Centre Term Beau Weston

January 2017 C330 (x8789)

FYS 138 **Coffeehouses and Public Life** beau.weston@centre.edu

The coffeehouse has long been a storied place for creating public life, from convivial social groups to intellectual salons to revolutionary cells. We will study the coffeehouse as a “third place” – not home, not work – where people from different social groups can meet and mix. Caffeine, especially in coffee, tea, and chocolate, has fueled a modern public sphere that promotes hard work and clear thinking. We will make several field trips to different kinds of coffeehouses to see for ourselves how they can be incubators of public life. We will actively create critical discourse ourselves by talking to coffeehouse regulars, and creating a one-off coffeehouse on campus.

# **Texts**

Aksel Tjora and Graham Scambler, *Café Society* (electronic rental; one copy on reserve)

# Bryan Simon, *Everything but the Coffee: Learning about America from Starbucks*

Bennett Weinberg and Bonnie Bealer, *The World of Caffeine,* selections(M = Moodle)

Jürgen Habermas, *The Structural Transformation of the Public Sphere*, selections (M)

Charles Montgomery, *Happy City*, selections (M)

William Roseberry , “The Rise of Yuppie Coffees and the Reimagination of Class in the United States” (M)

*So this happened:*

just to add to the oddness of this day, I have broken my arm.

it has been treated and i will recover.

in the short run, i will not be going with you on the field trip tomorrow.

**carry on as the good students i know you to be.**

ask good questions of Mike Mays at Heine Brothers (13th and Main). he is expecting us to call him when we arrive, to be let in.  his number is 502.608.0465

go on to your field sites and investigate.

i will be on email, so write if you have queries in real time.

see you Friday.

## **Work**

Public Sphere Paper (10%). A short essay (about 1200 words) connecting Habermas’s argument with Scambler’s (in ch. 4). Due 1/5, 10pm, through Moodle.

*Added on the fly:*

Several people have asked for an opportunity for additional work, which I am in favor of.  Specifically, some were not satisfied with their work on the first paper, and wished for some opportunity for improvement.

SO If you would like to write an additional paper, here is the prompt:

Weinberg and Bealer describes the origins of coffee, tea, and chocolate. Compare and contrast the three main sources of caffeine, both prior to their introduction to Europe and in their effects on the modern world. This should be at least 1200 words.

Due, through Moodle, before class Friday (1/13). That means by 8:30am.

IF you write this paper, it will count for 5% of the final grade, and the first paper will be reduced from 10% to 5% of the final grade.

You do not have to write this paper, nor tell me ahead of time. I will grade what I get.

Lexington Field Trip Paper (10%). Compare what you observed at the Starbucks and the independent coffee house that you observed. Develop an argument about how each functions as a third place, drawing on course texts. (1200). Due 1/7, 3pm.

Third Place TV Presentation (10%). With a partner, observe the portrayal of a third place in a television show. This place does *not* have to be a coffee house. Prepare a ten-minute presentation, with clips if possible, in class. Due in class, 1/9.

Starbucks and Your Place Paper (15%). Explain Simon’s main point, and compare his account of Starbucks with what you observed in your coffee house. (1500). Due 1/19, 10pm.

Working with members of your car group, you will observe an independent coffee house in Louisville for several hours. Choose a coffee house ahead of time, in consultation with me, and arrange for your visit. You will **make a 12-minute film** by interviewing patrons and baristas, reading the walls, observing the traffic. On a second visit, your group will explore the neighborhood around the coffee house, filming the setting and talking to neighbors and passersby about the coffee house.

Louisville Coffee House Paper (20%). Write an individual paper interpreting what you observed. Include Montgomery’s argument. (2000). Due 1/22, 5pm. Since this is the final paper, the late penalty will be five points per *hour* for three hours, rather than five points per day.

Louisville Coffee House Film (10%). A grade shared with your group on the quality of the film. Uploaded by 5pm 1/23.

Carnegie Coffee House Presentation (10%). On the last day of the term the entire class will work together to create a coffee house, in which we will present our films to the Centre community. We will show each film twice. Each time, two members of each team will present an introduction your film, to be graded individually.

Participation (15%). This is a seminar. Join in.

*Upload films to Ensemble here:* <https://video.centre.edu/Dropbox/fys138videoproject>