

# HTST 354-01: Cities in Global History

**Instructor:** Dr. Frank Towers

**Class Times:** Tuesday and Thursday 12:30-1:45 p.m.

**Room:** ES 443

**Office Hours:** Tuesday and Thursday 10:30-11:30 a.m.

**Contact information:** Office, SS 610; e-mail [ftowers@ucalgary.ca](mailto:ftowers@ucalgary.ca).

## Course Description

This course introduces students to major themes in the history of the world's cities from the ancient period to the present. It charts the long demographic transformation from what was an overwhelmingly rural global population into one that now is majority urban. Students will learn about the place of cities in different historical periods and how urbanization affected different types of societies around the world.

## Course Requirements

Item	Percent of course grade	Date
First exam	30%	Oct. 16
Paper	35%	Nov. 16
Final Exam	35%	see Registrar's schedule of final exams

**Exams:** The exams consist of multiple-choice questions and one essay. The essay will count for 70% of the exam grade and the multiple-choice section will count for 30%. The first exam covers all the material assigned between the start of the class and October 16; the final exam covers all material considered after October 16 until the end of the semester.

A study guide for each exam will be distributed one week prior to the date of exam. Class time will be devoted to reviewing for these exams.

**Paper: Due date:** November 16. Papers must be turned in electronically via D2L.

**Length:** Minimum length of 1,800 words, which usually takes up 6-9 word-processed, double-spaced pages. The maximum length is 2,500 words.

**Format:** The paper should conform in style to the standards described on pages 19-32 of *The History Student's Handbook* located on the Department of History web site

at: [http://hist.ucalgary.ca/sites/hist.ucalgary.ca/files/history\\_students\\_handbook\\_2015.pdf](http://hist.ucalgary.ca/sites/hist.ucalgary.ca/files/history_students_handbook_2015.pdf)

**Paper topic:** Think about “urbanism,” or the unique culture and social life of cities, by comparing how different writers have described cities across and time and space. Choose at least two but no more than three primary sources from the following list. Throughout the term we will excerpts from these sources as part of our weekly list of assigned reading.

**Sources:** Primary sources for the paper consist of the full length versions of sources assigned each for this course, some of which are yet to be assigned (they are designated as TBA in the weekly schedule of assignments). The current list of primary sources include

*The Epic Of Gilgamesh*. The library has several editions of this text. Any will do. For an online version see <http://uruk-warka.dk/Gilgamish/The%20Epic%20of%20Gilgamesh.pdf>

Vitruvius, *Ten Books on Architecture*, (@50 BCE), online at: <http://www.gutenberg.org/files/20239/20239-h/29239-h.htm>

Ban Gu, “*Rhapsodies on Metropolises and Capitals*” in *Wen Xuan, or, Selections of Refined Literature* (400 CE). Copy on Reserve at the TFDL.

Michael E. Smith, *Aztec City-State Capitals* (Gainesville, Florida, 2008). Copy of reserve at the TFDL.

Ibn Khaldun, *The Muqqadimah: An Introduction to History* (1370),. Online at [https://asadullahali.files.wordpress.com/2012/10/ibn\\_khaldun-al\\_muqaddimah.pdf](https://asadullahali.files.wordpress.com/2012/10/ibn_khaldun-al_muqaddimah.pdf)

Michael E. Smith, *Aztec City-State Capitals* (Gainesville, Florida, 2008), on reserve at the TFDL.

Ihara Saikaku, *The Life of an Amorous Woman* (1600s)

Friedrich Engels, *Condition of the Working Class in England* (1845). Online at: <https://www.marxists.org/archive/marx/works/download/pdf/condition-working-class-england.pdf>

Ebenezer Howard, *Garden Cities of Tomorrow* (1903)

Le Corbusier, *Toward an Architecture* (1923)

Henri Lefebvre, *The Urban Revolution* (1968)

Jane Jacobs, *The Death and life of Great American Cities* (1961)

**Critical thinking and additional research:** This assignment tests your skills as an analytical writer, a.k.a. critical thinker. It is not a test of your research skills. The assignment asks you to find patterns in a limited number of sources that you will read closely. You do not need to conduct additional research beyond the sources listed below.

