



Bowdoin College Urban Studies

Course Offerings Fall 2022

URBS 1321/HIST 1321 Gotham: The History of a Modern City

Professor Brian Purnell

Course Description:

Introduces students to college-level historical thinking, writing, and analysis. Covers the history of New York City from the geological formation of what became Manhattan Island through the present; however, most of the history covered spans the 1600s through the end of the twentieth century. In part, narrates a history of the United States from the colonial era to the present through the story of New Amsterdam and New York City. Another focus is the history of modern, capitalist cities and the cultures, people, economies, and governments they produce. Students work mostly with primary sources and learn how New York City became one of the preeminent modern cities in the world. Note: This course is part of the following field(s) of study: United States

No prerequisite.

URBS 2004/ENVS 2004/DCS 2335 GIS and Remote Sensing: Understanding Place

Professor Eileen Sylvan Johnson

Course Description:

Geographical information systems (GIS) organize and store spatial information for geographical presentation and analysis. They allow rapid development of high-quality maps and enable powerful and sophisticated investigation of spatial patterns and interrelationships. Introduces concepts of cartography, database management, remote sensing, and spatial analysis. Examines GIS and remote sensing applications for natural resource management, environmental health, and monitoring and preparing for the impacts of climate change from the Arctic to local-level systems. Emphasizes both natural and social science applications through a variety of applied exercises and problems culminating in a semester project that addresses a specific environmental application. Students have the option of completing a community-based project.

No prerequisite.

URBS 2305/ENGL 2305 Imagining London In Eighteenth Century Literature

Professor Ann Kibbie

Course Description:

Focuses on journals, plays, poems, and novels in which London itself plays a vital role, including James Boswell's "London Journal," Daniel Defoe's "Moll Flanders," John Gay's "Trivia"; or the "Art of Walking the Streets of London," and Frances Burney's "Evelina." In addition to engaging in critical analysis of these literary texts, students learn how to use digital mapping, spatial analysis, and image markup to imagine eighteenth-century London and work collaboratively to create maps charting the movements of real people (such as Boswell) and fictional characters (such as Moll Flanders) within the city. Theaters, coffeehouses, shops, prisons, hospitals, and parks are among the public spaces explored in order to contextualize, enrich, and question the literature. Note: Fulfills the pre-1800 requirement for English majors.

No prerequisite.

URBS 2445/ENVS 2445 The Nature and Urbanism of Frank Lloyd Wright**Professor Jill Pearlman****Course Description:**

Examines the history, cultures, and politics of major cities shaped by histories of colonialism, the Cold War, and contemporary neoliberalism. We will consider the changing roles that these cities have played in colonial, national, and global economies, as well as the ideologies, aesthetic theories, and pragmatic contexts that have shaped their built environments. Key themes include: colonial and postcolonial urban planning and its limits; spatial inequalities; impacts of war and mass violence; urban economies; and the everyday sensory life of the city. Examples of possible cities include: Mumbai, New Delhi, Saigon, Manila, Cairo, Nairobi, and Lagos. This course is part of the following field(s) of study: South Asia and Colonial Worlds. It fulfills the non-Euro/US requirement for history majors and minors. This course satisfies the Introductory Survey and the non-US requirement requirement for the Urban Studies minor.

No Prerequisite.**URBS 3211/HISP 3211/LAGL 3215 The Modern Worldview of the Andes: Art, Literature, Architecture and the Environment****Professor Carolyn Wolfenzon Niego****Course Description:**

Through the exploration of art, literature, architecture and the unique worldview of the ancestral Andean societies, this course will take a look at the different ways in which the three main countries in the Andes – Peru, Ecuador and Bolivia – have dealt with processes of social, political and cultural modernization since the late 19th century until the present day. Readings will include works by Peruvian, Bolivian and Ecuadorian writers to examine modernist, avant-garde and postmodernist aesthetics. Students will analyze how internal migration to the cities of Lima, Quito and La Paz has reconfigured them, changed their urban dynamics, and impacted the economy and the natural environment. One example students will engage with includes architecture from iconic Bolivian architect Freddy Mamani, who invented the construction of the Cholets in the city of El Alto, Bolivia. Cholets offer a unique way of connecting urban space to Aymaran identity (an identity that is very connected to the land in Bolivia). Students will also address the issue of migration and the reconfigurations of Andean identities in the United States, through the works of Bolivian author Edmundo Paz Soldán and the Ecuadorian-American writer Ernesto Quiñónez and his experience living in Harlem. Taught in Spanish.

Prerequisite: HISP 2409 (same as LACL 2409) or HISP 2410 (same as LACL 2410) or HISP 3200 or higher.