

History 808/Sociology 980: "The Global City"
Spring 2005
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This graduate seminar will explore the modern and postmodern city from a variety of disciplinary perspectives, including history, sociology and geography. We will explore cities such as Berlin, Paris, Shanghai, Buenos Aires, Mexico City, Chicago, San Francisco, Las Vegas, Havana, and Los Angeles through different themes including urban spectacle, tourism, consumerism, immigration, colonialism, public space, cinematic representations, and social control. We will also examine theories of urban life and the use of the comparative method.

Seminar Goals

1. To have students approach the central question of "What is the place of the City in History?" from a number of disciplinary and theoretical perspectives.
2. To provide students with the tools and the (partial) knowledge to teach an introductory undergraduate course on world history or urban studies.
3. To allow students to explore the theory and practice of the comparative method of analysis.
4. To have students define the boundaries of their own graduate disciplines by answering the questions, "What is the relationship between history and sociology?" "What does it mean to think like a historian?" and "How is history relevant?"
5. To provide students with the tools and practice to write and analyze historical narratives.
6. To provide students with access to a wide body of literature on the theme of urban history that crosses national and continental lines, and ranges across many decades.

Taken together, my hope is that the realization of these goals will lead to more ambitious and conceptually intriguing theses and dissertation projects.

Texts:

- James Donald, **Imagining the Modern City** (Minnesota, 1999) 0-8166-3555-2
Peter Fritzsche, **Reading Berlin 1900** (Harvard, 1996) 0-674-74882-4
Marc Cooper, **The Last Honest Place in America: Paradise and Perdition in the New Las Vegas** (Nation Books, 2004) 1-56025-490-4
Laura Podalsky, **Specular City: Transforming Culture, Consumption and Space in Buenos Aires, 1955-1973** (Temple University Press, 2004) 1-56639-948-3

Rosalie Schwartz, **Pleasure Island: Tourism and Temptation in Cuba**

(University of Nebraska Press, 1997) 0803292651

Janet MacGaffey and Rémy Bazenguissa-Ganga, **Congo-Paris: Transnational**

Traders on the Margins of the Law (Indiana University Press, 2000) 0-85255-260-2

Anthony Lee, **Picturing Chinatown** (University of California Press, 2001) 0-520-

22592-9 (you should consider obtaining a used copy from Powells, Abe Books or other outlet)

Unit Readings and Written Assignments

Introduction

January 20 – Comparative and Interdisciplinary Perspectives on the City; What is a Global City?

Videos: “Bread and Roses”

Recommended Reading: Saskia Sassen, **Globalization and Its**

Discontents (The New Press, 1998), xix-xxxvi or Saskia Sassen, “A Global City” in Charles Madigan, **Global Chicago** (University of Illinois, 2004), 14-34.

Reading and Touring the Modern and Postmodern Cities

Writing Assignment, due February 10

Travel Account Essay. Select a travel account of one or two 19th or early 20th century cities (see attached list). Write a 5-page essay that outlines the perspective of the author, the types of activities that the account describes, and reveals the physical, social and cultural landscape of the city or cities. Explore the mental universe of the author – what are his/her attitudes toward the city’s residents? What are the social and cultural conflicts highlighted in the narrative? What is the “strangeness factor” for both the author and the present-day reader?

January 27--Read: James Donald, **Imagining the Modern City**, pages 1-61, 121-145; Peter Fritzsche, **Reading Berlin 1900**, 1-86.

Video: “Berlin, Symphony of a Great City”

February 3--Read: Marc Cooper, **The Last Honest Place in America: Paradise and Perdition in the New Las Vegas** 1-38, 67-114, 133-147, 197-207;

Ricardo Salvatore, “North American Travel Narratives and the Ordering/Othering of South America (c. 1810-1860)” **Journal of Historical Sociology**, March 1996, 85-110; Sam Wineburg, “Historical Thinking and Other Unnatural Acts” in **Historical Thinking**, 3-27.

<http://www.vegasfreedom.com/do/index.jsp>
<http://www.luxor.com/index-flash.php3>

February 10 – Presentations of Travel Account Essays
 Video: “South American Journey”

The Spectacle City and Public Space

Writing Assignment, due March 3.

Journal Article Review Essay. Select four articles from scholarly journals on the themes of urban spectacle, public space, cityscapes and consumer culture in the city and write a 6-page essay that compares the articles. Useful journals include the **Journal of Urban History**, **International Journal of Urban and Regional Research**, **Journal of Historical Sociology**, **Urban History** and **Comparative Studies in Society and History**. Briefly summarize the authors’ main arguments, describe their methodology and sources and assess the contributions that they make to understanding the urban processes under review. Which author makes the most compelling case and why? What directions should future research follow on this topic?

