

**EMERGING CITIES:  
19TH-CENTURY URBAN HISTORY OF THE AMERICAS AND EUROPE  
[Fall 2017—T/TH: 1:10-2:25]**

Course code: HIST BC 2408

Instructor: Prof. Gergely Baics ([gbaics@barnard.edu](mailto:gbaics@barnard.edu)); office hours: Th 3-5PM @ 217 LeFrak

Teaching assistant:

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Course description (short):

Urban history of 19<sup>th</sup>-century cities in Europe and the Americas. First, we study the economic, geographic and demographic changes that produced 19<sup>th</sup>-century urbanization in the Western world. Second, we examine issues of urban space: density, public health, housing conditions, spatial reforms, and the origins of modern city planning.

Course description (long):

This lecture course introduces students to the urban history of the Western world during the long 19<sup>th</sup> century, focusing on Europe and the Americas. The first part of the course examines the underlying economic, geographic and population changes that produced 19<sup>th</sup>-century urbanization. The second part examines how contemporaries made sense of and responded to the challenges of their new urban environments. We study the ways in which modern urbanization and its attendant qualities of growing population densities, rising social inequalities, worsening housing conditions, and deteriorating public health environments generated a wide range of social responses, including sanitary reforms, the construction of modern urban amenities, and the large-scale transformations of modern urban space. One central argument of the course is that 19<sup>th</sup>-century urban reforms concerned chiefly with spatial interventions; therefore we pay particularly close attention to issues of urban space. Readings draw on cities in Europe and the Americas, emphasizing linkages between major urban centers, while also pointing out similarities and differences between their developments. In addition, students will be exposed to readings, concepts and methods from a wide range of urban historical traditions, including economic, social, and planning histories.

Prerequisites:

It is recommended to have previous experience with 19<sup>th</sup>-century American AND/OR European history.

Learning objectives:

Students who successfully complete this course will be able to:

- (1) Demonstrate a critical understanding of the central problems and debates of modern urban history. Understand and apply key concepts and methods of urban historical analysis.
- (2) Explain the underlying economic, social and geographic processes that produced 19<sup>th</sup>-century urbanization in the Atlantic world. Describe how contemporaries perceived and responded to the

challenges of modern urban growth. Demonstrate an understanding of the role of spatial relations in modern urbanization and urbanism.

- (3) Demonstrate a critical understanding of comparative and transnational historical thinking.
- (4) Understand and apply the key components of historical research: how to formulate historical questions, use documentation, and develop historical arguments.
- (5) Demonstrate basic skills of empirical reasoning: engage in close reading and critical interpretation of important texts; present cogent arguments and well-documented analysis in writing and speaking.

Course requirements and grading:

**1) Midterm exam (30% of final grade)—Oct 19**

The midterm evaluation will consist of an in-class exam, which will be comprised of short-answer identifications and essays. The midterm will cover material through lecture 12. There will be a review session prior to the exam on Oct 17.

**2) Film essay (20% of final grade)—Nov 9**

You will be required to write a film essay (1,200-1,500 words) based on Roman Polanski's "Oliver Twist." You will need to use the Mediathread platform to complete this assignment. On Mediathread, you can watch the film, make short clips to support your analysis, and embed these clips into your essay. More detailed instructions about the film essay assignment will follow.

The film essay will be graded on the basis of four criteria:

- (1) Thoroughness of evaluation of the film as an interpretation of mid-19<sup>th</sup>-century London: urban society, urban space, poverty, social problems, etc.
- (2) Overall argument about the film (e.g. does the review have an insightful and credible thesis?)
- (3) Organization of the paper (e.g. is the paper easy to understand? Does it flow logically?)
- (4) Writing style (e.g. word choice, grammar, and basic writing style)

**3) Final exam OR research paper (40% of final grade)—on official exam date**

Final exam:

The in-class final exam will consist of short-answer identifications and essays. It will cover material for the entire semester. There will be a review session prior to the exam on Dec 7.

Research paper option—due same time as final exam

As an alternative to the final exam, students may choose to write a 15-page research paper on a relevant topic in 19<sup>th</sup>-century urban history in the Americas or Europe. Students are free to decide what topic they want to work on, but they must consult with the instructor or TA prior to pursuing their topic. The research paper option will be accepted as an alternative to the final exam ONLY if the topic has been approved by the instructor or the TA.

