Global Urban History (Preliminary Syllabus)
URPL 6800/ Hist 6931
University of Colorado, Denver

Spring 2017 Professor Christopher Agee
Wednesday 5:30-8:20 pm Office location: SC 3116
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Overview
This course will survey major themes in the history of cities during the modern and postmodern periods. The class will begin by noting how cities confronted residents with new social relations, new personal experiences, and new physical spaces. Some urban residents, we will see, reacted to these urban changes by associating cities with disorder and answered the apparent chaos with new modes of control. Other urban residents used dense, anonymous cities to challenge authority and create new forms of expression and community. The class's global perspective will allow the class to discuss whether there have been commonalities in the urban experience and whether specific circumstances in specific cities make it impossible to identify a "typical city."

Required Materials
Films:
• Ridley Scott, dir., Blade Runner (1982)
• Billy Wilder, dir., Double Indemnity (1944)
• Wong Kar-Wai, dir. Chungking Express (1994)

Books:
• Christopher Agee, The Streets of San Francisco: Policing and the Creation of a Cosmopolitan Liberal Politics (University of Chicago, 2014)
• Nezar AlSayad, Cairo: Histories of a City (Belknap, 2013)
• Chad Heap, Slumming: Sexual and Racial Encounters in American Nightlife, 1885-1940 (University of Chicago, 2010)
• Suleiman Osman, Invention of Brownstone Brooklyn: Gentrification and the Search for Authenticity in Postwar New York, (Oxford University, 2012)
• Gyan Prakash, Mumbai Fables: A History of An Enchanted City (Princeton University, 2012)
• Vanessa Schwartz, Spectacular Realities: Early Mass Culture in Fin-de-Siecle Paris (University of California, 1999)
• Carl Smith, Urban Disorder and the Shape of Belief: The Great Chicago Fire, the Haymarket Bomb, and the Model Town of Pullman, second edition (University of Chicago, 1996)
• Coll Thrush, Native Seattle: Histories from the Crossing-Over Place (University of Washington, 2008)
• Camilo Trumper, Ephemeral Histories: Public Art, Politics, and the Struggle for the Streets in Chile (University of California, 2016)

Articles:
• See "Weekly Topics and Assignments" section for assigned articles.
Details on Assignments and Exams
Monograph Analysis Essays #1 and #2:
Students will write a five-page paper analyzing a historical argument made in one of our assigned monographs. A complete description of this assignment will be handed out separately.

Historiographical Essay:
Students will follow a theme of their choosing through 3-4 of the assigned readings (at least two of those assigned readings must be books). A complete description of this assignment will be handed out separately.

Book Review Report:
Each student will deliver one book review report. The book review is ungraded and is considered part of your overall in-class participation.

Class Participation:
• Attendance on discussion days (as marked in the syllabus or announced in lecture) is mandatory.
• Class participation includes attendance, active participation in class discussions, and performance in in-class exercises.
• You should come prepared to class, having done the readings and taken notes on the material.
• Excused absences require documentation (e.g. a doctor’s note if you are ill). If you are late to class and/or leave early two times on class discussion days, you will have accrued one unexcused absence.
• Arriving to class late or leaving early without an excuse on more than one regular lecture days, may also negatively affect your class participation grade.
• I will deduct 4 percentage points off of your final grade for each unexcused absence. Excused absences require documentation (e.g. a doctor’s note if you are ill). If you are late to class and/or leave early two times, you will have accrued one unexcused absence.

Grades:
• This course is graded on an absolute scale (i.e., not a curve).
• Essay grades will be based upon both grammar and style and the strength of the essay’s argument.

Grading
Monograph Analysis Essay #1: 15%
Monograph Analysis Essay #2: 20%
Historiographical Essay: 15%
Reading Responses: 15%
In-Class Participation: 35%
You must complete all exams and essays to pass this class.
**Weekly Topics and Assignments**
All lectures and reading assignments are subject to change. I will notify you of changes in class. All reading assignments are to be completed by the discussion of the week they are assigned (i.e., reading assignments assigned under week two will be discussed during week two).

**Weekly Topics and Assignments**

**Week One: Introduction**
No Reading

**Week Two: Order and Disorder in the Nineteenth Century**
Smith, *Urban Disorder and the Shape of Belief*, Chs. 1, 2, 3 (48-63 only), 4 (64-73 and 81-87 only), 5, 6 (120-25 only), 7-Epilogue.

**Week Three: Mass Culture at the Turn of the Century**
Schwartz, *Spectacular Realities*

**Week Four: The Built Environment and Tall Buildings**
All on Canvas:
Joanna Merwood-Salisbury, "Louis Sullivan's Democratic Architecture and the Labor Movement" from *Chicago 1890: The Skyscraper and the Modern City*
David Nye, "Bridges and Skyscrapers: The Geometrical Sublime" from *The American Technological Sublime*
Max Page, "The Provisional City" and "Fifth Avenue's 'Restless Renewals'" from *The Creative Destruction of Manhattan*
Carol Willis, "Form Follows Finance: The Empire State Building" from *Form Follows Finance: Skyscrapers and Skylines in New York and Chicago*
Oliver Zunz, "Inside the Skyscraper" from *Making America Corporate*

**Week Five: Race and Sex in the Early Twentieth Century**
Heap, *Slumming*, Introduction, Part II

**Week Six: Indigenous Peoples and Identity**
Thrush, *Native Seattle*

**Week Seven: Politics and Art**
Trumper, *Ephemeral Cities*
**Monograph Essay #1 Due**

**Week Eight: Politics and Policing**
Agee, *Streets of San Francisco*

**Week Nine: Redevelopment, Preservation, and the Politics of Space**
All on Canvas:
Philip Ethington, "The Global Spaces of Los Angeles, 1920s-1930s" from The Spaces of the Modern City
Brian Ladd, "Introduction," "Old Walls," "Metropolis," "Nazi Berlin" from The Ghosts of Berlin: Confronting German History in the Urban Landscape
Frank Mort, "Morality, Majesty, and Murder in 1950s London: Metropolitan Culture and English Modernity" from The Spaces of the Modern City
Martin J. Murray, "The City in Fragments: Kaleidoscopic Johannesburg after Apartheid" from The Spaces of the Modern City

Spring Break

**Week Ten: Gentrification and Identity**
Osman, Invention of Brownstone Brooklyn

**Week Eleven: Tradition, Modernity, Post-Colonialism**
AlSayyad, Cairo

**Week Twelve: Studying The "Soft" City**
Prakash, Mumbai Fables, Ch. 1-5

**Week Thirteen: Modern Los Angeles**
Billy Wilder, dir., Double Indemnity (1944)
Barbara Mennel, "Modernity and the city film: Berlin" (on Canvas)
Edward Dimendberg, "Cinema and the Making of a Modern City" (on Canvas)
**Monograph Essay #2 Due**

**Week Fourteen: Postmodern Los Angeles**
Ridley Scott, dir., Blade Runner (1982)
Prakash, Mumbai Fables, Ch. 6-9
Nezar AlSayyad, Cinematic Urbanism, Excerpt (on Canvas)

**Week Fifteen: Postmodern Hong Kong**
Wong Kar-Wai, dir., Chungking Express (1994)
Jennifer Fay and Justus Nieland, Film Noir, Excerpt (on Canvas)
Sean Redmond, Studying Chungking Express, Excerpt (on Canvas)

**Historiographical Essay Due**