February 17: Read – Laura Podalsky, **Specular City: Transforming Culture, Consumption and Space in Buenos Aires, 1955-1973**, 1-47, 118-147; Anne Rubenstein, “Raised Voices in the Cine Montecarlo: Sex Education, Mass Media, and Oppositional Politics in Mexico,” **Journal of Family History**, 23:3, July 1998, 312-323.
 Video: “Nine Queens”

February 24: Read – Saskia Sassen and Frank Roost, “The City: Strategic Site for the Global Entertainment Industry,” in Dennis Judd and Susan Fainstein, **The Tourist City** (Yale, 1999), 143-154; Vanessa Schwartz, “Introduction” and “Public Visits to the Morgue” in **Spectacular Realities: Early Mass Culture in Fin-de-Siecle Paris**, 1-12, 45-88; Sharon Zukin, “From Woolworth’s to Wal-Mart” in **Point of Purchase: How Shopping Changed American Culture** (Routledge, 2004), 63-88; Marta E. Savigliano, “Whiny Ruffians and Rebellious Broads: Tango as a Spectacle of Eroticized Social Tension,” **Theatre Journal**, 47, 1995, 83-104.

March 3: Presentation of journal article review essays.

Streetlife in the Global City

Writing Assignment, due March 31 (just after Spring Break)

Voices of the Street. Write a 5-page paper that details the daily life of a particular person or a type of urban resident, in one city, no later than

1960. Subjects might include a streetcar conductor, street vendor, policeman, marketwoman, or public utility manager. Consult primary documents such as newspapers, government commission reports, memoirs, photographs, feature or documentary films, fiction, etc. in addition to any secondary interpretive materials. What does revealing the contours of daily life contribute to our understanding of the city? How does the relationship between ordinary people and urban public space impact the exercise of democracy?

March 10: Read – Margaret Crawford, “Blurring the Boundaries: Public Space and Private Life,” in John Chase et al, **Everyday Urbanism** (Monacelli Press, 1999), 22-35; Andrew Brown-May, “A Charitable Indulgence: Street Stalls and the Transformation of Public Space in Melbourne, c. 1850-1920,” **Urban History**, 23: 1, May 1996, 48-71; Beatriz Sarlo, “Modernity and Cultural Mixture: The Case of Buenos Aires” in John King, Ana Lopez and Manuel Alvarado, **Mediating Two Worlds** (BFI, 1993) 164-174.
Video: “In the Street”

March 17: Read – Ros Posel, “*Amahashi*: Durban’s Rickshaw Pullers” in Paul Maylam and Ian Edwards, **The People’s City: African Life in Twentieth-Century Durban** (University of Natal Press, 1996), 202-221; Susie S. Porter, “‘And That It is Custom Makes It Law’: Class Conflict and Gender Ideology in the Public Sphere, Mexico City, 1880-1910,” **Social Science History**, 24:1, Spring 2000, 111-148 (direct access through library website); David William Foster, “Tango and Urban Sexual Regulation” in **Buenos Aires: Perspectives on the City and Cultural Production** (University Presses of Florida, 1996), 53-82.
Video: “Zoot Suit Riots” or “La Reina del Barrio”

March 24: Spring Break

Disciplines and Methods in Urban Studies

Writing Assignment due April 14.

Identify an **urban process** or a **problem** shared by a U.S. city and a non-U.S. city at some point in the past. Read six to eight sources on the topic (these could range from scholarly articles and books to government reports, participant accounts, or photographs). Approach the issue first as a historian and then as a sociologist. Map out the parallels and differences in theory and methods employed by these two disciplines. Then analyze the sources and ascertain the types of likely conclusions based upon these. The paper should be no longer than 6 pages.

March 31: Read--Peter Baldwin, "Comparing and Generalizing: Why All History is Comparative, Yet No History is Sociology" in Deborah N. Cohen and Maura O'Connor, **Comparison and History** (Routledge, 2004), 1-22; Andrew Abbott, "History and Sociology: The Lost Synthesis" in Eric Monkkonen, editor, **Engaging the Past: The Uses of History Across the Social Sciences** (Duke, 1994), 76-112; Jeffrey Wasserstrom, "Postmodern L.A. and Old Shanghai," **Contention**, 5:3, Spring 1996, 70-90.
Video: Bus 174

April 7: Read—Joachim Schlor, "Contradictory Reports from Night in the Big City" and "A Beginning: Big City Nights around 1840" in **Nights in the Big City: Paris, Berlin, London 1840-1930** (Reaktion Books, 1998) 9-56; Paul Chevigny, **Edge of the Knife: Police Violence in the Americas** (The New Press, 1995) 5-58, 181-202 and 249-273.

