

Geography 506
Historical Geography of
European Urbanization

Syllabus, Fall Semester 2011

Professor Robert Ostergren
Office: 243 Science Hall; 262-2138
Hours: MW 3:45-4:30, or by appt.

PART I. THE MAKING OF URBAN EUROPE

Sept 6 - 13. Intro and The Classical City: Greek and Roman Foundations (800 BCE – 400 CE)

Read: **Sennett, R.** (1994). The obsessive image: place and time in Hadrian's Rome. Chapter 3 in *Flesh and Stone: the Body and the City in Western Civilization*, pp. 87-123.
Angelo, A. (2009). Excerpted passages on Roman *Insulae* from *A Day in the Life of Ancient Rome*, pp. 80-105.

Sept 20. The City Reborn: Medieval Towns and Cities (900-1500)

Read: **Medieval cities "rank and population" table.**
Koter, M & Kuleza, M. (1999). The plans of medieval Polish towns. *Urban Morphology*, 3(2), 63-78.
Girouard, M. (1985). "The Texture of Life," Chapter 4 in *Cities and People*, pp. 67-84.

Sept 27. The Early Modern City: Renaissance and Baroque Refinements (1500-1800)

Read: **Renaissance/Baroque "rank and population" table.**
Garrioch, D. (2003). Sounds of the city: the soundscape of early modern European towns. *Urban History*, 30(3), pp. 5-25.
Mumford, L. (1961). Court, Parade and Capital. Chapter 13 in *The City in History*, pp. 375-409.

Oct 4. Open date

Oct 11. *Modernity and Empire: The Industrial or Victorian City (1800-1914)*

Read: **Industrial era cities “rank and population” table.**

Wagenaar, M. (2000). Townscapes of Power. *GeoJournal* 51, pp. 3-13.

Rappaport, E.D. (1996). “The Halls of Temptation”: Gender, Politics, and the Construction of the Department Store in Late Victorian London. *The Journal of British Studies*, 35(1), pp. 58-83.

Submit journals for review

Oct 18. *Metropolis: Interwar urbanization (1919-1939)*

Read: **Interwar cities “rank and population” table.**

Harris, R. (1992). Brief excerpt from the novel *Fatherland*, pp. 24-30, available from Learn@UW.

Hagen, J., & Ostergren, R. (2006). Spectacle, architecture and place at the Nuremberg Party Rallies: projecting a Nazi vision of past, present and future. *Cultural Geographies* 13, pp. 157-181.

Oct 25. *Post-war urbanization: Western and Socialist Reconstruction and Development (1945-1990)*

Read: **Post-WWII cities “rank and population” table.**

Grava, S. (1993). The urban heritage of the Soviet Regime: The case of Riga, Latvia. *Journal of the American Planning Association* 59:1, pp. 9-30.

Maack, B. (29 July 2011). A vision in concrete: Photographer captures beauty in communist architecture, *Spiegel*.

Hand out FIRST EXAM (take home)

PART II. A TALE OF SIX CITIES

Nov 1. *The Three Romes – Classical City, Ecclesiastical City, National Capital*

Read: **Rome “map” and “background notes”.**

Karmon, D. (2005). Restoring the ancient water supply system in Renaissance Rome: The Pope, the civic administration and the Acqua Vergine. *The Waters of Rome*, 3, pp. 1-13.

Atkinson, D., & Cosgrove, D. (1998). Urban rhetoric and embodied identities: city, nation and empire at the Vittorio Emanuele II Monument in Rome, 1870-1945. *Annals of the AAG*, 88:1, pp. 28-49.

Nov 8. London: Commercial City, Imperial Capital, Green Metropolis

Read: **London “map” and “background notes”**.

Keene, D. (2001). Issues of water in medieval London to c. 1300. *Urban History* 28(2), pp. 161-179.

Lawrence, H.W. (1993). The greening of the squares in London: Transformation of urban landscapes and ideals. *Annals of the Association of American Geographers* 83(1), pp. 90-118.

FIRST EXAM due in class

Nov 15. Paris: Medieval Warren to City of Light

Read: **Paris “map” and “background notes”**.

Hall, P. (1998). The city of perpetual works. Chapter 24 in *Cities in Civilization*, pp. 706-745.

Elzas, S. (11 April 2011). The man who saved Paris from sinking. *RFI*

Nov 22. Berlin: “Ghosts of the Past” – Sandpit of the Holy Roman Empire, Imperial Capital, Decadent Metropolis, Capital of the Third Reich, Divided City

Read: **Berlin “map” and “background notes”**.

Large, D.C. (2000). Chapter 1 – ‘Berlin under Bismarck’ in *Berlin*, pp. 1-21.

Schlör, J. (2006). ‘It has to go away, but at the same time it has to be kept’: the Berlin Wall and the making of an urban icon. *Urban History* 33(1), pp. 85-105.

Nov 29. Moscow: Third Rome, Imperial Capital, Socialist Metropolis

Read: **Moscow “map” and “background notes”**.

Sidarov, D. (2000). National monumentalization and the politics of scale: The resurrections of the Cathedral of Christ the Saviour. *Annals of the Association of American Geographers* 90:3, pp. 548-572.

Gritsai, O., & Van der Wusten, H. (2000). Moscow and St. Petersburg, a sequence of capitals, a tale of two cities. *Geojournal* 51, pp. 33-45.

Dec 6. Istanbul (not Constantinople)

Read: Istanbul “map” and “background notes”.

Girouard, M. (1985). “The Revival of the West,” Chapter 1 in *Cities and People*, pp. 3-14.

Journals due (Dec 6)

Dec 13. SECOND EXAM

Course Requirements

Readings: 1) **Selected articles and book chapters** available on-line at the course website on Learn@UW (about two per week). These readings are intended as thought or discussion pieces. All of the readings should receive comment in your journals (see evaluation #2 below). As we go along, I will alert you as to specifically how we will use each of the readings in class, and by when you should have read them.

2) Downloadable **city “rank and population” tables** for the first half of the course; and **city “maps” and “background notes”** for the second half of the course. These are available at the course website on Learn@UW, and should be studied before the relevant class meetings. Please bring copies to class on designated days.

PowerPoints: PowerPoints shown in class will be made available in .pdf format as a study aid prior to each class session (usually on the Monday before class). They may be found at the course website on Learn@UW. Looking over the PowerPoints before coming to class (or even printing them off to take notes on, if you wish) is a useful thing to do. Much of our in-class discussion surrounds these PowerPoint slide presentations. They also come in handy at exam time.

Evaluation: 1) Two exams; the first one a take-home due on Nov 8 (handed out in class two weeks prior) and the second an in-class exam on Dec 13. The exams are non-cumulative, open notes and book, and each worth one-third of your grade. They will require you to write essays, and possibly respond to short answer questions.

2) You must complete a journal recording your thoughts about and reactions to weekly classroom lectures, discussions, and assigned readings. Be sure to include the readings in your journal entries!!! Be as analytical as possible: pose questions, make comparisons and observations, and draw conclusions. I have some examples of journals written for previous offerings of the course should you care to see some. Your journal may be submitted to me for feedback after 5 weeks of class (Oct 11); the final submission of your journal (worth one-third of your grade) is due on Dec 6.

Absences: We only meet once a week, so class attendance is important and expected. Although you may have access to readings and PowerPoints outside of class, exam questions are heavily weighted toward in-class discussions and interpretations of these materials. If you are ill or for some other reason must miss an exam, or assignment due date, please let me know as soon as possible (by e-mail is fine) so that other arrangements can be made.

Grads and Honors Students: Please see me about additional requirements.