, including an incredibly expansive range of resources and life experiences. It even has the most ethnically diverse foods in the entire United States, and possibly the world. But this diverse population brings with it a diverse set of social problems, couched in the inherent environmental issues of Los Angeles. Ranked among the major world cities -- cities with global importance and influence in the areas of economics, culture, and politics -- it faces critical challenges in urban design and infrastructure relating to the environment, transportation, housing, and human services.

This course is designed to give you an in-person introduction to several versions of the real Los Angeles (there isn’t just one). Grounding ourselves in reading, classroom discussion, and film, we’ll start in the East, and work our way West, through a sampling of real-life explorations of LA neighborhoods, including Downtown LA, Alameda Street, Echo Park and Angelino Heights, The Valley, LAX, Criminal LA, The Sunset Strip, Venice Beach, Topanga Canyon, and your home away from home, The Grove and the Farmer’s Market at 3rd and Fairfax. Los Angeles is far more interesting than the movies would have you believe. It’s the movies, it’s the music, it’s the tourism, and it’s the entertainment industry, but it’s also an eccentric microcosm of our entire planet. If you stay at home studying, you can miss it all. Step out and explore LA.

Course Readings

There are 6 softcover books and one reading packet required for this course. Books can be purchased online through Amazon.com, or anywhere else you can find them. The books are:

   This is a small set of accounts of the author’s encounters with random people in public places in his everyday life in Los Angeles. It should begin to give you more of a feel for the real people of L.A.
   This book will guide several of our weekly explorations. Some chapters are required, and many others are recommended for you to explore on your own. You can do up to three walks, with a two-page report of each, for two points each of extra credit (for a maximum of six points extra credit).
   This is one of the most renowned books about Los Angeles as a city. Written by an Englishman (as so many books about L.A. seem to be), it provides a thorough and engaging introduction to the history and architecture of Los Angeles, in the process helping the reader to develop a much deeper understanding of the entire city. Chapters are assigned in order, but can also be read as they apply to our weekly explorations.


The packet will be given to you in class, and includes pages (specified in detail throughout syllabus) from the following books:


Links to pertinent news articles will be emailed to you as they show up in the news. These are also required course reading.

**Recommended Reading**


**Recommended Films about Los Angeles** (in no particular order)

1. *Day of the Locust*
2. *LA Confidential*
3. *Crash*
4. *Sunset Blvd.*
5. Chinatown
6. Blade Runner
7. Mi Vida Loca
8. Los Angeles Plays Itself

Because lecture requires your full attention, no wireless devices of any kind can be used in class. Please put away your laptop computer, cell phone, blackberry, iPhone, and any other similar device.

Do not text message in class.

Grading

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<td>Weekly Reports - 3 pages each</td>
<td>36%/3% each</td>
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<td>* Every week, integrate what you find out through readings (and other course materials) with your own research - internet-based or otherwise - about the area we’re about to explore. Write a 3 (or more) page typed double-spaced report on what you learned, being sure to use at least two course readings in your write-up.</td>
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<td>Weekly Participation</td>
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<td>* 1 point for showing up, and 1 point for participating. Your vocal participation is required each week. In other words, to get participation points, you must talk!</td>
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<td>Final Essay</td>
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<td>Week 13, 12/9</td>
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<td>Integrate course materials around a core theme of your choosing, to be developed in discussion with professor. Initial proposal due week 8; final proposal due week 10.</td>
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<td>* Readings should be widely and deeply referenced IN EVERY WRITTEN ASSIGNMENT. Your work WILL be graded with respect to how well it integrates course readings.</td>
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<td>* Good grammar, spelling, and punctuation count towards your grade. Proofread.</td>
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<td>* Any excuses for a missed class or late or missed work must be accompanied by verified documentation (like a doctor’s note), or 1 point will be taken off for each weekday the assignment is late. Assignments that are more than 1 week late will not be accepted, and no late papers at all will be accepted after the final meeting of class.</td>
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| * "The most effective way to do it, is to do it." - Amelia Earhart No plagiarism, please. Plagiarism is using the words and/or work of another as your own - that is, without citing the other person as the author of those words. Anything you take off of the internet must be cited. Always do your own work, and reference any words that did not originally come from you. If
you are caught doing or turning in plagiarized work, your work will, without exception, be turned in to the office of the Dean of Students. Do not expect the outcome to be positive.

