Class Schedule - Spring 2018

History

HIST 381  **Urban History**  credit: 3 hours.

Examines the history of urban centers, paying special attention to the relationship between the city and its surrounding territory, the impact of migration and immigration, the delineation of space and the transformation of the built environment, and the role of a city's inhabitants in creating social networks, political structures, and cultural institutions. May be repeated in separate terms to a maximum of 6 hours if topics vary.

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<td>60151</td>
<td>Lecture-Discussion</td>
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<td>02:00 PM - 03:20 PM</td>
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<td>307 - Gregory Hall</td>
<td>Steinberg, M</td>
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Title: Urban History

Topic: We will explore in this course the experience and meanings of modern urban life in cities across the world, from the early 1800s to the present: Chicago, New York, London, Paris, Berlin, St. Petersburg, and a black township near Johannesburg. We will access this history through scholarly writings, memoirs, interviews, primary texts, photographs, film, literature, and art. Research and writing projects, however, may take you anywhere in the world. Cities have long been viewed as symbols of what humans are, of what we do and make. No wonder so many poets, painters, novelists, historians, sociologists, philosophers, and others have dwelled on “the city.” In this course, we immerse ourselves in this history to think together about how these places have been experienced and interpreted, especially how everyday city life has been viewed as evidence for thinking about such big questions as modernity, sex, violence, crime, gender, class, race, and ethnicity. Course meetings will be seminar-style discussions of readings and visual images. Writing will include reading-response papers, an essay on a city novel or non-fiction book of your choice, and a final paper exploring based on a close reading of one month of any city newspaper.