**4) Participation (10% of final grade)**

Attendance at both lectures and discussion sessions is required. Your participation grade will be based on your active participation in both. As a rule of thumb, you are expected to come to each and every lecture

and discussion session with thoughtful questions and well-reasoned arguments based upon the assigned readings.

Important: Failure to complete ANY one of the course assignments (exams, film review, and regular class attendance) will result in an overall F in class.

Attendance:

**1) Lectures**

Attendance at lectures is assumed. Lectures and readings are complements, not substitutes. Students need to read the assigned texts prior to the lecture.

**2) Discussion sessions with TA**

Your TA will conduct six discussion sessions over the course of the semester. These sessions are intended to help students in processing the readings and lectures. They will cover material for about 3-4 lectures, concluding a specific section of the course, as indicated on the syllabus. Attendance in discussion sections is required, and your active contribution will be part of your participation grade. In addition, your TA will hold regular office hours to assist you with lectures and readings.

Readings:

(1) Books to purchase

- Howard P. Chudacoff, Judith E. Smith, and Peter C. Baldwin, *The Evolution of American Urban Society*, 7th or 8<sup>th</sup> ed. (Prentice Hall, 2010/2016).
- Paul M. Hohenberg, and Lynn Hollen Lees, *The Making of Urban Europe, 1000-1994* (Cambridge: Harvard UP, 1995).
- Samuel L. Baily, *Immigrants in the Lands of Promise: Italians in Buenos Aires and New York City, 1870-1914* (Ithaca: Cornell UP, 1999).

(2) Most of the readings for this class come from articles and book chapters. All of these materials will be posted on Canvas in PDF format. You are responsible for downloading and printing the material.

Please note: changes to the reading list may be made via email or announcements in class. You will be responsible for any such changes.

Honor code:

We will use as a guide the Barnard College Honor Code, established 1912, updated 2016. The Code states:

We, the students of Barnard College, resolve to uphold the honor of the College by engaging with integrity in all of our academic pursuits. We affirm that academic integrity is the honorable creation and presentation of our own work. We acknowledge that it is our responsibility to seek clarification of proper forms of collaboration and use of academic resources in all assignments or exams. We consider academic integrity to include the proper use and care for all print, electronic, or other academic resources. We will

respect the rights of others to engage in pursuit of learning in order to uphold our commitment to honor. We pledge to do all that is in our power to create a spirit of honesty and honor for its own sake.

Disabilities:

Students with disabilities who will be taking this course and may need disability-related accommodations are encouraged to make an appointment to see me as soon as possible. Students who need test or classroom accommodations must be registered in advance with the Office of Disability Services (ODS) in 008 Milbank.

## SYLLABUS

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### INTRODUCTION (lectures 1-5)

(L1/Sept 5) *Course introduction*

(L2/Sept 7) *What is the modern city?*

Readings:

- George Simmel, "The Metropolis and Mental Life," In Gary Bridge and Sophie Watson ed., *The Blackwell City Reader* (Wiley-Blackwell, 2002), 11-19.
- Louis Wirth, "Urbanism as a Way of Life," *The American Journal of Sociology* 44, 1, (1938): 1-24.
- Jonah Lehrer, "A Physicist Solves the City," *The New York Times*, Dec. 17, 2010. Available from: [http://www.nytimes.com/2010/12/19/magazine/19Urban\\_West-t.html?ref=magazine](http://www.nytimes.com/2010/12/19/magazine/19Urban_West-t.html?ref=magazine)

(L3/Sept 12) *Cities before the industrial age (1): European cities, 16<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> century*

Readings:

- Andrew Lees, and Lynn Hollen Lees, *Cities and the Making of Modern Europe, 1750-1914* (Cambridge; New York: Cambridge UP, 2007): 13-40.
- David Garrioch, "Sounds of the City. The Soundscape of European Towns, Seventeenth to Nineteenth Century," *Urban History* 30, 1 (2003): 5-25.

(L4/Sept 14) *Cities before the industrial age (2): Latin American cities in the colonial era*

Readings:

- Jay Kinsbruner, *The Colonial Spanish-American City: Urban Life in the Age of Atlantic Capitalism* (University of Texas Press, 2005): 1-12, 23-32, 49-63, 137-140.
- Jacques Soustelle, "Daily Life of the Aztecs on the Eve of the Spanish Conquest," In Mark D. Szuchman ed., *I Saw a City Invincible: Urban Portraits of Latin America* (SR Books, 1995): 33-47.
- Bernabé Cobo, "Viceregal Lima in the Seventeenth Century," In Szuchman: 59-69.