**Assigned reading** Each week we will read primary and secondary sources about the history of cities. Keeping up with the assigned reading is essential to succeeding in the course. The assignment for each week is listed below under “schedule of assignments and lectures.”

### Required Textbook

Andrew Lees, *The City: A World History*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2015.  
--This book is available for purchase from online booksellers and the University Bookstore. An e-copy is also available for free through the University Library.

### Recommended

Peter Clark, ed., *The Oxford Handbook of Cities in World History*. Toronto and London: Oxford University Press. 2012.

## Schedule of Assignments and Lectures

Week 1, Sept. 6-7: Introduction: what are cities, and how did they begin?

Assigned reading: Penelope J. Corfield, "Conclusion: Cities in Time," in *The Oxford Handbook of Cities in World History*, ed. by Peter Clark (New York, 2013), pp. 828-846. Copy posted on D2L.

Week 2, Sept. 10-14: Origins: the case of Mesopotamia

Assigned reading: James C. Scott, *Against the Grain: A Deep History of the Earliest States* (2017), pages 1-35, on D2L; selection from *The Epic Of Gilgamesh: Tablet 1*, trans. by Maureen Gallery Kovacs (Electronic Edition by Wolf Carnahan, 1998), on D2L.

Week 3, Sept. 17-21: Cities in the ancient Mediterranean

Assigned reading: Lees, *The City: A World History*, Ch. 1; Vitruvius, *Ten Books on Architecture*, book I (@50 BCE), online at: <http://www.gutenberg.org/files/20239/20239-h/29239-h.htm>;

Week 4, Sept. 24-28: Urbanism in ancient China and India

Assigned reading: Ban Gu, "Rhapsodies on Metropolises and Capitals" in *Wen Xuan, or, Selections of Refined Literature* (400 CE), on D2L; TBA.

Week 5, Oct. 1-5: Divergent urban paths in the Middle Ages

Assigned Reading: Lees, *The City: A World History*, Ch. 3; Ibn Khaldun, "Countries and Cities, and All Other Forms of Sedentary Civilization," ch 4 of *The Muqqadimah: An Introduction to History* (1370), on D2L.

Week 6, Oct. 8-12: The Americas before European Conquest

Assigned reading: Michael E. Smith, *Aztec City-State Capitals* (Gainesville, Florida, 2008), 151-186, on D2L; Selection from Bernal Diaz del Castillo, *True History of the Conquest of New Spain* (1568), on D2L.

Week 7, Oct. 15-19: Review and midterm exam

**Midterm exam, October 16, in class.**

Assigned reading: none.

Week 8, Oct. 22-26: An “early” “modern” city? Urbanization between 1500 and 1800  
Assigned reading: Lees, *The City: A World History*, Ch. 4; selected stories from Ihara Saikaku, *The Life of an Amorous Woman* (1600s), on D2L.

Week 9, Oct. 29-Nov. 2: The fossil fuels revolution of the 19<sup>th</sup> century and the new industrial city

Assigned reading: Lees, *The City: A World History*, Ch. 5; selection from Friedrich Engels, “The Great Towns,” in *Condition of the Working Class in England* (1845). Copy posted on D2L.

Week 10, Nov. 5-9: Imperialism and colonial urbanism

Assigned reading: Lees, *The City: A World History*, Ch. 6; TBA

Term break, Nov. 11-17, no classes scheduled.

**Paper due Nov. 16. Submit paper on D2L.**

Week 11, Nov. 19-23: Green-space dreams: Reforming the industrial city in the 20<sup>th</sup> century

Assigned reading: Lees, *The City: A World History*, Ch. 7; selection from Ebenezer Howard, *Garden Cities of Tomorrow* (1903), on D2L; Le Corbusier, *Toward an Architecture* (1923), 253-307.

Week 12, Nov. 26-30: The urban crisis of the late 20<sup>th</sup> century

Assigned reading: Lees, *The City: A World History*, Ch. 8; Henri Lefebvre, “The Right to the City” (1968) on D2L; Jane Jacobs, *The Death and life of Great American Cities* (1961), 1-25, on D2L.

Week 13, Dec. 3-7: Megacities and the 21<sup>st</sup> Century

Assigned reading: Xiaming Chen and Henry Fitts, “Contemporary Metropolitan Cities,” in *The Oxford Handbook of Cities in World History*, 770-790. Copy posted on D2L.

