

THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN  
DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY  
FALL 1985

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.)
- Reprint Collection of Articles (purchase at Kinko's)

COURSE MEETINGS AND REQUIREMENTS:

We require all students to attend two lectures (75 minute) per week. At various points during the semester (to be announced ahead of time in class) we will devote a portion of time to discussion of the readings.

All examinations will be in essay format. There will be a mid-term (scheduled for October 17), and a final examination as scheduled in the Timetable.

Writing Assignment:

All undergraduate students enrolled in the course will write one short (4-8 pages) essay-review based upon a sufficient variety of materials to allow analysis of differing viewpoints on the subject. Reading for the essay-review will be in addition to that required for the course in general. We will hand out in class a format for the essay-review. You may choose materials to read after consultation with the instructor. Students who prefer to write a short research paper rather than the essay-review may do so. Any and all graduate students enrolled in the course must write a research paper based principally upon primary source materials. The writing assignments will be due fairly late in the semester on December 3, although we encourage students to turn these earlier if possible.

Grading Policies:

We will evaluate your work in the course based upon the essay examinations, the writing assignment, and attendance at and participation in the lectures and discussion periods based upon the readings. Improvement in performance over the semester will always result in a higher grade; in cases where a final grade hovers between two possibilities the student whose work has shown

improvement will receive the higher of the two possibilities.

## LECTURE TOPICS

<u>Lecture</u>		<u>Date</u>	
I. CITIES IN THE NEW WORLD			
1. Introduction to the Course		Sep.	3
2. Theories of City Location and Growth			5
3. Patterns of American Colonial Urbanization			10
4. Planting and Planning Cities in the New World			12
5. The Regulation of Urban Life			17
6. The "Sorts" of City Folk: Class Structure in the Cities			19
7. Social Institutions in the Cities			24
8. Commercial Cities and the Rise of the Merchants			26
9. The First Urban (Urbane?) American		Oct.	1
10. The Workshops of the Revolution			3
11. Urban America in War and Peace			8
12. Federal Cities and the Constitution			10
* * * * Review Session for Mid-Term Examination * * * *			15
* * * * * MID-TERM EXAMINATION * * * * *			17
II. CITIES IN THE NEW NATION			
1. The Rise of Western Cities		Oct.	22
2. "Instant Cities" on the Frontier			24
3. The Urban Frontier of the Old South			29
4. Slaves and Free Blacks in Urban America			31
5. Dreamers and Schemers of Urban Imperialism		Nov.	5
6. Urban Industrial Growth			7
7. Foreign Immigrants and the "Discovery" of Poverty			12
8. Urban Crime, Riots, and Violence			14
9. Social Mobility and "Democracy"			19
10. The Unhealthy City			21
11. Technology and Visions of the Urban Future			26
* * * * THANKSGIVING BREAK * * * *			28
12. Saving the Cities Through Planning		Dec.	3
13. The Southern Perimeter and the Civil War			5
14. The Urbanization of Modern America			10
* * * * Review Session for Final Examination * * * *			12

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.

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	21,789