The Visual City

Writing Assignment due April 28.

Street Photography. Write a 5-6 page paper that analyzes between six and ten photographs or postcards (published before 1950) which depict the streets of two particular cities. In general, how do these photographs represent the cities? What do these documents reveal about the relationship between social class and urban space? How do the two locales compare in terms of urban landscape and the life of the street? What other themes can you decipher within their frames? What is left out of the frame?

April 14: Read-- Graham Clarke, **The Photograph** (Oxford, 1997), 75-100; Howard Woody, "International Postcards: Their History, Production and Distribution (Circa 1895 to 1915)" in C.M Geary and V. Webb, **Delivering Views: Distant Cultures in Early Postcards** (Smithsonian, 1998) 13-45. Catherine Preston and Anton Rosenthal, "Correo Mítico: The Construction of a Civic Image in the Postcards of Montevideo, Uruguay, 1900-1930," **Studies in Latin American Popular Culture**, volume 15, 1996, 231-259

April 21: Read-- Anthony Lee, **Picturing Chinatown**, 1-58, 101-147; Helen Liggett, "Streets" in **Urban Encounters** (University of Minnesota, 2003), 117-158; Pedro Mayer, "Street Photography" (handout)

Flows in the Postmodern City: Tourists, Traders and Immigrants

Writing Assignment: **Teaching Unit**, due May 16.

You have been invited to teach an undergraduate course on world history or an introduction to urban studies. Prepare a unit of this class that covers an important topic. The unit should comprise two or three weeks of course time. Prepare the following: 1) A session-by-session general outline of the unit that lays out the topics for lecture and discussion, including assigned readings, visual materials and any other data that will be shared, and places the unit in the context of the entire semester; 2) a detailed 50-minute lecture on one part of the unit (no more than 5 double-spaced pages).

April 28: Reading – Kathleen M. Adams, “Global Cities, Terror and Tourism: The Ambivalent Allure of the Urban Jungle” in Ryan Bishop et al, **Postcolonial Urbanism: Southeast Asian Cities and Global Processes**, 37-59; Susan Fainstein and David Gladstone, “Evaluating Urban Tourism” in D. Judd and S. Fainstein, eds, **The Tourist City**, 21-34; Rosalie Schwartz, **Pleasure Island: Tourism and Temptation in Cuba**, 39-146; Grant Wiggins and Jay McTighe, “What is a Matter of Understanding?” in **Understanding by Design**, 20-37.

Video: “100% Arabica”

May 5: Reading-- Janet MacGaffey and Rémy Bazenguissa-Ganga, **Congo-Paris**, 1-106; Victor Valle and Rodolfo Torres, “Mexican Cuisine: Food as Culture” in **Latino Metropolis** (University of Minnesota, 2000) 67-99.

Video: “Taxi Dreams”

May 12: Presentations of Teaching Unit

Grading:

Travel Account Essay	10 percent
Journal Article Review	15 percent
Voices of the Street Essay	15 percent
Comparative Urban Issue Essay	15 percent
Street Photography Essay	15 percent
Teaching Unit	15 percent
Class Participation	15 percent

Each student is expected to come prepared to each class session. This requires completing the assigned readings and offering synopses of their main arguments and contributions, as well as critiques of their approaches.

Travel Account Essay Selection List

Read two or more chapters from one of the following books about one or two major cities.

Robert J. Casey, **Baghdad and Points East** (New York: J.H. Sears and Co., 1928)

E. Alexander Powell, **By Camel and Car to the Peacock Throne** (New York: Century Co., 1923) on Tehran, Baghdad

E. Alexander Powell, **In Barbary** (New York: The Century Company, 1926) on Algiers, Tunis, Fez, Marrakesh

Wyndam Lewis, **Filibusterers in Barbary** (London: Grayson and Grayson, 1932) on Casablanca

Peter Mayne, **The Alleys of Marrakesh** (London: John Murray Publishers, 1953)

Rom Landau, **Invitation to Morocco** (London: Faber and Faber, 1950) on Fez, Tangier, Rabat, Marrakesh