Recommended reading:

Luis dos Santos Vilhena, "Bahia in the Late Colonial Period," In Szuchman: 85-102.

(L5/Sept 19) *Cities before the industrial age (3): American cities in the colonial era*

Readings:

- Sam Bass Warner, *The Private City: Philadelphia in three Periods of its Growth* (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 1987): 3-22.
- Leslie M. Harris, *In the Shadow of Slavery: African Americans in New York City, 1626-1863* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2003): 11-47.

Textbook:

Howard P. Chudacoff, Judith E. Smith, and Peter C. Baldwin, *The Evolution of American Urban Society*, 7th ed. (Prentice Hall, 2009): 1-31.

Recommended films:

Cahokia; Slave conspiracy of 1741

(TBA) *TA—Discussion session: Cities before the industrial age (lectures 3-5)*

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**PART I (lectures 6-14):            MAKING THE URBAN LANDSCAPE:  
   ECONOMY, GEOGRAPHY, POPULATION**

- (L6/Sept 21)    *Urbanization (1): industrial regions and urban systems in Europe, the long 19th century*  
Readings:
- Paul M. Hohenberg, and Lynn Hollen Lees, *The Making of Urban Europe, 1000-1994* (Cambridge: Harvard UP, 1995): 1-13, 173-247.
  - Friedrich Engels, "The Great Towns," In Richard T. Legates and Frederic Stout eds., *The City Reader: 2nd Edition*, 2nd ed. (Routledge, 1999): 46-55.
- (L7/Sept 26)    *Urbanization (2): United States—transportation and urban expansion, 1780-1860*  
Readings:
- Betsy Blackmar, "Re-Walking the Walking City: Housing and Property Relations in New York City, 1780-1840," *Radical History Review* 21 (1979): 131-151.
  - John F. Kasson, *Civilizing the Machine: Technology and Republican Values in America, 1776-1900* (New York: Penguin Books, 1977): 55-106.
- Textbook:  
Chudacoff: 32-75.
- Recommended reading:  
Sam Bass Warner, *The Urban Wilderness: A History of the American City* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1972): 55-84.
- Recommended films:  
The Erie Canal; Rise of NY port; NYC grid
- (L8/Sept 28)    *Urbanization (3): United States—industrialization and urban growth, 1860-1914*  
Readings:
- Robert A. Beauregard, "Aberrant Cities: Urban Population Loss in the United States, 1820-1930," *Urban Geography* 24, 8 (2003): 672-690.
- Textbook:  
Chudacoff: 76-101.
- Recommended reading:  
Sam Bass Warner, *The Urban Wilderness*, 85-112.
- Recommended film:  
Charles Chaplin: *Modern Times* (1936) (selection)
- (L9/Oct 3)        *Urbanization (4): selective urbanization in Latin America, the long 19<sup>th</sup> century*  
Readings:
- James R. Scobie, "The Growth of Latin American Cities, 1870-1930," in Leslie Bethell ed., *The Cambridge History of Latin America* (New York: Cambridge UP, 1986), Vol . 4: 233-265.
  - Juan Alvarez, "Buenos Aires in the Early Twentieth Century," In Szuchman: 133-147.
- (TBA)            *TA—Discussion session: Urbanization in the long 19<sup>th</sup> century (lectures 6-9)*

