Course Instructor | Dr. Beverley Mullings | Email: mullings@queensu.ca
---|---|---
Office | D302 Macintosh-Corry Hall |  
Contact Time | 3 hours per week |  
Format | Seminar discussions, and group presentations based on key texts, case studies |  
Class Assessment |  
Attendance, and Participation | 10% |  
Class presentations & discussion | 10% | Weekly |  
Four page paper proposal | 15% | Week 5 |  
Individual Research Paper | 35% | Week 10 |  
Group Presentations | 5% | Week 12 |  
Group Evaluation | 5% |  

**COURSE OVERVIEW**

Historically associated with forced migration due to expulsion, slavery and nationalist war, traditional studies of diaspora have tended to focus on questions of displacement, dispossession loss of a homeland and a longing for return. Initially focused on Jewish, Greek and Armenian émigré communities, the term has expanded to include not only other historically dispersed populations e.g. Africans, but also other dispersed communities that maintain strong ancestral ties across a variety of geographic spaces. Thus, contemporary definitions of diaspora now include African, Palestinian, Cuban, Tamil, Haitian, Serbian, Irish, and Indian communities scattered across a number of global cities. Moving away from the idea of homeland as singular and discrete space, studies of diaspora explore the conditions that are giving rise to new types of diaspora communities and the forms of economic, political and cultural change that their multi-local and reciprocal relationships generate. Drawing on theoretical and methodological issues related to transnationalism, identity, neoliberalism, social justice and state nationalism, this course offers students an opportunity to study the changing meaning and importantly - the promise of diaspora. By examining the spatial complexity of diaspora relationships, we will explore the impact of the spatial practices of different diasporic communities on state territorial boundary-making; the production of urban space, and the creation of social infrastructures with the capacity to sustain solidarities and alliances committed to decolonial praxis and social justice.

**LEARNING OUTCOMES**

At the end of this course students will be able to:

1. Make connections between periods, locations, ethnic groups to delineate intellectual trends in our understanding of diaspora across spans of time and space.
2. Critically assess competing definitions of diaspora to determine the shifting relationship between migration, transnationalism and state territorial boundary-making.
3. Consolidate their knowledge about contemporary state-diaspora relations to identify tensions between diasporic and state centric notions of nation, belonging and social justice.
4. Communicate complex ideas about diaspora identity and subjectivity to explore the decolonizing potential of diaspora spatial practices.
5. Recognize diasporic economic and political relationships and policies that reproduce, as well as challenge oppressive and unequal spatial relationships.

**COURSE TOPICS**

Diaspora subjectivity, racial capitalism, diaspora strategies, transnationalism, decoloniality, migration, state-diaspora relations, neoliberalism, diasporic relational networks, social infrastructure, diasporic contestation, hegemony in diaspora, multi-scalar geographies.

**COURSE READINGS**