Rationale: As the peregrinations of the title have suggested, this seminar is an active exploration where discussion, reflection and new vantages can contribute to the reframing of a range of social, cultural, policy and aesthetic issues. The premise is straightforward: that “middle classes” (the bourgeoisie, the non-aristocrats, the managers and others) long have been associated closely with the growth of cities worldwide, with urbane culture, power, modernity, connections and creativity. Yet, these classes also are deeply imbued with anxiety, fear and conflict – hence the ideas of policing or retreat behind gates that we also see in cities worldwide. Given ongoing crises in both cities and middle classes, the questions of the seminar become how we might learn from class and the city in the past and in changing global cultures in order to understand and change the present and future. We will pursue such questions through shared readings and individual research/writing though the term. Our final to this is to consider New Urbanism and its refractions of class, which will be the final note for the term, perhaps in conjunction with a visit to a regional New Urban development.

Requirements: A seminar demands well-prepared participation each week. This entails careful and thoughtful reading of materials AND sharing these reflections in class. Participation ALSO entails posting of 1-2 page statement on the class Blackboard site by 5 PM Monday for ALL to read. ALL, in turn, should include reading each others’ statements in their preparation. These postings will not be individually graded but I will provide feedback on initial statements and after mid-term. They will be part of a participation grade that will count 50% of the course. You may omit one or two postings because of illness or other circumstances, but frequent failure to post will be considered inadequate class participation.

The other half of the course evaluation will be based on a paper (10-15 pages) that develops issues of the course through research or critical reading. A concrete proposal (2-3 pages including at least four bibliographic sources) is due in week 6 in order to provide feedback before break. Students will do presentations in weeks 11-13 (we may need to schedule an additional session). The final paper is due by end of exam period; graduating Bi-Co seniors should note that their paper has an earlier deadline.

Texts: Frantz, Douglas and Catherine Collins Celebration, USA: Living in Disney’s Brave New Town. Owl Books (optional)
All are available in the bookstore and on reserve. A reader on theory and with some additional materials will also be available after the second week.

Class Schedule and Weekly Themes:

Week 1 (January 17): Who and why the bourgeoisie/middle classes?

Week 2 (January 24): Experience and position: where do we stand locally and globally?

Readings: Fussell 1-50, 151-169, 179-189
Harvey 23-58
O’Dougherty 1-27
Liechty 39-60

Week 3 (January 31): Theories of Class

Readings: Liechty 3-38
Marx, Karl *The Communist Manifesto* (1864) (reader)

Week 4 (February 7): Class Struggles: Middle Classes, Modernity and 19th-Century Paris

Reading: Harvey 93-293

Week 5 (February 14): Urban Place, Class and Symbols

Readings: Harvey 311-340
Fussell 76-96
O’Dougherty 27-50
Frantz and Collins 13-81 (if possible)

Week 6 (February 21): Race, Class, and Gender in the City

Readings: Patillo-McCoy 1-67
Liechty 61-86
Fussell 51-75
Crompton, Rosemary “The Gendered Reconstruction of the Middle Classes” from Baxter and Western (2001) *Reconfigurations of Class and Gender* (reader)

PAPER PROPOSAL DUE BY FRIDAY

Week 7 (February 28): Nature or Nurture: Reproducing Race and Class

Readings: Liechty 209-248
Week 8 (March 14): Middle Classes and Consumption
  Readings: O’Dougherty 51-132
  Liechty 87-150
  Fussell 97-127
  Bourdieu, Pierre “The Habitus and Space of Lifestyles” from Distinction 1984: 169-228 (reader)

Week 9 (March 21): Class, Media, State, Globe
  Reading: O’Dougherty 132-166
  Liechty 151-208
  Harvey 141-153

Week 10 (March 28) Fear and Loathing in the Middle Classes’ City
  Readings: Patillo 147-201
  Fussell 170-179
  Harvey 59-92
  O’Dougherty 195-206

Week 11-13 (April 4 -18)

Week 14 (April 25) Rethinking Class for the Future: Does New Urbanism build a Middle Class City?
  Reading: Liechty 249-267
  Finish Frantz and Collins