

ANCIENT CITIES
ANT-4930 (Section 1B55); Fall 2012

Place/Time: Turlington 2333

Tuesday, Period 3 (9:35-10:25); Little (LIT) 101

Thursday, Periods 3-4 (9:35-11:30); Norman (NRN) 137

Instructor: Michael Heckenberger

Office: Turlington B360

Contact hours: M 2:00-4:00 pm; T 1:00-2:00 pm

Contact info: 2-2253; Website: www.clas.ufl.edu/users/mheck

I. Course Summary:

This is a survey course of urban civilizations across the globe, from the earliest roots and variations to modern times. It focuses on archaeological cases of pre-modern (AD 1500) urbanism around the world. It explores cities in all parts of the ancient world to elaborate specific instances of urban development and regional trajectories of change and also considers more recent developments during the Industrial Revolution and twentieth century, including questions of sustainability, social inequality, and globalization. The class will be of interests to students of anthropology and archaeology, history, urban studies, built environment, and cultural studies, as well as other social and ecological sciences.

II. Course Objectives:

- Consider key elements, biases, and historical influences that shape thought about the city through time and space
- Consider issues and problems from different disciplinary perspectives, including linkages between past and present
- Identify the social and cultural dimensions of similarity and difference between different trajectories of urbanism, including differences within cities and urban societies, including race or ethnicity, religion, gender, and class.

III. Course Description:

In 2006, for the first time in history, the population of people living in cities outnumbers that in rural areas. This course takes a critical look at the origin and development of urban societies and how they are portrayed and compared in Western scholarship, including contemporary questions of social inequality and human rights, planning and development and public policy. The transition to settled town life and agricultural food production and subsequent “urban revolution” in various parts of the world are critical processes in human history. Urban revolutions entered a new phase with industrial capitalism, beginning in the 18th century, which forever changed the face of global society and environment. Today, understanding urban societies is critically

linked to pressing global concerns regarding quality of life, including ecology and climate, and a host of social issues.

Ancient Cities is a survey course of major world traditions and periods of urbanism, from earliest examples to recent times. It uses case studies from most major world areas to reflect on general characteristics and development of urban civilizations, including built environment and form, social groups and relations, symbolic meaning and aesthetics, and historical ecology. The course addresses the diversity of cities through time and space, including their rise and normal functioning and their decline, conflict, and dysfunction, and what this tells us about what it means to be human or urban.

The course begins with discussion of the development of the Western ideas about evolution and the archaeological and historical past, as these were taking shape in the face of emerging industrial urbanism, capitalism, and globalization. It considers the development of scholarly thinking regarding the emergence and growth of urban civilization in the ancient world in the context of changing urban life through time and space. Following the general introduction to themes and ideas regarding pre-modern urbanism, the course explores different regions of the globe to explore urban civilization through time and space. We will consider the form, geo-politics, and ecological setting of these early civilizations, focusing on changes in society and nature.

The first areas to be discussed include the early non-Western traditions of urbanism in the Near East, including Mesopotamia, the “cradle of civilization,” in SW Asia and Egypt. The course then explores areas farther east, the Middle and Far East, including the Indus River (Pakistan), India and China, also among the oldest world traditions of urbanism, and then SE Asia. The course then explores examples from the Mediterranean, including ancient Greece and Rome, to consider the emergence of European urbanism and civilization, and then moves south to consider indigenous urbanism to the south in Sub-Saharan Africa. Finally, the course will explore Native American cities, some of which conform to Old World definitions of urbanism, such as the Andes and Mesoamerica, while other present novel cases, such as Amazonia and North America, which challenge existing vocabularies and trait lists and suggest alternative pathways of urbanism, like other non-Western cases in Africa, SE Asia.

Final meetings will discuss common features or contrasts of pre-Modern urbanism in various parts of the world, before considering the onset of the industrial urban revolution in the 19th and 20th century. It will consider the effects of industrial urbanism on European society and on the Western imagination – how urbanism and urban societies were conceived – at the height of the scientific revolution. We will then explore several 20th century cities in the Americas, such as São Paulo, New York, to arrive at the contemporary urban revolution, the urban majority, and what we might call “archaeologies of the future.” It considers changes over the past two millennia in human-nature interactions, including environmental improvements and degradation, as well as the conflict over rights to land and property, questions of justice, security, and global society.

IV. Required Readings:

There is one required book and several additional required readings, which will be discussed in class and from which exam questions will be derived. Additional readings will be assigned

Required Book:

Smith, Monica, Ed. (2003). *The Social Construction of Ancient Cities*. Smithsonian.

Other required readings (available on Sakai):

Possehl, Gregory (1993). "Revolution in the Urban Revolution: The Emergence of Indus Urbanization," *Annual Review of Anthropology* 19:261-282.

