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Fall 2019

HIST 377-003: Cities in History

Sam Hege

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Cities in History

NJIT: Fall 2019

Course Number: History 377-001

Time: Monday and Wednesday 1:00-2:20

Location: Central King Building 222

Instructor: Sam Hege (sth24@njit.edu)

Office Hours: Mondays and Wednesdays 10:30-12:00 (or by appointment),

Office Location: Cullimore Room 321

Course Description:

The realities of urban space increasingly define the human experience. More than half of the world's population live in cities, and demographic studies suggest that those numbers will only continue to rise. As cities continue to shape our daily lives, historians have begun to look closer at the causes and consequences of this movement for social, economic, and environmental systems. In this class, we will study different kinds of cities – ports, cowtowns, colonial cities and tourist destinations – and in doing so, we will interrogate how urban systems have changed over time. Topics that we will cover include: colonialism and slavery, migration, environmental justice, urban renewal, toxicity, and sanitation. Through these thematic frameworks, we will ask questions such as: in what ways have cities become regulated, and how have those processes changed over time? What are the unseen labors, infrastructures, and resources required to make city life possible, and how can historians begin to access those stories? How have individuals and groups imagined more just and sustainable cities? Why is New York City so popular?

This course is designed to provide you with an introduction to Urban History. While the course will be organized thematically, it will also broadly follow a chronological order – beginning in the period of colonialism and slavery and ending with current issues such as sustainability and gentrification. Throughout the course, we will draw on examples from the Global North and the Global South. In doing so, you will be asked to synthesize large amounts of material and develop analyses through comparative frameworks. While using transnational case studies means that there will not be neat and linear narratives to draw from, this approach will push you to think critically about the history of urbanization through a more diverse set of perspectives and experiences.

Class meetings will largely be built around lectures and group analyses of primary documents. There will be, however, specific days devoted to discussion. These are identified on the syllabus and will require additional readings.

Course Objectives:

- Provide an introduction to the topic of Urban History through thematic topics.
- Develop knowledge of transnational and global historical concepts and methodologies.
- Engage with individual case studies and connect multiple narratives through synthetic and comparative analyses.
- Analyze and contextualize primary documents through class discussions.

Requirements:

Student Engagement (20%) – You will be expected to be on time for class, respectful, and engaged. In addition, you will be asked to email the instructor *three questions* drawn from the assigned reading by 11:00 a.m. on class discussion days. These questions will be counted towards your grade and will be used to initiate our discussions.

Mid-Term and Final (40%) – There will be two in-class exams. They will not be cumulative. Each exam will consist of a series of short answer/identifications and a longer essay. The short answers will be terms drawn from the readings and lectures.

Two Papers (5 Pages Each) (40%) – You will be asked to write two papers in this course. More explicit details of these assignments will be provided as the deadlines approach. Please note that the first paper will be based on *Segregation* by Carl Nightengale. Be sure to keep up with the assigned reading, in order to be prepared to write this paper.

Required Texts:

Nightengale, Carl, *Segregation: A Global History of Divided Cities*. (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2012).

Pellow, David, *Garbage Wars: The Struggle for Environmental Justice in Chicago*. (Cambridge: MIT Press, 2002).

Academic Integrity:

“Academic Integrity is the cornerstone of higher education and is central to the ideals of this course and the university. Cheating is strictly prohibited and devalues the degree that you are working on. As a member of the NJIT community, it is your responsibility to protect your educational investment by knowing and following the academic code of integrity policy that is found at: <http://www5.njit.edu/policies/sites/policies/files/academic-integrity-code.pdf>.

Please note that it is my professional obligation and responsibility to report any academic misconduct to the Dean of Students Office. Any student found in violation of the code by cheating, plagiarizing or using any online software inappropriately will result in disciplinary action. This may include a failing grade of F, and/or suspension or dismissal from the university. If you have any questions about the code of Academic Integrity, please contact the Dean of Students Office at dos@njit.edu”

Weekly Readings and Assignments:

Week One

September 4: Class Introduction

Week Two, Reading: *Segregation* (1-46; Introduction and Part One)

September 9th: Case Study or Synthesis: How Does One Write a Global Urban History?