Douglas Sladen, **Oriental Cairo** (London: Hurst and Blackett, 1911)

Evelyn Waugh, **Waugh in Abyssinia** (London: Longmans, Green and Co., 1936) on Addis Ababa

Negley Farson, **Behind God's Back** (Rahway, NJ: Quinn and Boden, 1941) on Accra, Dar Es Salaam, Durban, Nairobi

Walter B. Harris, **East for Pleasure** (London: Edward Arnold, 1929) on Bangkok, Phnom Penh

Christopher Rand, **Hongkong: The Island Between** (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1952)

G.E. Miller, **Shanghai, The Paradise of Adventurers** (New York: Orsay, 1937)

Reginald J. Farrer, **The Garden of Asia: Impressions from Japan** (London: Methuen, 1904) on Tokyo

Harry Hervey, **King Cobra: An Autobiography of Travel in French Indo-China** (New York: Cosmopolitan, 1929)

Robert Forrest Wilson, **Paris on Parade** (Indianapolis: Bobbs-Merrill, 1924)

Mortimer and Dorothy Menpes, **Paris** (London: Adam and Charles Black, 1909)

John Hay, **Castilian Days** (Boston: Houghton Mifflin, 1907) on Madrid

Winifred Gordon, **A Woman in the Balkans** (London: Thomas Nelson and Sons, 1918) on Bucharest

Henry Albert Phillips, **Meet the Germans** (Philadelphia: J.B. Lippincott, 1929) on Berlin and Munich

Joseph Hergesheimer, **Berlin** (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1932) on Munich, Vienna, Berlin

Joseph Hergesheimer, **San Cristóbal de la Habana** (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1927)

Hugh Gibson, **Rio** (Garden City, NY: Doubleday, Doran and Co., 1937)

- Frank G. Carpenter, **The Tail of the Hemisphere: Chile and Argentina** (Garden City: Doubleday, Page and Co., 1923) on Santiago, Buenos Aires
- Christopher Isherwood, **The Condor and the Cows** (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 2003 reprint of 1948 edition) on Lima, Buenos Aires, Bogotá
- Arthur Ruhl, **The Other Americans: The Cities, Countries and People of South America** (New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1908) on Caracas, Buenos Aires, Santiago, Rio
- A. Hyatt Verrill, **Cuba of Today** (New York: Dodd, Mead and Co., 1931) on Havana
- Virginia Paxton, **Penthouse in Bogotá** (New York: Reynal and Hitchcock, 1943)
- William Eleroy Curtis, **The Capitals of Spanish America** (Harper and Brothers, 1888)
- Anna Sears, **Two on a Tour in South America** (New York and London: D. Appleton and Co., 1913) on Lima, Kingston, Valparaíso, Santiago, Buenos Aires, Montevideo
- Blair Niles, **Casual Wanderings in Ecuador** (New York: Century Co., 1923) on Guayaquil, Riobamba, Quito
- Thomas Rees, **Spain's Lost Jewels: Cuba and Mexico** (Springfield: Illinois State Register, 1906) on Havana, Mexico City
- W. H. Koebel, **Uruguay** (London: T. Fisher Unwin, Ltd., 1911) on Montevideo
- Basil Woon, **When It's Cocktail Time in Cuba** (New York: Horace Liveright, 1928) on Havana
- Victor Wolfgang von Hagen, **Ecuador the Unknown** (London: Jarrolds, 1939) on Guayaquil and Quito
- Charlotte Cameron, **A Woman's Winter in South America** (London: Stanley, Paul and Co., 1911) on Bahia, Buenos Aires, Montevideo, Lima
- Hudson Strode, **Now in Mexico** (New York: Harcourt, Brace and Co., 1941) Mexico City
- Joseph Henry Jackson, **Mexican Interlude** (New York: Macmillan Co., 1936) Mexico City
- Harry L. Foster, **A Tropical Tramp with the Tourists** (New York: Dodd, Mead and Co., 1925) on Havana, Cartagena, Lima, Valparaiso, Buenos Aires, Caracas, Rio de Janeiro.
- E.H. Blichfeldt, **A Mexican Journey** (New York: The Chautauqua Press, 1919) on Vera Cruz, Oaxaca City, Mexico City
- Richard Harding Davis, **Three Gringos in Venezuela and Central America** (New York: Harper and Brothers, 1896) on Caracas
- Rev. Charles Warren Currier, **Lands of the Southern Cross: A Visit to South America** (Washington D.C.: Spanish-American Publication Society, 1911) on Buenos Aires, Lima, Santiago