ARH 989/ANTH 759  
History & Anthropology of the Modern City  
Dell Upton  
Fall 2004

Instructor’s office hours: Wednesday 10-12 in 111 Campbell (odd-numbered Wednesdays) or 202 Brooks (even numbered Wednesdays) or by appointment.

Instructor’s e-mail: du2n@virginia.edu

Course meets Tuesdays 3:30-6 in 108 Campbell

This course is not intended to be a survey or a comprehensive overview of urban studies. Instead, it is intended to allow students interested in urban history and life to build or extend their acquaintance with fundamental works in the field. Each week we will read and discuss classic and/or current works – both theoretical and monographic – in the history and anthropology of modern (post-18th-century) cities. As a proseminar rather than a research seminar, meaning that the emphasis is on immersion in the literature rather than original student research, hence the writing assignment will consist of two shorter critical papers rather than a long research paper.

Course Requirements

Relentlessly thorough and thoughtful reading, faithful attendance, and active participation in discussion every week.

Two 10-12-page critical papers examining materials other than those we will read together.

1. Pick a major but well-defined urban issue and write a 10-12-page methodological essay examining the ways that various flavors of historians, anthropologists, geographers, and members of at least one other discipline have approached that issue. Obviously a paper of this length cannot treat any of the disciplines or the literature exhaustively. Rather, you should make careful choices that epitomize the disciplines and highlight the advantages and disadvantages of their methods. It might be helpful to look to some of the sample bibliographical and thematic essays listed at the end of this syllabus for models and starting points, but that is not required. Due October 19.
2. A 10-12-page critical essay examining the ways historians, anthropologists, and other urbanists have dealt with a single major city. Again, a paper of this length cannot be a comprehensive overview. Instead you should concentrate on framing the major issues that scholars have raised with respect to your city and on setting them into the larger context of urban studies. **Due November 23.**

**Books for Purchase**

We will read all or most of these works – too much, at any rate, to place on Toolkit. I will also place them on two-day reserve.

Schedule of Meetings, Readings, and Assignments

Sept. 7. **INTRODUCTION**

Sept. 14. **MODELS & APPROACHES 1**

**Reading:**


**Recommended:**


Sept. 21. **MODELS AND APPROACHES 2**

**Reading:**

2001), chap. 1: “Economic Restructuring and Redevelopment”


**Recommended:**

- Sharon Zukin, Landscapes of Power from Detroit to Disney World (1991), chap. 1: “Market, Place, and Landscape”

Sept. 28. **MODELS AND APPROACHES 3**

**Reading:**

- Richard Dennis, English Industrial Cities of the Nineteenth Century: A Social Geography (1984), chap. 7: “The Spatial Structure of Nineteenth Century Cities”

**Recommended:**

Oct. 5. **MODERNITY 1**

**Reading:**

Oct. 12. **READING HOLIDAY**

Oct. 19. **MODERNITY 2**

**Reading:**

**Recommended:**

**PAPER 1 DUE TODAY**
Oct. 26. **Communities**

**Reading:**


**Recommended:**

Nov. 2. **Urban Crisis 1**

**Reading:**

Nov. 9. **Urban Crisis 2**

**Reading:**

Nov. 16. **No Meeting**

Nov. 23. **Suburbia 1**

**Reading:**
chap. 3: “The Decentralization of Post-World War II Denver”

**PAPER 2 DUE TODAY**

Nov. 30. **SUBURBIA 2**

**Reading:**

Dec. 7. **CITY AND ENVIRONMENT**

**Reading:**
Some Useful Recent Bibliographies and Review Essays


Richard Dennis, “History, Geography, and Historical Geography,” Social Science History 15/2 (summer 1991): 265-87