At Boston University, academic misconduct is defined as the misrepresentation of a student’s work or impeding the ability of the instructor to fairly judge the work of other students. This may include, among other acts:

- Turning in the work of another student
- Allowing another student to use your work
- Falsification of data
- Stealing a test
- Unauthorized collaboration
- Forging grade records

Boston University takes academic honesty very seriously; thus, the sanctions are very steep. Look here to see the Boston University Arts & Sciences Academic Conduct Code: http://www.bu.edu/cas/students/undergrad-resources/code/

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**A Detailed Road Map**

Schedules and topics are subject to change, in which case announcements will be made in class as appropriate.

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**Week 1**

**September 9**

**Int.roduction:**

**LA Geography**

Please see map of Los Angeles attached at end of syllabus.

Film: The Sound We See (30 minutes / an orientation to Los Angeles)
Film: Los Angeles Now (54 minutes / multicultural LA)

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**Week 2**

**September 16**

**Downtown LA**

Union Station, El Pueblo de Los Angeles, Olvera Street, Chinatown
Required Reading (128 pages)

*I Am Everyone I Meet: Random Encounters on the Streets of Los Angeles*, James P. White, pp. 1-11

*Walking LA*, Erin Mahoney Harris

*Los Angeles: The Architecture of Four Ecologies*, Reyner Banham
- pp. 1-2
  - Chapter 1, “In The Rear-view Mirror,” pp. 3-18

I: “Downtown,” pp. 1-31

- Chapter 9, “The Taking of Parcel K,” pp. 229-254

- Chapter 7, “City of Migrations,” pp. 253-290

Recommended Reading

*Walking LA*, Erin Mahoney Harris
- “Little Tokyo: A Proud Tribute to Japanese Immigrant History,” pp. 192-197
  - “Downtown Civic Center: Revitalization in the Works,” pp. 198-207

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Week 3

Alameda Street

September 23

Required Reading (98 pages)

*I Am Everyone I Meet: Random Encounters on the Streets of Los Angeles*, James P. White, pp. 12-23

*Los Angeles: The Architecture of Four Ecologies*, Reyner Banham

“Watts Towers,” pp. 384-385

The History of Forgetting: Los Angeles and the Erasure of Memory, Norman M. Klein.
- Chapter One, “Booster Myths, Urban Erasure,” pp. 27-63 (+ notes to p. 72)

Film: I Build The Tower (87 minutes; watch at home - teacher owns, will loan)
OR 8+ minute trailer for the film: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zaIloDyhg90

Week 4
October 1
Saturday 10 am
walking tour
Echo Park & Angelino Heights

Required Reading (92 pages)
I Am Everyone I Meet: Random Encounters on the Streets of Los Angeles, James P. White, pp. 23-33

Walking LA, Erin Mahoney Harris

Los Angeles: The Architecture of Four Ecologies, Reyner Banham

The History of Forgetting: Los Angeles and the Erasure of Memory, Norman M. Klein.
- Chapter Six, “Two Neighborhoods,” excerpt, pp. 134-146
- Chapter Eight, “Witnesses after the Fact,” pp. 219-225


Recommended Reading
Walking LA, Erin Mahoney Harris
- “West Silver Lake: Sunset Junction, What’s Your Function?,” pp. 160-165
- “East Silver Lake: Modern Masterpieces above Sparkling Waters,” pp. 166-173

Week 5
October 7
Getting Around in LA:
Driving, Public Transport, Walking

“A city that outdistances man's walking powers is a trap for man.”
Arnold Toynbee

“Between a quarter and a third of Los Angeles's land area is now monopolized by the automobile and its needs - by freeways, highways, garages, gas stations, car lots, parking lots. And all of it is blanketed with anonymity and foul air.”
Alistair Cooke

“As far as loneliness, I feel Los Angeles and its layout, having to drive everywhere - it is a lonely place. It's an isolated city in that respect because you're driving to places alone listening to the radio.”
Jason Schwartzman

“Nobody walks in L.A.”
Terry Bozzio

Required Reading (147 pages)
I Am Everyone I Meet: Random Encounters on the Streets of Los Angeles, James P. White, pp. 33-45

Los Angeles: The Architecture of Four Ecologies, Reyner Banham
- Chapter 4, “The Transportation Palimpsest,” pp. 57-76

