

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN
DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY
FALL 1990

HISTORY 401

MR. SCHULTZ

AMERICAN URBAN HISTORY 1607 TO 1870

Texts:

Kenneth A. Lockridge, A NEW ENGLAND TOWN: THE FIRST
HUNDRED YEARS
Richard C. Wade, SLAVERY IN THE CITIES
Charles E. Rosenberg, THE CHOLERA YEARS: THE UNITED STATES IN
1832, 1849, AND 1866
Reprint collection of articles (purchase at Kinko's)

Course Meetings and Requirements:

Students will attend two lectures (75 minutes each) and one required discussion section (50 minutes) per week. A Teaching Assistant will lead the discussion sections which normally will focus on the reading assignments for the course.

Grades will depend on performance on the examinations, the essay review, and attendance at and participation in the discussion sections. Steady improvement over the semester will find its reward in the final grade. We will evaluate your work on its blend of necessary factual information and thoughtful analyses of the major issues.

We have scheduled two examinations during the course; each will be in essay format. There will be a required mid-term (scheduled for October 23rd) and a final examination (scheduled by the College for Friday, December 21st at 2:45 P.M.).

Writing Assignment:

In addition to examinations, there will be one required writing assignment. All undergraduate students will write one short (4-8 double-spaced, typewritten pages) essay review (format to be provided). The essay-review will be based on a sufficient variety of materials to allow analysis of differing viewpoints on the subject. Normally, this would be two books, or one book and several articles. Students who prefer to write a short research paper, based upon primary historical materials, rather than the essay-review, may do so.

All graduate students enrolled in the course must write a research paper based on primary sources.

The writing assignment will be due **no later than December 10**. We will grant no exceptions to the due date.

COURSE OUTLINE AND LECTURE TOPICS

LECTURE TOPICS	DATE
I. CITIES IN THE NEW WORLD	
Introduction to the course	Sept. 4
Theories of City Location and Growth	6
Patterns of American Colonial Urbanization	13
Planting and Planning Cities in the New World	18
The Regulation of Urban Life	20
The "Sorts" of City Folk: Class Structure in the Cities	25
Social Institutions in the Cities	27
Commercial Cities and the Rise of the Merchants	Oct. 2
The First Urban (Urbane?) American	4
The Workshops of the Revolution	9
Urban America in War and Peace	16
Federal Cities and the Constitution	18

MID-TERM EXAMINATION * * *

Oct. 23

II. CITIES IN THE NEW NATION	
The Rise of Western Cities	Oct. 25
"Instant Cities on the Frontier	30
The Urban Frontier of the Old South	Nov. 1
Slaves and Free Blacks in Urban America	6
Dreamers and Schemers of Urban Imperialism	8
Urban Industrial Growth	13
Foreigners and the "Discovery" of Poverty	15
Urban Crime, Riots, and Violence	20

Thanksgiving Recess, Nov. 22-25

Social Mobility and "Democracy"	27
The Unhealthy City	29
Technology and Visions of the Urban Future	Dec. 4
Saving the Cities Through Planning	6
The Southern Perimeter and the Civil War	11
The Urbanization of Modern America	13

Please note: There are two open days on which class will not meet. These are Sept. 11 and Oct. 11.

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

77

3128

8820

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

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New London	----	----	----	----	----	3000	----	5300	----	----	5600
Norwich	----	----	----	----	----	5000	----	7000	----	----	7300
Salem	----	----	----	----	----	----	4000	----	----	5337	----
Providence	----	1500	----	3900	----	3400	----	4000	----	4355	4300

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	total U.S. railroad mileage					77	3729	8870	20 676	