**Final exam scheduled by Registrar.**

## **Other course policies**

**Makeups and legitimate excuses:** Documentation of medical and family emergencies (death or illness) or university-related activities is required to make up exams and quizzes.

**Classroom etiquette:** Class begins at 12:30 p.m. Please be in your seat at that time, and refrain from side conversations and other behavior that will distract your fellow students. For the same reason please turn off cell phones.

**Use of electronic devices in class to take notes is permitted but not encouraged.** Studies have found that students who take notes with pen and paper retain more information than those using electronic devices. I recommend taking notes with a pen or pencil and paper. For some of this research see: Pam A. Mueller and Daniel M. Oppenhemier, "The Pen Is Mightier Than the Keyboard: Advantages of Longhand Over Laptop Note Taking," *Psychological Science* 25 (June 2014): 1159-1168. A copy of this essay is posted in our D2L site.

**Use of electronic devices in class to engage social media is prohibited.** We live in a time of social media saturation. Use HTST 354 to take a break from it twice a week. That is, refrain from texting, emailing, searching the web, or otherwise using social media during class.

### **Important Departmental, Faculty, and University Information**

**\*Attention history majors: History 300 is a required course for all history majors. You should normally take it in your second year.\***

*Department Twitter @ucalgaryhist*

#### **Faculty of Arts Program Advising and Student Information Resources:**

- Have a question, but not sure where to start? The Arts Students Centre (ASC) is your information resource for everything in Arts! Drop in at Social Sciences 102, call 403-220-3580, or email [artsads@ucalgary.ca](mailto:artsads@ucalgary.ca). For detailed information on common academic concerns, you can also visit the Faculty of Arts website at <http://arts.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate>.
- For program planning and advice, contact the Arts Students Centre (ASC) in SS 102, call 403-220-3580, email [artsads@ucalgary.ca](mailto:artsads@ucalgary.ca), or visit <http://arts.ucalgary.ca/advising>.
- For registration issues, paying fees and assistance with your Student Centre, contact Enrolment Services at 403-210-ROCK (7625), visit the office in the MacKimmie Library Block (MLB) or their website at <http://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/>.

#### **Writing:**

This course will include written assignments. Faculty policy directs that all written assignments (including, although to a lesser extent, written exam responses) will be assessed at least partly on writing skills. Writing skills include not only surface correctness (grammar, punctuation, sentence structure, etc.) but also general clarity and organization. Research papers must be properly documented.

**Writing Support:**

Students are also encouraged to use Writing Support Services and other Student Success Centre Services, located on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor of the Taylor Family Digital Library (TFDL). Writing Support Services assist with a variety of assignments, from essays to lab reports. Students can book 30-minute one-on-one appointments online, sign up for 15-minute drop-in appointments, and register for a variety of writing workshops. For more information on this and other Student Success Centre services, please visit [www.ucalgary.ca/ssc](http://www.ucalgary.ca/ssc).

**Copyright:**

The University of Calgary has opted out of the Access Copyright Interim Tariff proposed by the Copyright Board. This means that instructors in all University of Calgary courses will strictly adhere to Copyright Act regulations and the educational exceptions permitted by the Act for both print and digital course material. What this simply means is that no copyrighted material may be placed on course D2L or web sites without the prior permission of the copyright holders. In some cases, this may mean that instructors will require you to purchase a print course pack from the University of Calgary bookstore or that you will have to consult books on reserve at the library. For more information on the University of Calgary's copyright policy, see <http://library.ucalgary.ca/copyright>.

**Red Box Policy:**

Essays and other assignments may be handed in to the red box located outside of the History Department office (Social Sciences, Room 656). Please include the following information on your assignment: **1) course name and number, 2) instructor, 3) your name and 4) your student number**. Assignments received after 4:00 p.m. will be date stamped with the date of the next business day. We do not time stamp any papers. Please do not bring your paper into the office to be stamped. The box is emptied promptly at 8:30 a.m. and at 4:00 p.m. Monday to Friday.

**Departmental Grading System:**

The following percentage-to-letter grade conversion scheme has been adopted for use in all Canadian Studies, History, and Latin American Studies courses.

