

INR4931/EUS4930 Divided Cities
3 | credits

I. General Information

Meeting days and times: Tuesday, Period 4 (10:40-11:30), Thursday, Period 4-5 (10:40-12:35)

Class location: Anderson 0034

Instructor(s):

Name: Aida A. Hozic

Office Building/Number: Anderson 311

Phone: 352-273-2396

Email: hozic@ufl.edu

Office Hours: Tuesday 9:30-10:30, Thursday 10:00 -10:30

Grader:

Name: Analu Melo Ferreira

Email: ameloferreira@ufl.edu

Course Description

This course explores the following paradox: peace settlements tend to reinforce and reinstate (inter)national borders but often leave cities divided, with unresolved status in the interstices of the international system. What is it like to live in such divided spaces? What kind of politics colors everyday life in divided cities? What kind of imaginaries do they foster? While in many ways akin to a journey without travel, the course focuses on temporal and spatial dimensions of power and violence – especially on how architecture and infrastructure intersect with memory to delimit horizons of (and create possibilities for) political action in contested places.

The course explores post-conflict politics in Belfast (Northern Ireland) , Nicosia (Cyprus), Sarajevo, Mostar & Kosovska Mitrovica (former Yugoslavia), and Jerusalem (Israel/Palestine). Lectures and discussions about these cities will be informed by comparisons to other European cities, which were formally and/or informally divided in the past – Danzig/Gdansk (before WWII), Trieste (up to the 1950s), Vienna (between 1945 and 1955), Berlin (until 1989) – but also with cities historically segregated or divided or conjoined by class, race and/or imperial politics.

Prerequisites

None.

General Education Designation: none.

Course Materials

- The course has an extensive reading list, complemented with films and examples of literary and visual arts produced in divided cities.

All materials will be available through Canvas or the UF Library.

Materials Fee: N/A

II. Course Goals

Course Objectives

In this course, we will:

- **Understand** the historical, political, and socio-economic forces that produce and sustain urban divisions in contexts of conflict, occupation, or deep inequality.
- **Critically analyze** scholarly arguments about divided cities across political science, international relations, urban studies, and related fields.
- **Engage with** cultural, literary, visual, and cinematic representations of divided cities as forms of political commentary and lived experience.
- **Compare and contrast** the dynamics of division in multiple case studies (e.g., Belfast, Nicosia, Mostar, Jerusalem) to identify patterns and specificities.
- **Integrate** insights from academic readings and artistic works to evaluate the interplay between material structures (walls, checkpoints, urban planning) and symbolic boundaries (memory, identity, narrative).
- **Develop** skills in written and oral communication through critical essays, discussion facilitation, and multimedia analysis.

Student Learning Outcomes

A student who completes this course will be able to:

- **Identify** and define key concepts in the study of divided cities, such as spatial segregation, symbolic boundaries, ethnonationalism, peacebuilding, and urban sovereignty.
- **Explain** how historical events, colonial legacies, and contemporary geopolitics shape the spatial and social organization of divided cities.
- **Analyze** urban divisions using interdisciplinary evidence, including maps, policy documents, ethnographic accounts, films, novels, and visual art.
- **Evaluate** the effectiveness and consequences of interventions aimed at managing, mitigating, or overcoming urban divisions.
- **Interpret** artistic and cultural works in relation to political and social realities in divided cities.
- **Construct** well-supported comparative arguments about similarities and differences among the case studies covered in the course.
- **Communicate** ideas clearly and persuasively in both written assignments and in-class discussions, demonstrating the ability to synthesize diverse materials.

III. Graded Work

Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with university policies that can be found in the [Catalog](#).

Graded Components:

Weekly quizzes – 30 points maximum (3 points each)

Visual Project– 10 points

Film Review – 10 points

Book Review - 10 points

Group Project – 10 points

Final Exam(take-home, cumulative) – 30 points

TOTAL: 100 points

Grading Scale

Letter Grade	Number Grade
A	100-92.5
A-	92.4-89.5
B+	89.4-86.5
B	86.4-82.5
B-	82.4-79.5
C+	79.4-76.5
C	76.4-72.5
C-	72.4-69.5
D+	69.4-66.5
D	66.4-62.5
D-	62.4-59.5
E	59.4-0

See the UF Catalog's "[Grades and Grading Policies](#)" for information on how UF assigns grade points.

