UNIV 201: Sophomore Seminar: Intellectual Transitions

Baltimore: City as Text® project: 10%
Using the City as Text® methodology developed by Dr. Bernice Braid of Long Island University, Brooklyn, divide yourselves into groups to visit sites in Baltimore that are important to the story of Henrietta Lacks and her family. Report back to the class as a group on the results of your investigation, then write an individual essay reflecting on your experience.

Sites
Johns Hopkins Hospital buildings and grounds
Crownsville State Hospital and cemetery
Turner Station neighborhood with Lacks house and museum in Community Center

Mapping the Landscape

1. Buildings
   *Exteriors:* Location, sizes and shapes of buildings, arrangement of buildings within grounds, age of buildings, constituent materials, exterior decoration, other buildings and grounds in close proximity
   *Interiors:* Sizes and shapes of rooms and halls, interior arrangement of rooms, heights of ceilings, wall décor, floor, wall, and ceiling design, interior decoration, including artwork, fountains, statues

2. Landscape
   Land surrounding buildings
   Design elements, e.g. grassy areas, plazas, statues, fountains, street art, and the like
   Pathways
   Traffic patterns

Understanding the People

Study the people who work there, their clientele, and the people who live there. Look at how they interact with one another. What do they look like? What are they wearing? What do you imagine their stories might be? What do their facial expressions and their behavior tell you? Are there observable differences between the people who work there and the people who live there or between staff and clientele?

Get as close as you can. Go in if you can. Look at the walls to learn the history of the buildings and the organizations they represent and to see if you can ascertain what story the organization is trying to tell you about itself through its building. See if you can tell if the story is true. Observe the people as they come and go. Ask questions. Take photographs! (ask permission first if you are photographing people)

As a group in class, and individually in a narrative that should contain both words and images, tell the story of your City as Text adventure. What did you see, smell, hear, taste, touch? Describe everything you saw. Narrate your experiences. What did you learn? What surprised you? What questions did you ask? What did people say to you? How did you feel? What did you think? Tell us everything.