- Chapter 5, “Cars and Freeways in the City,” pp. 173-214

Los Angeles and the Automobile: The Making of a Modern City, Scott L. Bottles.
- “Introduction,” pp. 1-21
- Chapter 9, “Epilogue,” pp. 236-254

- Chapter 5, “The Money Train,” pp. 125-150

- Introduction


Ross Ching - LA with no cars: http://rossching.com/running-on-empty
Matt Logue’s Empty LA - click the photos to see more - http://emptyla.com/

**Recommended Reading**

*Los Angeles and the Automobile: The Making of a Modern City*, Scott L. Bottles.
- Chapter 7, “Reshaping the Modern City,” pp. 175-210

**Film: Shotgun Freeway (88 minutes / history of LA freeways)**

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**Week 6**

October 14

The Valley

**Required Reading** (42 pages)

*I Am Everyone I Meet: Random Encounters on the Streets of Los Angeles*, James P. White, pp. 45-58

*Los Angeles: The Architecture of Four Ecologies*, Reyner Banham


**Recommended Reading**

*Walking LA*, Erin Mahoney Harris
- “Noho Arts District: Creativity Blooms in the Most Unlikely Places,” pp. 56-61
- “Studio City’s Woodbridge Park: An Uncannily Familiar Neighborhood,” pp. 62-67

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**Week 7**

October 21

LAX

**Required Reading** (127 pages)

*I Am Everyone I Meet: Random Encounters on the Streets of Los Angeles*, James P. White, pp. 58-68

*Los Angeles: The Architecture of Four Ecologies*, Reyner Banham
- Chapter 6, “Architecture II: Fantastic,” pp. 93-118
**LA Noir:**

**The Manson Murders and LA’s Criminal History**

“People cut themselves off from their ties of the old life when they come to Los Angeles. They are looking for a place where they can be free, where they can do things they couldn't do anywhere else.”

Tom Bradley

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**Required Reading** (180 pages)

*I Am Everyone I Meet: Random Encounters on the Streets of Los Angeles*, James P. White, pp. 69-81

*Los Angeles: The Architecture of Four Ecologies*, Reyner Banham
- Chapter 7, “The Art of the Enclave,” pp. 119-142

*The History of Forgetting: Los Angeles and the Erasure of Memory*, Norman M. Klein.
- Chapter Two, “L.A. Noir and Forgetting,” pp. 73-93

*The Family*, Ed Sanders.
Section 1, pp. 1-52, 116, 131-137
Section 2, pp. 203-240

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**Recommended Reading**

*The Family*, Ed Sanders, all

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Week 9

November 4
The Sunset Strip:
Rock and Roll in Los Angeles

Required Reading (204 pages)
*I Am Everyone I Meet: Random Encounters on the Streets of Los Angeles*, James P. White, pp. 81-92

*Los Angeles: The Architecture of Four Ecologies*, Reyner Banham

*Waiting for the Sun: A Rock ‘n’ Roll History of Los Angeles*, Barney Hoskyns.
- “Preface 2009,” pp. ix-xiii
- “Prologue: Apocalypse Now! (We Love It!),” pp. xv-xvii
- “Intro: After the Goldrush, or Los Angeles Without A Star Map,” pp. 1-4
- chs. 3-5, pp. 71-190 + pp. 290-293

*Walking LA*, Erin Mahoney Harris
- “Sunset Strip: Where The Beautiful People Come to Play,” pp. 68-73

- VII: “Sunset Boulevard,” pp. 165-193

- “Prologue,” pp. 1-10

Recommended Reading
*Walking LA*, Erin Mahoney Harris

Film: *Mayor of the Sunset Strip* (93 minutes - watch at home - available streaming on Netflix)