Note: A minimum grade of C is required to earn General Education credit.

IV. Calendar

Week 1 – INTRODUCTION

August 21, 2025

Course and syllabus overview.

Week 2 – WHERE DO YOU LIVE?

August 26 and 28, 2025

The instructor will be attending a conference. In lieu of the classes, students should visit Matheson Museum and inform themselves about the history of the city of Gainesville.

Week 3 – WHAT IS A CITY?

September 2, 2025

Lewis Mumford. “What is a City?” *Architectural Record*, 1937

Austin Williams. “What is a City?” *Architectural Design*, Vol. 82, 1, January/February 2012, pp. 66-69

Jane Jacobs. “Downtown is For People,” *Fortune* 1958, re-posted on September 18, 2011.

September 4, 2025

Charles Tilly. “What Good is Urban History?” *Journal of Urban History*, September 1996; vol. 22, 6, pp. 702-719

Mark Mazower. “Introduction” to *Salonica: City of Ghosts* (London: Vintage Books, 2006) pp. 3-13.

Week 4 – WHAT IS A DIVIDED CITY?

September 9, 2025

Carl H. Nightingale, “Introduction,” “White Town/Black Town” and “Race and the London-Calcutta Connection” from *Segregation: A Global History of Divided Cities* (University of Chicago Press, 2012)

September 11, 2025

John Calame and Esther Charlesworth, *Divided Cities: Belfast, Beirut, Jerusalem, Mostar, and Nicosia* (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2009) - Chapter 1: Warning Signs and Chapter 2: Cities and Physical Segregation

Week 5 – BELFAST (HISTORY/BACKGROUND)

September 16, 2025

John Calame and Esther Charlesworth, *Divided Cities: Belfast, Beirut, Jerusalem, Mostar, and Nicosia* (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2009) - Chapter 4 Belfast

September 18, 2025

Allen Feldman, "Spatial Formations of Violence" in *Formations of Violence: The Narrative of the Body and Political Terror in Northern Ireland* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1991), pp. 17-45

Brendan O' Leary. "The Nature of the British-Irish Agreement." *New Left Review* I/233, January-February 1999, pp.66-96

Week 6 – BELFAST (ECONOMICS AND EDUCATION)

September 23, 2025

Colin Coulter, "Under Which Constitutional Arrangement Would You Still Prefer to be Unemployed? Neoliberalism, the Peace Process, and the Politics of Class in Northern Ireland," *Studies in Conflict & Terrorism*, Volume 37 (9), 2014, pp. 763-776

September 25, 2025

Siobhan O'Neill, Finola Ferry, Deirdre Heenan, "Mental Health Disorders in Northern Ireland: The Economic Imperative," *The Lancet Psychiatry*, Volume 3, No. 5, May 2016, pp. 398–400

Stephen Roulston & Sally Cook "Duplication in a Divided Society: A Case Study of Primary Schools in Northern Ireland." *British Journal of Educational Studies*, 73(4), 2025, 449–471

Week 7 – BELFAST (THE ARTS)

September 30, 2025

Debbie Lisle, "Local Symbols, Global Networks: Rereading the Murals of Belfast," *Alternatives*, 31(1), 2006, 27-52.

October 2, 2025

Marie Migeon, "Peace and Conflict in Public Space: Gendered Murals Shaping Belfast," *Geopolitics*, 29:5, 2024, 1604-1634

Week 8 – NICOSIA (HISTORY/BACKGROUND)

October 7, 2025

John Calame and Esther Charlesworth, *Divided Cities: Belfast, Beirut, Jerusalem, Mostar, and Nicosia* (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2009) - Chapter 7 Nicosia

October 9, 2025

Lisa Dikomititis. "Three Readings of a Border," *Anthropology Today*. October 2005. Vol. 51, 2, pp. 7–12

Amy Reid, “‘Wall disease’: Unpacking the emotive geographies of post-conflict Nicosia,” *Geoforum*, 159, 2025

Week 9 – NICOSIA (ECONOMICS AND EDUCATION)

October 14, 2025

International Crisis Group, *An Island Divided: Next Steps for Troubled Cyprus?*, April 2023

October 16, 2025

Yiannis Papadakis, "Narrative, Memory and History Education in Divided Cyprus," *History & Memory*, Vol. 20, 2, Fall/Winter 2008, pp. 128-148.

