**Place/Community/Communication**

Communication 4365

Tuesday/Thursday 9:40 – 11:05

**Course Description**

What does it *mean* to live in Memphis? How do place-specific meanings change across time? Across the range of different peoples for whom “Memphis” has signified such different truths? What role does place take in how we use language to imagine ourselves as part of a community? This course looks at such questions through the lens of rhetoric, a term whose definition – and whose relation to   
“place” and “community” – is often clouded in misperception and confusion. The course starts with an extended consideration of these terms, along with a close reading of an accessible general history of the city, in order to develop a basic method, vocabulary, and historical vantage from which to view and appreciate the many meanings of Memphis. We then move to two case studies in the rhetorical construction of place and community. Lastly, and most importantly, we dedicate the last third of the course to three (3) major assignments – a book report, a research presentation and a research paper on topics related to “place” and “community” in Memphis.

**Intellectual Integrity**

I expect that no one will cheat, plagiarize, or fabricate. I report instances of cheating to the administration. Please see the University’s statement on academic dishonesty.<http://libguides.memphis.edu/content.php?pid=453733&sid=3717893>

**Expectations**

I expect you to treat each other and me with respect. We will discuss these expectations further as the class progresses. Of note: Use of electronic devices, including laptops, is prohibited in our classroom without written permission from the instructor.

**Deadlines**

Each assignment has a deadline. You get a zero – that is, no points at all – if a deadline passes, and you have not completed the assignment. You do, however, have one (1) chance for a 48-hour extension, but only after email consultation with the instructor before the due date.

**Attendance and Breaks**

Attendance is mandatory. Absences lower your grade significantly. You must be in attendance when class officially starts to qualify as present. Class officially starts after 9:40am when the classroom door is closed. If the door is closed, please do not attempt to enter the classroom. If you exceed two (2) absences, I drop your final grade two (2) points per additional absence. If you have perfect attendance, I add two (2) bonus points to your final grade. Any absence, regardless of your reason, disqualifies you from this incentive. Students who are not in the classroom once the door is closed, who leave before class is over, or who leave class repeatedly will be counted as absent.

**Course Content**

In addition to handouts distributed via email and in class, you are required to read the following three (3) books:

* *At the River I Stand*, Beifuss
* *Memphis in Black and White*, Bond and Sherman
* *Alice + Freda Forever*, Cole

Bring the assigned readings to every session, or else you may be asked to leave. Additionally, each student will need to obtain, as soon as possible, the book s/he randomly draws for his/her Book Report assignment.

**Assignments and Grading**

You start with zero (0) points. Throughout the term, you accumulate points toward your final grade. Each assignment has a maximum number of total points. Reading Responses (RRs) can earn you a maximum of ten (10) points each; the prompt for each is available on the corresponding assignment link on eCourseware. For the three (3) final projects, the prompts are on the “4365-Final Projects” handout. The Book Reports will be scored at a max of twenty-five (25) points. The Research Presentations will be scored at a max of twenty (20) points. And the Final Paper will be scored at a max of twenty-five (25) points. Here's how that breaks down overall and totals 100pts:

* Reading Responses – 30pts
* Book Report – 25pts
* Research Presentation – 20pts
* Research Paper – 25pts

**Course Schedule for Place/Community/Communication**

**Scenic Rhetorics of Memphis: Method and Overview**

Tu 1/20 Introductions

Th 1/22 Scenic Rhetoric

Tu 1/27 Place and Magnification

Th 1/29 Community and Identification

Tu 2/3 Library Session

Th 2/5 Rhetorics of Place and Community

Tu 2/10 *Memphis in Black and White* (7-60)

**W 2/11 RR #1 due – 2pm deadline**

Th 2/12 *Memphis in Black and White* (61-105)

Tu 2/17 *Memphis: In Black and White* (106-151)

**Gender, Sexuality, and Place**

Th 2/19 *Alice and Freda Forever* (10-64)

Tu 2/24 *Alice and Freda Forever* (68-134)

**W 2/25 RR#2 due – 2pm deadline**

Th 2/26 *Alice and Freda Forever* (138-193)

**Race, Class, and Place**

Tu 3/3 *At the River I Stand* (461-462; 5-92)

Th 3/5 *At the River I Stand* (93-181)

**SPRING BREAK**

Tu 3/17 *At the River I Stand* (183-274)

**W 3/18 RR#3 due – 2pm deadline**

Th 3/19 *At the River I Stand* (277-369)

Tu 3/24 *At the River I Stand* (371-459)

**Final Projects**

Th 3/26 Book Reports (Group A)

Tu 3/31 Book Reports (Group B)

Th 4/2 Book Reports (Group C)

Tu 4/7 Book Reports (Group D)

Th 4/9 NO CLASS (<http://www.ssca.net/convention>)

Tu 4/14 Research Presentations (Group A)

Th 4/16 Research Presentations (Group B)

Tu 4/21 Research Presentations (Group C)

Th 4/23 Research Presentations (Group D)

Tu 4/28 TBD

**Tu 5/5 Research Papers @10:30am**