

THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN
DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY
FALL 1983

HISTORY 401

MR. SCHULTZ

AMERICAN URBAN HISTORY 1607 TO 1870

Texts:

Kenneth A. Lockridge, A New England Town: The First
Hundred Years
Frederick B. Tolles, Meeting House and Counting House:
The Quaker Merchants of Colonial Philadelphia 1682-1783
Richard C. Wade, Slavery in the Cities
Oscar Handlin, Boston's Immigrants (rev. ed.)

Various articles on reserve, State Historical Society
Reading Room, listed below in course outline, marked by *

Recommended: James A. Henretta, The Evolution of American
Society, 1700-1815 (This book is recommended as background
reading for all those members of the class having little or
no familiarity with American colonial history)

Course Requirements and Grading Policy:

Students will attend two lectures (75 minutes each) per
week. At various points during the semester (to be announced
in class) we will devote a portion of lecture time to
discussion of the readings.

There will be two examinations, one scheduled on October
13th, the second a final examination as listed in the
Timetable. Both examinations will consist of essay questions
and will be given in class. Either similar study questions or
the precise questions will be handed out in class at least
four days prior to each examination.

Those enrolled in the course for 4 credits will be
responsible for a writing assignment in addition to the
examinations. These students have the option of either
writing a critical essay-review (format to be handed out in
class) of 4-8 pages (typewritten, double-spaced) based on two
books or one book and three journal articles or a short
(10-15 pages) original research paper. In either case, the
student and the instructor will consult about a
mutually-agreeable topic.

Grades will depend upon performance on the examinations,
participation in discussions of readings, and, for the
4-credit students, the quality of the writing assignment.
Steady improvement over the semester will boost the student's
final grade for the course.

COURSE OUTLINE AND READINGS

<u>Lecture Topics</u>	<u>Date</u>
I. CITIES IN THE NEW WORLD	
Introduction to the Course	Aug. 30
Theories of City Location and Growth	Sept. 1
Patterns of Colonial American Urbanization	6
Planting and Planning Cities in the New World	8
Regulation of Urban Life	13
The "Sorts" of City Folk: Class Structure in the Cities	15
Social Institutions in the Cities: Church, Tavern, School, and Family	20
Commercial Cities and the Rise of the Merchants	22
The First Urban (Urbane?) American	27
The Workshops of the Revolution	29
Urban America in War and Peace	Oct. 4
Federal Cities and the Constitution	6
Review Session for Mid-Term Examination	11
**** Mid-Term Examination ****	13
<u>Readings:</u> (Please read in order assigned)	
*John Demos, "Notes on Life in Plymouth Colony"	
*John C. Rainbolt, "The Absence of Towns in Seventeenth-Century Virginia"	
Kenneth Lockridge, <u>A New England Town</u>	
*James A. Henretta, "Economic Development and Social Structure in Colonial Boston"	
Frederick B. Tolles, <u>Meeting House and Counting House</u>	
II. CITIES IN THE NEW NATION	
The Rise of Western Cities	Oct. 18
"Instant Cities" on the Frontier	20
The Urban Frontier of the Old South	25
Slaves and Free Blacks in Urban America	27
Dreamers and Schemers of Urban Imperialism	Nov. 1
Urban Industrial Growth East and West	3
Foreign Immigrants and the Discovery of Poverty	8
Urban Crime and Violence	10
Social Mobility and "Democracy"	15
Sanitation and Public Health in the Cities	17
No class meeting	22
Thanksgiving Break	24
Saving the Cities Through Planning	29
The Southern Perimeter and the Civil War	Dec. 1
The Urbanization of Modern America	6
Review Session for Final Examination	8

Readings:

*Roger Lotchin, "San Francisco, 1846-1856: The Patterns of Chaos and Growth"

Richard Wade, Slavery in the Cities

*Allan Pred, "Manufacturing in the American Mercantile City, 1800-1840"

Oscar Handlin, Boston's Immigrants

TABLE 1 URBAN POPULATION, 1690-1780 (Selected Communities)*

City	1690	1710	1720	1730	1740	1750	1760	1770	1775	1776	1780
Philadelphia	4000	6500	----	11,500	10,500	13,400	23,750	28,000	33,000	21,767	30,000
New York	3900	5700	----	8622	11,000	13,300	18,000	21,000	25,000	5000	18,000
Boston	7000	9000	12,000	13,000	17,000	16,000	15,631	15,520	16,000	3500	10,000
Charleston	1100	3000	3500	4500	6800	----	8000	10,863	12,000	12,000	10,000
Newport	2600	2800	3800	4640	6200	6600	7500	----	11,000	5299	5500
Baltimore	----	----	----	----	----	200	----	----	5934	5934	8000
New Haven	----	----	----	----	----	5000	----	8295	----	----	----
New London	----	----	----	----	----	3000	----	5300	----	----	5600
Norwich	----	----	----	----	----	5000	----	7000	----	----	7300
Salem	----	----	----	----	----	----	4000	----	----	5337	----
Providence	----	1500	----	3900	----	3400	----	4000	----	4355	4300