Michalinos Zembylas and Zvi Bekerman. "The unbearable lightness of being implicated in conflict-affected societies: can teachers do anything about it?" *Journal of Professional Capital and Community* 9.4 (2024): 291-299.

Week 10 – NICOSIA (THE ARTS)

October 21, 2025

Anita Bakshi, “A Shell of Memory: The Cyprus Conflict and Nicosia’s Walled City.” *Memory Studies* Vol. 5, 4, 2012, pp. 479-496.

October 23, 2025

Mete Hatay and Rebecca Bryant, “The Jasmine Scent of Nicosia: Of Returns, Revolutions, and the Longing for Forbidden Pasts,” *Journal of Modern Greek Studies*, Vol. 26, 2, October 2008, pp. 423-449

Week 11 – FORMER YUGOSLAV CITIES (HISTORY/BACKGROUND)

October 28, 2025

John Calame and Esther Charlesworth, *Divided Cities: Belfast, Beirut, Jerusalem, Mostar, and Nicosia* (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2009) - Chapter 6 Mostar

Vjosa Musliu, “Notes on Memory, Home and Fieldwork,” *Journal of Narrative Politics*, vol. 4, no. 1, Oct. 2017,

Saida Hodzic, "On the Armoire/Against Purity." *The Disorder of Things*. July 15, 2020.

October 30, 2025

David Chandler, "State-Building in Bosnia: The Limits of 'Informal Trusteeship,'" *International Journal of Peace Studies*, Volume 11, 1, Spring/Summer 2006, pp. 17-38

Week 12 – BOSNIA & HERZEGOVINA (ECONOMICS AND EDUCATION)

November 4, 2025

Peter Andreas, "The Clandestine Political Economy of War and Peace in Bosnia," *International Studies Quarterly*, Vol. 48, 1, 2004, pp.29-52

Daniela Lai. "What has justice got to do with it? Gender and the political economy of post-war Bosnia and Herzegovina." *Review of International Political Economy* 27.6 (2020): 1257-1279.

November 6, 2025

Azra Hromadžić, "On Not Dayting Just Anybody," *Anthropological Quarterly*, Vol. 88, 4, 2015 pp. 881-906

Azra Hromadžić, *Citizens of an Empty Nation: Youth and State-making in Postwar Bosnia-Herzegovina* (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press) 2015, excerpt, pp.1-25

Week 13 – BOSNIA & HERZEGOVINA (THE ARTS)

November 11, 2025

VETERANS' DAY – No classes

November 13, 2025

Susan Sontag, "Godot Comes to Sarajevo," *The New York Review of Books*, October 21, 1993

Craig Zelizer, "The Role of Artistic Processes in Peace-Building in Bosnia-Herzegovina," *Peace and Conflict Studies*, Vol. 10, 2, Article 4, 2003

Drake Stutesman, "Sarajevo Film Festival," *Framework: The Journal of Cinema and Media* Vol. 47, 1, 2006, pp. 132-134

Week 14 – JERUSALEM (HISTORY/FUTURE)

November 18, 2025

John Calame and Esther Charlesworth, *Divided Cities: Belfast, Beirut, Jerusalem, Mostar, and Nicosia* (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 2009) - Chapter 5 Jerusalem

Michelle Campos. "Mapping Urban 'Mixing' and Intercommunal Relations in Late Ottoman Jerusalem: A Neighborhood Study." *Comparative Studies in Society and History* 63.1 (2021): 133–169

November 20, 2025

Karen E. Till et al. "Interventions in the Political Geographies of Walls," *Political Geography* 33, 2013, pp. 52-62

Week 15 - HOLIDAY

November 25, 2025

THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY

November 27, 2025

THANKSGIVING HOLIDAY

Week 16 – EPILOGUE

December 2, 2025

Discussion and reflections about divided cities, past and present.

V. University Policies and Resources

This course complies with all UF academic policies. For information on those policies and for resources for students, please see [this link](#)." (The direct link is <https://syllabus.ufl.edu/syllabus-policy/uf-syllabus-policy-links/>.)