Percentage	Letter Grade	Grade Point Value	Description
90-100	A+	4.00	Outstanding

Percentage	Letter Grade	Grade Point Value	Description
85–89	A	4.00	Excellent—superior performance showing comprehensive understanding of subject matter.
80–84	A–	3.70	
77–79	B+	3.30	
73–76	B	3.00	Good—clearly above average performance with knowledge of subject matter generally complete.
70–72	B–	2.70	
67–69	C+	2.30	
63–66	C	2.00	Satisfactory—basic understanding of the subject matter.
60–62	C–	1.70	Receipt of a grade point average of 1.70 may not be sufficient for promotion or graduation.
56–59	D+	1.30	Minimal pass—marginal performance; generally insufficient preparation for subsequent courses in the same subject.
50–55	D	1.00	
0–49	F	0	Fail—unsatisfactory performance or failure to meet course requirements.

### Plagiarism:

Plagiarism occurs when one submits or presents one's work in a course, or ideas and/or passages in a written piece of work, as if it were one's own work done expressly for that particular course, when, in fact, it is not. As noted in *The History Student's Handbook*

([http://hist.ucalgary.ca/sites/hist.ucalgary.ca/files/history\\_students\\_handbook\\_2015.pdf](http://hist.ucalgary.ca/sites/hist.ucalgary.ca/files/history_students_handbook_2015.pdf)), plagiarism may take several forms:

- Failure to cite sources properly may be considered plagiarism. This could include quotations, and wording used from another source but not acknowledged.
- Borrowed, purchased, and/or ghostwritten papers are considered plagiarism, as is submitting one's own work for more than one course without the permission of the instructor(s) involved.
- Extensive paraphrasing of one or a few sources is also considered plagiarism, even when notes are used, unless the essay is a critical analysis of those works.
- The use of notes does not justify the sustained presentation of another author's language and ideas as one's own.

Plagiarism is a serious academic offence and written work that appears to contain plagiarized passages will not be graded. All such work will be reported to the Faculty of Arts' associate deans of students who will apply the penalties specified in the *University of Calgary Calendar*.

### **Universal Student Ratings of Instruction (USRI):**

At the University of Calgary, feedback provided by students through the Universal Student Ratings of Instruction survey provides valuable information to help with evaluating instruction, enhancing learning and teaching, and selecting courses ([www.ucalgary.ca/usri](http://www.ucalgary.ca/usri)). Your responses make a difference. Please participate in USRI surveys.

### **Academic Accommodations (implemented July 1, 2015):**

The student accommodation policy can be found at: [ucalgary.ca/access/accommodations/policy](http://ucalgary.ca/access/accommodations/policy).

Students needing an Accommodation because of a Disability or medical condition should communicate this need to Student Accessibility Services in accordance with the Procedure for Accommodations for Students with Disabilities [ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy](http://ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/student-accommodation-policy).

Students needing an Accommodation based on a Protected Ground other than Disability, should communicate this need, preferably in writing, to the course instructor.

### **Campus Resources for Mental Health:**

The University of Calgary recognizes the pivotal role that student mental health plays in physical health, social connectedness and academic success, and aspires to create a caring and supportive campus community where individuals can freely talk about mental health and receive supports when needed. We encourage you to explore the excellent mental health resources available throughout the university community, such as counselling, self-help resources, peer support or skills-building available through the SU Wellness Centre (Room 370, MacEwan Student Centre, <https://www.ucalgary.ca/wellnesscentre/services/mental-health-services>)



and the Campus Mental Health Strategy website (<http://www.ucalgary.ca/mentalhealth/>).

**Other Useful Information:**

- Faculty of Arts Representatives: 403-220-6551, [arts1@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts1@su.ucalgary.ca), [arts2@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts2@su.ucalgary.ca), [arts3@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts3@su.ucalgary.ca), [arts4@su.ucalgary.ca](mailto:arts4@su.ucalgary.ca).
- Campus Security & Safewalk: 403-220-5333, <http://www.ucalgary.ca/security/safewalk>.
- Freedom of Information: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/legalservices/foip/foip-hia>.
- Emergency Evacuation Assembly Points: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/emergencyplan/assemblypoints>.
- Student Union Information: <http://www.su.ucalgary.ca/>.
- Graduate Student Association: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/gsa/>.
- Student Ombudsman Office: <http://www.ucalgary.ca/provost/students/ombuds>

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