*Population statistics for the period before 1790 (the year of the first Federal Census) are unreliable, except for the very largest cities. These figures, then, show relative rather than absolute population growth. In some cases the figures for a given community are estimates based on the nearest actual census: for example, Salem's population for 1760 is an estimate based on a 1764 census that gave the population as 4469.

TABLE 2 TOTAL AND URBAN POPULATION (PLACES OF 8000 OR MORE) 1710-1780

Year	Total Population	Urban Population		
		Number	Population	% of Total Pop.
1710	357,500	1	9000	2.5
1720	474,388	1	12,000	2.3
1730	654,950	3	33,122	5.1
1740	889,000	3	38,500	4.3
1750	1,207,000	3	42,700	3.5
1760	1,610,000	4	65,381	4.1
1770	2,205,000	5	83,678	3.8
1780	2,781,000	5	76,000	2.7

Sources for both Tables: W.S. Rossiter, A CENTURY OF POPULATION GROWTH FROM THE FIRST CENSUS OF THE UNITED STATES TO THE TWELFTH, 1790-1900 (Washington, D.C., 1909); Carl Bridenbaugh, CITIES IN REVOLT: URBAN LIFE IN AMERICA, 1743-1776 (New York, 1955).

TABLE 3
 US URBAN POPULATION DATA 1790-1860
 (all population figures in 1,000's)

rank 1840	15 largest cities as of 1860	1790	1800	1810	1820	1830	1840	1850	1860	% of population engaged in manufacturing 1860
1	New York (& Brooklyn)	33	60.5	100	130.8	214.9	348.9	612.3	1080.3	9.5%
2	Philadelphia	44	61.5	87	108.8	161	220	340	565.5	17.5
4	Baltimore	13.5	26.5	46.5	62.7	80.6	102	169	212	10.8
3	Boston	18	24.9	38.7	54	85.5	118.8	136.8	177.8	8
5	New Orleans			17	27	46	102	116	168.6	3
6	Cincinnati						46.3	115	161	18.3
	St. Louis						16.4	77	160.7	5.8
	Chicago						-	29	109	4.9
	Buffalo						18	42	81	6.9
	Newark							38	71	26.2
10	Louisville						21.2	43	68	9.8
7	Albany					24.2	33.7	50	62	9.3
	Washington						23	40	61	3.9
	San Francisco							34.8	56	2.6
9	Providence						23	41	50	22.0
	population of leading cities of 1840 which were not among the largest in 1860									
8	Charleston, S.C.						29	42.9	40.5	
12	Lowell, Mass.						20.7	33.3	36.8	
13	Richmond, Va.						20	27.5	37.9	
14	Rochester						20	36.4	48.2	
11	Pittsburgh						21.2	46.6	48	
% of total U.S. population living in cities (over 2500)		5.13%	6.07%	7.26%	7.19%	8.76%	10.76%	15.2%	19.7%	
% of total urban population living in each group of cities:										
four large eastern ports		54.1%		52%			43%			
small eastern ports		36		26			15.9			
eastern interior cities		9.9		15.7			22.3			
western cities		--		5.5			18			
total U.S. canal mileage						1277	3326	3698		
total U.S. railroad mileage						73	3328	8879	30,636	

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TABLE 4

POPULATION GROWTH OF SELECTED SOUTHERN CITIES,
1820 - 1870

City	1820	1830	1840	1850	1860	1870
Baltimore	62,738	80,620	102,313	169,054	212,418	267,354
Charleston	24,780	30,289	29,261	42,985	40,522	48,956
Louisville	4,012	10,341	21,210	43,194	68,033	100,753
Mobile	2,672	3,194	12,672	20,515	29,258	32,034
New Orleans	27,176	29,737	102,193	116,375	168,675	191,418
Norfolk	8,478	9,814	10,920	14,326	14,620	19,229
Richmond	12,067	16,060	20,153	27,570	37,910	51,038
St. Louis	10,049	14,125	16,469	77,860	160,773	310,864
Savannah	7,523	7,776	11,214	15,312	22,292	28,235
Washington, D.C.	13,247	18,826	23,364	40,001	61,122	109,199
Memphis				8,841	22,623	40,226
Atlanta				2,572	9,954	21,782