Geertz, Clifford (1980). "Political Definition: The Sources of Order," in *Negara: The Theater State in Nineteenth Century Bali*, pp. 11-25 (Princeton University Press)

Crumley, Carole (1994). "The Ecology of Conquest: Contrasting Agropastoral and Agricultural Societies' Adaptation to Climatic Change," in *Historical Ecology: Cultural Knowledge and Changing Landscapes*, pp. 183-201 (School of American Research Press, Santa Fe).

Ferguson, Yale 1991. "Chiefdoms to City-States: The Greek Experience," in *Chiefdoms: Power, Economy, and Ideology*, edited by T. Earle, pp. 169-192 (Cambridge University Press).

Smith, Michael E. (2009). "V. Gordon Childe and the Urban Revolution: A Historical Perspective on a Revolution in Urban Studies." *Town Planning Review* 80(1):3-29.

Cowgill, George (2004). "Origins and Development of Urbanism: Archaeological Perspectives," *Annual Review of Anthropology* 33:525-549.

Hannerz, Ulf (1986). "The City," in *The Social Science Encyclopedia*, second edition, edited by Adam and Jessica Kuper, pp. 86-88 (Cambridge University Press)

York, Abigail, et al. (2011). "Ethnic and Class Clustering through the Ages: A Transdisciplinary Approach to Urban Neighborhood Social Patterns," *Urban Studies* 48(11): 2199-2415.

V. Course Schedule:

Week 1: Introduction

08/23: General Objectives and Outline

Week 2: General Concepts

08/28: Cities in Western Thought (Chapter 1)

08/30: Archaeological Concepts and Urbanism (begin segment for Exam 1)

Week 3: SW Asia

09/04: Urban Revolutions & Anthropocene

09/06: Evolution, Domestication & Landscape (chapter 3)

Week 4: SW Asia and Egypt

09/11: Mesopotamian Cities (Chapter 7 & 10)

09/13: Egyptian Cities

Week 5: Harrapa & India

09/18: Harrapa (Possehl 1993)

09/20: Harrapa & India (Chapter 11)

Week 6: China

09/25: In class Review for Exam 1 (Exam open on Sakai after review)

09/27: China (Chapter 12); begin segment for Exam 2

Week 7: China & SE Asia

10/02: Post-Imperial China

10/04: SE Asia & Pacific (Geertz 1980)

Week 8: Mediterranean & Europe

10/09: Holocene Europe (Crumley 1994)

10/11: Greece and Rome (Ferguson 1991)

Week 9: Africa

10/16: Africa (film)

10/18: Africa (Chapter 5)

Week 10: Americas

10/23: In-class Review for Exam 2 (Exam open on Sakai after review)

10/25: Mesoamerica (begin segment for Exam 3) (Chapter 2)

Week 11: Nuclear America

10/30: Mesoamerica (Chapters 6 & 9)

11/01: Andes (Chapter 4)

Week 12:

11/06 (Brazil): Film: Lost Cities of the Amazon (NatGeo Explorer)

11/08 (Brazil): Film: Urbanized (Smith 2009)

Week 13: South America

11/13: Andes (Chapter 8)

11/15: Amazonia

Week 14:

11/20: Changing Views on Ancient Urbanism (Cowgill 2004; Hannerz 1986)

11/22 (no class)

Week 15:

11/27: São Paulo: A Case Study of 20th Century Urbanism (Heckenberger 2012)

11/29: Modern Urbanism and Sustainability (York et al. 2010)

Week 16:

12/04: In-Class Review for Exam 3 (Exam open on Sakai after review)

VI. Evaluation:

The course has three non-cumulative exams: each exam will cover topics from lectures and readings and include a combination of multiple choice, short answer and essay questions.

Overall Grades assigned as (total of 100 points, including all extra-credit and reductions):

A	≥ 90%
A-	87-89.9%
B+	85-86.9%
B	80-84.9%
B-	77-79.9%
C+	75-76.9%
C	70-74.9%
C-	67-69.9%
D+	65-66.9%
D	60-64.9%
D-	57-59.9%
E	< 56.9%

Please note that there are new policies for calculating grade point averages. See <http://www.registrar.ufl.edu/catalog/policies/regulationgrades.html> for details. Also note that a grade of C- does not count for credit in major, minor, Gen Ed, Gordon Rule, or college basic distribution credit (for further information regarding minus grades go to: <http://www.isis.ufl.edu/minusgrades.html>).

Academic Honesty, Student Responsibilities, Student Conduct Code: Students are required to do their own work on exams. The penalty for cheating is to receive no points for that exam and the incident will be reported to the Student Honor Court. The student is responsible to review the UF Student Responsibilities Guidelines, available online.

Students with Disabilities: Students requesting accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office. The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who then must provide this documentation to the instructor.