Audio/Video:
The Byrds, Mr. Tambourine Man: [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xtAPA7ISh4w](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xtAPA7ISh4w)
Sonny and Cher, I Got You Babe: [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7r8WdRbDm1M&feature=fvst](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7r8WdRbDm1M&feature=fvst)
Paul Revere and the Raiders, Just Like Me: [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Qi-JIsJfZZE](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Qi-JIsJfZZE)
The Mamas and the Papas, California Dreamin’: [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yY9EXSDYd9o](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yY9EXSDYd9o)
The Beach Boys, California Girls: [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DJ1UqDnY7as](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DJ1UqDnY7as)
The Beach Boys, Good Vibrations: [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TCeD_6Y3GQc](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TCeD_6Y3GQc)
The Seeds, Pushin’ Too Hard: [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EhPvkJFJhmk](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EhPvkJFJhmk)
Arthur Lee and Love, Alone Again Or: [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JFAm3zL6cwC](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JFAm3zL6cwC)
Buffalo Springfield, For What It’s Worth: [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Wm6NeM-6vBE](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Wm6NeM-6vBE)
The Doors, Hello, I Love You: [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hzM71scYw0M](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hzM71scYw0M)
The Doors, Love Street: [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pldftoUbM80&feature=related](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pldftoUbM80&feature=related)
The Loved One, theatrical trailer: [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=62FuWtAvNpo](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=62FuWtAvNpo)
Part of feature on Pamela des Barres: [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DEw4tdYnL3U](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DEw4tdYnL3U)

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Week 10

**The Westside:**
**LA’s Great Cultural Divide**

“I'm not sure whether Los Angeles borders on the ocean or on oblivion. I always feel that I'm two steps away from the other side when I'm out there. It's more like a vacation place or a place to visit than a place to hunker down.”

Jeffrey Wright

**Required Reading** (84 pages)

*I Am Everyone I Meet: Random Encounters on the Streets of Los Angeles*, James P. White, pp. 92-104

*Los Angeles: The Architecture of Four Ecologies*, Reyner Banham

- Chapter 1, “The Beachhead,” pp. 23-41

- V: “Pacific Coast Highway,” pp. 107-140

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Week 11

**Venice Beach**

November 18
**Required Reading** (67 pages)
*I Am Everyone I Meet: Random Encounters on the Streets of Los Angeles*, James P. White, pp. 104-116

*Walking LA*, Erin Mahoney Harris
- “Venice Beach: Old World Italy Meets Funky SoCal Beach Culture,” pp. 20-25

*Los Angeles: The Architecture of Four Ecologies*, Reyner Banham
- Chapter 10, “A Note on Downtown,” pp. 183-194

*Homeless in Paradise: ‘Communicating with the Bohemian Venice Beach CA Sub-Culture,’* William G. O’Connell.
- Chapter 1, “Welcome to Venice Beach,” pp. 3-9
- Chapter 5, “Explanation of the ‘Functioning Levels’ of Homelessness,” pp. 53-61
- Chapter 11, “Mental Illness and the State of Mental Hospitals,” pp. 95-100

**Recommended Reading**
*Walking LA*, Erin Mahoney Harris
- “Castellamare: Pacific Palisades’ ‘Castle on the Sea’,” pp. 2-7
- “Northwest Santa Monica: Rarefied Air North of Montana Ave.,” pp. 8-13
- “Southeast Santa Monica: Mixing Business with Pleasure,” pp. 14-19

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**Thanksgiving Break**
**November 19-27**

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**Week 12**
**December 2**

**Topanga Canyon**

**Required Reading** (21 pages)
*I Am Everyone I Meet: Random Encounters on the Streets of Los Angeles*, James P. White, pp. 116-126

*Los Angeles: The Architecture of Four Ecologies*, Reyner Banham
- Chapter 12, “Architecture IV: The Style that Nearly...,” pp. 205-216

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**Week 13**
**December 9**
The Grove and LA’s Original Farmer’s Market

**Required Reading** (46 pages)
*I Am Everyone I Meet: Random Encounters on the Streets of Los Angeles*, James P. White, pp. 126-132

*Walking LA*, Erin Mahoney Harris
- “Miracle Mile: 40,000 Years in the Making,” pp. 82-89

*Los Angeles: The Architecture of Four Ecologies*, Reyner Banham

- VI: “Wilshire Boulevard,” pp. 141-164

**Recommended Reading**
*Walking LA*, Erin Mahoney Harris
- “Carthay Circle and South Carthay: An Oasis of Domestic Harmony,” pp. 90-95
- “Larchmont Village and Windsor Square: A Welcome Dose of Small-Town Charm,” pp. 128-133
- “Koreatown/Wilshire Center: Contemporary Korean Culture Meets Los Angeles History,” pp. 134-139

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Average per week: 103 pages (not counting week 1)