- (L10/Oct 5) *Population history (1): demographic systems*  
Readings:
- Massimo Livi Bacci, *The Population of Europe: A History* (Oxford; Malden, MA: Blackwell Publishers, 1999): 126-163.
  - Herbert S. Klein, *A Population History of the United States* (Cambridge; New York: Cambridge UP, 2004): 69-144.
  - Robert Kunzig, "7 Billion," *National Geographic*, January 2011. Available from: <http://ngm.nationalgeographic.com/2011/01/seven-billion/kunzig-text>
- (L11/Oct 10) *Population history (2): "a continent of immigrants"*  
Readings:
- José C. Moya, "A Continent of Immigrants: Postcolonial Shifts in the Western Hemisphere," *Hispanic American Historical Review* 86, 1 (2006): 1-28.
  - Samuel L. Baily, *Immigrants in the Lands of Promise: Italians in Buenos Aires and New York City, 1870-1914* (Ithaca: Cornell UP, 1999): 1-8, 23-68.
  - Hohenberg and Lees: 248-289.
- Recommended reading:  
 Leslie Page Moch, *Moving Europeans: Migration in Western Europe since 1650*, Second Edition. (Indiana University Press, 2003): 102-160.
- (L12/Oct 12) *Population history (3): immigrant cities—spatial accommodation, neighborhood, segregation*  
Readings:
- Baily: 91-171, 217-237.
  - James R. Scobie, Buenos Aires as a Commercial-Bureaucratic City, 1880-1910: Characteristics of a City's Orientation," *The American Historical Review* 77, 4 (1972): 1035-1073.
- Textbook:  
 Chudacoff: 102-131.
- Recommended reading:  
 Nancy L. Green, "Immigrant Jews in Paris, London, and New York: A Comparative Approach," *Judaism* 49, 3 (2000): 280-291.
- Recommended films:  
 Irish immigrants; "New" immigrants; Immigrant NYC; Migration of millionaires
- (TBA) *TA—Discussion session: Population history (lectures 10-12)*
- (L13/Oct 17) *Review for midterm exam: 19<sup>th</sup>-century urbanization as process*
- (L14/Oct 19) MIDTERM EXAM

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**PART II (lectures 15-25):      SOCIAL IS SPATIAL: THE SOCIAL CONSEQUENCES OF DENSITY AND SPATIAL REFORMS**

- (L15/Oct 24) *Glimpses of urban poverty: social disorder, dangerous classes, prostitution*  
Readings:

- Henry Mayhew, *Mayhew's London, edited by Peter Quennell: being selections from "London labour and the London poor" by Henry Matthew* (London: Pilot Press, 1949): 27-42, 111-113, 206-211, 366-370, 465-470.
- Christine Stansell, *City of Women: Sex and Class in New York, 1789-1860* (University of Illinois Press, 1987): 169-216.
- Shane White, "The Death of James Johnson," *American Quarterly* 51, 4 (1999): 753-795.

Recommended reading:

George G. Foster, *New York by Gas-light: With Here and There a Streak of Sunshine* (New York, 1850): 52-63, 72-81.

Recommended films:

Urban chaos; Walt Whitman; NYC Draft Riots

(L16/Oct 26) *Public health (1): urban disease environments*

Readings:

- Frank M. Snowden, *Naples in the Time of Cholera, 1884-1911* (Cambridge University Press, 2002): 11-58, 99-154.
- Sidney Chalhoub, "The Politics of Disease Control: Yellow Fever and Race in Nineteenth Century Rio de Janeiro," *Journal of Latin American Studies* 25, 3 (1993): 441-463.

Recommended GIS websites:

- Sonia Shah: "Mapping Cholera"
- Stanford Spatial History Project: "Yellow Fever Epidemic of 1850: Scale, Time and Space"

(L17/Oct 31) *Public health (2): sanitary reform and urban metabolism*

Readings:

- David S. Barnes, *The Great Stink of Paris and the Nineteenth-Century Struggle against Filth and Germs* (Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins UP, 2006): 65-104.
- Victor Hugo, *Les Misérables* (Modern Library of the World's Best Books. New York: The Modern library, 1931): 1054-1074.

Recommended readings:

- Michael W. Flinn, "Introduction" in Edwin Chadwick, *Report on the Sanitary Condition of the Labouring Population of Gt. Britain* (Edinburgh: University Press, 1965): 1-73.
- Simon Szreter, "Economic Growth, Disruption, Deprivation, Disease, and Death: On the Importance of the Politics of Public Health for Development," *Population and Development Review* 23, 4 (1997): 693-728.

(L18/Nov 9) *Public health (3): housing reform*

FILM ESSAY DUE

Readings:

- Elizabeth Blackmar, "Accountability for Public Health: Regulating the Housing Market in Nineteenth-Century New York City," in David Rosner ed., *Hives of Sickness: Public Health and Epidemics in New York City* (New Brunswick: Rutgers UP, 1995): 42-64.
- Citizens' Association of New York. Council of Hygiene and Public Health, *Report of the Council of Hygiene and Public Health of the Citizens' Association of New York*



*upon the sanitary condition of the city* (New York, 1866): table of contents, 43-65, 73-83, 116-125.