September 11th {**1st Class Discussion**}: Indigenous Cities and Memory

Discussion Reading: Thrush, Coll, "City of the Changers: Indigenous People and the Transformation of Seattle's Watersheds," *Pacific Historical Review*, Volume 75, No. 1 (February 2006), pp. 89-117

Week Three, Reading: *Segregation* (pages 47-112; Part Two)

September 16th: Potosi: A Mining Boomtown in the Heart of a Global Economy

September 18th: Port Cities and the Transatlantic Slave Trade: Ouidah and Salvador

Week Four, Reading: *Segregation* (pages 134-158; 1st half of Part Three)

September 23rd {**2nd Class Discussion**}: Urban Slavery and Abolition

Discussion Reading: Dunbar, Erica Armstrong, *Never Caught: The Washingtons Relentless Pursuit of their Runaway Slave Ona Judge*. (New York: Simon and Schuster, 2017), Chapters 2-6 (pages 15-86)

September 25th: Animal's changing Place in American Cities: Cow Tunnels, Stockyards, and Regulations

Week Five, Reading: *Segregation* (pages 158-228; 2nd half of Part Three)

September 30th: City Walls: Colonial Technologies of Division and Exchange

October 2nd: "The Paris on the Nile": Hausmann, Eurocentrism, and the rise of Urban Planning

Week Six, Reading: *Segregation* (229-294; 1st half of Part Four)

October 7th: Managing Water: India's Waterways and Urban Development

October 9th {**3rd Class Discussion**}: Managing Disease

Discussion Reading: Nayan Shah, "Cleansing Motherhood: Hygiene and the Culture of Domesticity in San Francisco's Chinatown, 1875-1900" and Levine, Philippa, "Modernity, Medicine, and Colonialism: the Contagious Diseases Ordinances in Hong Kong and the Straits" in *Gender, Sexuality, and Colonial Modernities*, edited by Antoinette Burton, (New York: Routledge, 1999).

Week Seven, Reading: N/A

October 14th: "Black London": Afro-Caribbean Migration and the Perils of Colonial Citizenship

October 16th: **MIDTERM**

Week Eight, Reading: Segregation (295-382; 2nd Half of Part Four)

October 21st: Decolonial Movements: Struggles over City Space

October 23rd: Decolonial Movements Continued

Week Nine, Reading: Segregation (383-430; Part Five and Epilogue)

October 28th: The Great Migration: Finding Rural Life in Urban Space and Early Forms Quantification and Policing

October 30th {**4th Class Discussion**}: Power and Property

Discussion Reading: Eyal Weizman, *Hollow Land: Israel's Architecture of Occupation*. (New York: Verso, 2007), Chapter 1 (Jerusalem: Petrifying the Holy City), 25-57 or Chapter 7 (Urban Warfare: Walking through Walls), 185-221.

Week Ten, Reading: N/A

November 4th: The New York Fiscal Crisis: Robert Moses, Highways, and Planned Shrinkage

November 6th {**First Paper Due**}: Garbage Activism: Memphis Sanitation Strikes

Week Eleven, Reading: Garbage Wars (1-40)

November 11th: “White Flight” and Suburbanization in the Sunbelt: Industry or Community?

November 13th {**5th Class Discussion**}: Motherhood and Activism in the City

Discussion Reading: Auyero, Javier (1999). ‘This is a lot like the Bronx, isn’t it?’ Lived Experiences of Marginality in an Argentine Slum,” *International Journal of Urban and Regional Research* 23(1): 45-69.

Week Twelve, Reading: Garbage Wars (41-130)

November 18th: Neoliberalism, Gentrification, and the “Global City”

November 20th: Mexico City: origins of “Megaslums”

Week Thirteen, Reading: Garbage Wars (131-175)

November 25th: {**6th Class Discussion**}: Engineering Mumbai Water

Discussion Reading: Anand, Nikhil, “Leaky States: Water Audits, Ignorance, and the Politics of Infrastructure” *Public Culture*, Vol. 27, No. 2 (May 2015): 305-330 or Nikhil Anand. 2013. Municipal Disconnect: On Abject Water and its Urban Infrastructures. *Ethnography* 13(4): 487–509.

November 27th: No Class (Thanksgiving)

Week Fourteen, Reading: N/A

December 2nd: Environmental Justice Movement: From Warren County to Camden to Katrina to Flint (watch parts of Here’s to Flint)

December 4th: The Flint Water Crisis

Week Fifteen, Reading: <https://brickmag.com/the-terrible-beauty-of-the-slum/>

December 9th **{Second Paper Due}**: Urban Gardening as Activism (watch parts of The Garden)

December 11th: Review Material and Themes

Final Exam: TBD