**What’s Boston?**

Boston University American and New England Studies Program  
CAS AM 202, Spring 2015. Mondays, 5:00 to 8:00 PM. CAS 316.  
Professor Daniel Bluestone, moderator, e-mail: dblues@bu.edu.  
Office Hours: Tuesdays, 11:00-1:00 PM, 226 Bay State Road, Room 104, 358-7332

**Objectives:** The weekly meetings of *What’s Boston?* provide a broad-ranging multi-disciplinary approach to place as we explore Boston’s society, culture, environment, and economy. Sharing in common the space and place of Boston the faculty presentations, readings, and discussions will focus on aspects of Boston that are both contemporary and historical. Faculty from disparate disciplines will use the common spatial frame of the city to layout different scholarly perspectives on the simple question of our title: *What’s Boston?* The aim is to expand our capacity for critically reflecting on and engaging Boston--and world beyond.
**Format:** Generally, each week two faculty will deliver lectures on their subject for about 40 minutes each. There will be time for questions and discussion after the lectures. After a short break the class will divide into separate discussion sections to focus more closely on the reading selections.

**Course materials:** The assigned essays for the course will be available for download from the course web site.

**Course assignments:** Reading the essays for class, attending lectures, and participating in discussion sections are required. Beyond that there are four assignments and no exams.

1) Two questions and three votes for favorite questions each week. First two questions, each participant will submit two brief questions based on reading for the next class. The questions are due by 5 PM on Friday and should be submitted as a thread in the Forum in the Discussion Section of the course Blackboard site. Second, by Sunday at 8 PM everyone will Review and Rate their three top choices for questions they personally would like to focus on in the discussion sections for the coming week. They should assign a rating of 5 to their top question, a rating of 4 to their next favorite, and a rating of 3 to their third place choice. These questions will be used to structure discussion section conversations. If the two emails are not submitted or not submitted on time there will be an automatic reduction in the course grade.

25% of the course grade.

2) A three-page paper analyzing the reading and lectures from a single week of the course from weeks two through five will be due on March 2\textsuperscript{nd}. To expand the analysis the paper should include at least one additional reading selection that is not part of the assigned reading and that casts additional light on the material and subject.

12.5% of the course grade.

3) A three-page paper analyzing the reading and lectures from a single week of the course from weeks six through eleven will be due on April 22\textsuperscript{nd}. To expand the analysis the paper should include at least one additional reading selection that is not part of the assigned reading that casts additional light on the material.

12.5% of the course grade.

4) A final six-page research paper analyzing an aspect of Boston, using a multi-disciplinary approach, and referencing a Boston-related image from the collection of the Museum of Fine Arts, where we will visit on April 22\textsuperscript{nd}. Research paper is due on at 5 PM on Friday May 8\textsuperscript{th}.

50% of the course grade.
WHAT'S BOSTON? CAS AM 202 / Spring 2015
LECTURE SCHEDULE AND READING

Week ONE    Monday 26 January
Course Introduction and Outline
Introduction to Cross-Disciplinary Perspectives on Boston

Week TWO    Monday 2 February
Geological Development and Human Settlement.
Prof. Lawford Anderson, Earth and Environment; Prof. Keith Morgan, History of Art and Architecture


Week THREE   Monday 9 February
The Economy and Ethnography of Boston Food.
Prof. Kristen McCormack, School of Management; Prof. Merry White, Anthropology

Birke Baehr, “What's Wrong With Our Food System,” TedxNextGeneration Talk, August 2010
http://www.ted.com/talks/birke_baehr_what_s_wrong_with_our_food_system?language=en

Week FOUR   Tuesday 17 February
Urban Infrastructure, Pollution, and the Regional Eco-system.
Prof. Wally Fulweiler, Earth and Environment; Prof. Sarah Phillips, History

**Week FIVE**  Monday 23 February  
Spirit and Mammon, Worship and Work  
Prof. Christopher Evans, School of Theology; Prof. Paul McManus, School of Management

Additional reading TBA.

**Week SIX**  Monday 2 March  
Designing With Nature in the City.  
Prof. Lucy Hutyra, Earth and Environment; Prof. Beth Meyer, Landscape Architecture and Dean, University of Virginia School of Architecture.


**Spring Recess**  Monday 9 March  
No Class

**Week SEVEN**  Monday 16 March  
Boston’s Cinema and Literary Landscapes  
Prof. Jonathan Foltz, English/Cinema & Media Studies; Prof. Hunt Howell, English

Film: *The Departed* (2006), directed by Martin Scorsese  

**Week EIGHT**  Monday 23 March  
Health and the Healing Landscape  
Prof. Harold D. Cox, School of Public Health; Prof. Lance D. Laird, School of Medicine

Additional reading TBA.
Week NINE    Monday 30 March
The Legal Landscape, Planning and Prosecution in the City
Prof. Madhu Dutta-Koehler, City Planning; Prof. David Rossman, Law School

Additional Reading TBA.

Week TEN    Monday 6 April
Community and Conflict in a Multi-Ethnic Metropolis.
Prof. Japonica Brown-Saracino, Sociology; Prof. Marilyn Halter, History

Additional Reading TBA.

Week ELEVEN    Monday 13 April
Boston as a Site for Art
Prof. Hugh O'Donnell, College of Fine Arts; Prof. Jonathan Ribner, History of Art and Architecture.

Additional Reading TBA.

Weeks TWELVE  Wednesday 22 April
Class Visit to Museum of Fine Arts in connection with Final Project


Week THIRTEEN    Monday 27 April
Narratives of Everyday Life
Prof. Mary Beaudry, Archeology; Prof. William Moore, American and New England Studies