**African Cities** A6826**\_ Mpho Matsipa\_ GSAPP, Columbia University Spring 2019**

**Course Name: African Cities**

**Facilitator: Dr. Mpho Matsipa**

**Course number: A6826**

**History and Theory – Non-Western**

**Session A: 1/22- 3/01**

**Tu +Th 11AM – 1PM**

**Room 504 Avery**

**3 pts**

**Email: Matsipa@gmail.com**

**Consultation Times: Tuesdays: 1.30 - 3.30pm. *Other times arranged by appointment.***

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

In her book, *A Global Theory of Race*, Denise Ferreira da Silva (2007) rejects the dominant view that social categories of difference such as race and culture operate solely as principles of exclusion.

Instead, she argues that racial knowledge and power produce global space. Modern subjects are refigured in ways such that notions of racial difference govern present configurations of global power. By introducing the view that the racial is the signifier of globality, Ferreira offers a philosophical basis for the investigation of the past and the future of African cities, that reconstitutes our understanding of space – beyond exclusion or containment.

This seminar takes the recent architecture exhibition: *African Mobilities - this is not a refugee camp exhibition (Architecture Museum, at TU München 26 April- 19 August 2018)* as its point of departure, and from which it will critically engage with how urbanists, scholars and creative practitioners have conceptualized the circulations of people, ideas, aesthetics and resources that have, and continue to produce urban formations across Africa and the diaspora. Rather than a totalizing or comprehensive overview of all African cities, the objective of this course is to explore –a few key themes and emerging conceptual frameworks related to the forms, histories, political economies, and spatial practices across African cities, as well as to familiarize ourselves with their diversity. Therefore, seminar participants will be expected to engage with pre-colonial urban legacies, as well as emerging (post)-colonial urban formations. By the end of the seminar, participants will also be expected to analyse discourses and creative research methodologies on African cities, to present and discuss their own research; and to illustrate a critical understanding of theoretical debates through case studies across cities such as Timbuktu, Kano, Port au Spain, New York, Lubumbashi, Lagos, Addis Ababa and Johannesburg.

Themes to be explored include: gender, sexuality and power; (im)mobility and resource extraction; decolonization, decoloniality, and Black and/or African spatial imaginaries.

\*\*All texts will be available as pdfs or web-links.

**CLASS SCHEDULE**

This course will be run twice a week as a series of seminars, with weekly short written assignments based on the required reading material. Participants are expected to engage critically with all the required texts.

**ASSESSMENT GUIDELINES**

Final Grades for this course will be based on the following rubric:

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|  | **Task**  | **Description**  | **Due**  | **Weight**  |
| *1* | X 4 Short Reading Responses  | (250 words each)  | *Bi-weekly*   | *20%*    |
| *2*  | X 1 Presentations of Reading and Discussion  | *1000 words*   | *Bi-weekly*   | *20%*    |
| *3*   | Attendance and Discussion  | *10 sessions*  | *Bi-weekly*  | *10%*  |
| *4* | Proposal: Final Essay African City Case Study and analysis  | PowerPoint presentation of research question and an outline of case study   |   |    |
| *5* | Final Essay:  | 5000 words (including references and title page)   | 3/1/2019 | *50%*    |