

*Title and Code of Course:* **Urban Studies: The American Metropolis**  
ERP-BAN 4569

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| Credit Point Value:<br><b>6</b> | Number of Lessons per<br>Week: <b>2</b> | Type of Course:<br><b>Seminar</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/><br><b>Lecture</b> <input type="checkbox"/> | Method of Evaluation:<br><b>Oral Examination</b> <input type="checkbox"/><br><b>In-Class Presentation</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/><br><b>Other</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
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**Course Description:**

This course explores various aspects of urban studies in an interdisciplinary format. Classes will focus on key American cities that played a significant role in shaping the discourse of urban studies: New York, Philadelphia, Chicago, Los Angeles and San Francisco. The seminar will focus on the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> centuries, investigating themes such as cosmopolitanism, globalisation, migration, tourism, race, gender, cultural trauma, counterculture, consumerism, and street art. Classes aim to develop students' interpretive skills, broaden their cultural knowledge and vocabulary, help them see the practical applicability of terms and approaches, and encourage independent research in urban studies.

**Bibliography:**

- **Introduction: What is Urban Studies?**
  - **Compulsory reading:** Claude McKay, "On Broadway" (1922)
- **New York 1: The Tourist and the Flaneur**
  - **Compulsory readings:** Sara Teasdale, "Union Square" (1911); Langston Hughes, "Lenox Avenue: Midnight" (1926, from *The Weary Blues*);
  - **Recommended reading:** Lauren Elkin, „Flâneuse-ing" (from *Flâneuse* pp. 3-23).
- **New York 2: Cosmopolitanism and Diversity**
  - **Compulsory readings:** Langston Hughes, "Theme for English B" (1951); Frank O'Hara, "A Step Away from Them" (1964); Keith Harring, subway graffiti (1980s).
  - **Recommended reading:** Sharon Zukin, "Introduction: The City that Lost Its Soul." *Naked City: The Death and Life of Authentic Urban Places*. Oxford University Press, 2010, pp. 1-31.
- **New York 3: The Global City and Flânerie**
  - **Compulsory reading:** Teju Cole, *Open City* (2011) (chapter 1, pp. 3-21)
  - **Recommended reading:** Saskia Sassen, "The Global City: Introducing a Concept." *The Brown Journal of World Affairs* 11. 2 (2005), pp. 27-43.
- **New York 4: The Post-9/11 City and Cultural Trauma**
  - **Compulsory readings:** Paul Auster, "Random Notes - September 11, 2001, 4:00 P.M./Underground" (from *101 Stories*, 2002, pp. 34-36); Peter Carey, „Union Square" (from *101 Stories*, 2002, pp. 54-56); Joel Meyerowitz, „Aftermath – World Trade Center" (photography)
- **Philadelphia: The Mural Capital of The World and Gentrification**
  - **Compulsory readings:** Shannon Eblen & Hannah Beier: "A City of Murals, Decades in the Making"; Yolanda Wisher: "West Of Philly"
- **Chicago: Industrialisation, Migration, and the Chicago School of Urban Studies**
  - **Compulsory readings:** Carl Sandburg, "Chicago" (1914); The Wall of Respect murals
  - **Recommended reading:** Roger Salerno, "Chicago School: City as a Social Laboratory." *The Cambridge Handbook of Social Problems*, Cambridge University Press, 2018, pp. 203-220.
- **The San Francisco Bay and Counterculture**

- **Compulsory readings:** Allan Ginsberg, "A Supermarket in California" (1955); Jack Kerouac, "October in the Railroad Earth" (1957)
- **Recommended reading:** Michael Davidson, "The San Francisco Renaissance." *The Cambridge Companion to American Poetry Since 1945*. Cambridge University Press, 2013, pp. 66-79.
- **Los Angeles and Consumer Society**
  - **Compulsory readings:** Bret Easton Ellis, "Bruce Calls from Mulholland" (from *The Informers*, 1994, pp. 1-5); Haryette Mullen, *Urban Tumbleweed: Notes from a Tanka Diary* (2013) (selected poems)
  - **Recommended reading:**
  - Steven Miles, "Introduction: The City of Complicity." *Spaces for Consumption: Pleasure and Placelessness in the Post-Industrial City*. SAGE, 2010, pp. 1-12.

**Further recommended readings:**

Ameel, Lieven. *The Routledge Companion to Literary Urban Studies*. London: Routledge, 2023. ISBN: 9780367645243.

Zukin, Sharon. *Naked City: The Death and Life of Authentic Urban Places*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2010. ISBN: 9780195382853.

Saskia Sassen, *The Global City: New York, London, Tokyo*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 2013. ISBN: 9780691070636.

McNamara, Kevin R. *The City in American Literature and Culture*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2021. ISBN: 9781108895262.

Neculai, Catalina. *Urban Space and Late Twentieth-Century New York Literature*. New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2014. ISBN: 9781349464760.

Patell, Cyrus R. K és Bryan Waterman. *The Cambridge Companion to the Literature of New York*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2010. ISBN: 9781139002844.

Smith, Rachel Greenwald. *Affect and American Literature in the Age of Neoliberalism*. Cambridge University Press, 2021. ISBN: 9781316155035.

Webb, Lawrence, *The Cinema of Urban Crises: Seventies Film and the Reinvention of the City*. Amsterdam: Amsterdam University Press, 2014. ISBN: 9789048522996

Wilhite, Keith. *The City Since 9/11: Literature, Film, Television*. Madison, Fairleigh Dickinson University Press, 2016. ISBN: 9781611477184.

Wilson, Ross. *New York: A Literary History*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2020. ISBN: 9781108470810

Zhou, Xiaojing. *Cities of Others: Reimagining Urban Space in Asian American Literature*. Seattle: University of Washington Press, 2014. ISBN: 9780295994031.