- Robert W. De Forest, and Lawrence Veiller. *The Tenement House Problem* (New York: The Macmillan Co., 1903): xiii-xxxi.

Recommended films:

Jacob Riis; Triangle Factory

(TBA) TA—Discussion session: *Public health (lectures 16-18)*

(L19/Nov 14) *Mastering the city: maps, directories, censuses, social surveys*

Readings:

- Richard Dennis, *Cities in Modernity: Representations and Productions of Metropolitan Space, 1840-1930* (New York: Cambridge UP, 2008): 52-79.
- Antoine Picon, "Nineteenth-Century Urban Cartography and the Scientific Ideal: The Case of Paris," *Osiris, 2nd Series* 18 (2003): 135-149.

Recommended reading:

Christian Topalov, "The City as Terra Incognita: Charles Booth's Poverty Survey and the People of London, 1886-1891" *Planning Perspectives* 8, 4 (1993): 395-425.

(L20/Nov 16) *Amenities of urban life: assessment of 19<sup>th</sup>-century city governance*

Readings:

- Jon C. Teaford, *The Unheralded Triumph. City Government in America, 1870-1900* (Baltimore: Johns Hopkins UP, 1984): 1-11, 215-282.
- Hohenberg and Lees: 290-330.

Recommended reading:

Chudacoff: 132-174.

Recommended films:

Walter Ruttmann: "Berlin: Symphony of a Metropolis" (1927); Motion Picture

(TBA) TA—Discussion session: *Managing the city (lectures 19-20)*

(L21/Nov 21) *Cities reshaped (1): European planning models*

Readings:

- Thomas Hall, *Planning Europe's Capital Cities: Aspects of Nineteenth-century Urban Development* (London; New York: E & FN Spon, 2010): 263-270, 284-343
- Donald J. Olsen, *The City as a Work of Art: London, Paris, Vienna* (New Haven: Yale UP, 1986): 35-81.

Recommended reading:

David P. Jordan, "Haussmann and Haussmannisation: The Legacy for Paris," *French Historical Studies* 27, 1 (2004), 87-113.

(L22/Nov 28) *Cities reshaped (2): European planning models*

Readings:

- Gábor Gyáni, "Uses and Misuses of Public Space in Budapest: 1873-1910," in Thomas Bender and Carl E. Schorske eds., *Budapest and New York: Studies in Metropolitan Transformation, 1870-1930* (New York: Russell Sage Foundation, 1994): 85-104.

- Eduardo Aibar and Wiebe E. Bijker, "Constructing a City: The Cerdà Plan for the Extension of Barcelona," *Science, Technology, & Human Values* 22, 1 (1997), 3-30.

Recommended reading:

Hall: 126-143.

(L23/Nov 30) *Cities reshaped (3): Atlantic crossings*

Readings:

- Jeffrey D. Needell, "Rio de Janeiro and Buenos Aires: Public Space and Public Consciousness in Fin-de-Siecle Latin America," *Comparative Studies in Society and History* 37, 3 (1995): 519-540.
- John Lear, "Mexico City: Space and Class in the Porfirian Capital (1884-1910)," *Journal of Urban History* 22, 4 (1996): 454-492.

Recommended reading:

Arturo Almandoz, *Planning Latin America's Capital Cities 1850-1950* (Routledge, 2002): 13-44.

(L24/Dec 5) *Cities reshaped (4): Atlantic crossings*

Readings:

- Carl Smith ed. "Interpretive Digital Essay: The Plan of Chicago." In Janice L. Reiff, Ann Durkin Keating, and James R. Grossman eds., *Encyclopedia of Chicago*. Required sections: "Antecedents and Inspirations;" "The City the Planners Saw;" "Creating the Plan;" "Reading the Plan;" "Implementation." [Rest: recommended] Available at: <http://www.encyclopedia.chicagohistory.org/pages/10537.html>
- Elizabeth Blackmar and Roy Rosenzweig, "The Park and the People: Central Park and Its Publics," in Thomas Bender and Carl E. Schorske eds., *Budapest and New York: Studies in Metropolitan Transformation, 1870-1930* (New York: Russell Sage Foundation, 1994): 105-134.

Recommended reading:

Robert Fishman, *Bourgeois Utopias: The Rise and Fall of Suburbia* (New York: Basic Books, 1987): 103-154.

(TBA) *TA—Discussion session: Cities reshaped (lectures 21-24)*

(L25/Dec 7) *Review for final exam*