

ORIGINS OF CITIES

Tuesday 1:00–2:15; Thursday 11:30–12:45; MULH 4022

INSTRUCTOR

Preah Khan, Angkor, Cambodia

Dr. MIKAEL HALLER
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 Office Hours:
 Tues: 2:30–4:00 pm
 Wed: 2:00–5:00 pm
 Thurs: 1:00–2:30 pm
 or by In-Person Appointment



Course Summary

Urban living is an increasingly common experience for humans across the globe. City life, however, is not strictly a modern phenomenon. This course is a broad introduction to the process of urbanism and the rise of early pre-industrial cities. Specific cases from the Mesopotamia, Egypt, Indus Valley, China, Mesoamerica, the Andes, and modern North America are examined to elucidate the varying roles cities played in ancient civilizations, the specific factors that led to urban development in each area and how this can aid in our current understanding of modern urban life.

Course Delivery: Although this is an in-person course, online synchronous methods will be used if restrictions or quarantines are implemented (Collaborate, Moodle, and Microsoft Teams).

Course Goals

This course is designed to explore the similarities and differences of the world’s earliest cities. Students will discover that even though great spans of time separate ancient and modern cities there are commonalities to urban life. In studying ancient cities, we attempt to better recognize not just how cities came about, but that despite the many problems of urban life, people continued and continue to flock to cities. One of the main goals of this class is for students to better understand why people were motivated to adopt urban life in different areas of the world. Additionally, it should be remembered that when compared to the long history of humankind, cities are a recent development in social organization with which we continue to experiment through both our failures and successes.

Course Requirements

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|----|--|--------------------------|
| 1) | READING SUMMARIES (2% each; 14 in total)
These will be a summary of the main themes and arguments of the reading, due on the day assigned before class. Follow specific format. | 29% |
| 2) | EXAMS
Mid-term (October 19)
Final exam (December 15) | 25%
25% |
| 3) | URBAN ASSIGNMENT: Urban Planning at Machu Picchu (December 6) | 15% |
| 4) | PARTICIPATION
Attendance will be taken and used in conjunction with your preparedness (did you read the text and articles) and your contributions to class discussions. Class disruptions (talking, lateness, etc.) will be subtracted and can end up as a negative score. | 6% |

Summaries

2 typed pages double-spaced for the class's readings (1-inch margins, 11 font). These will be a summary of the main themes and arguments of the reading, due on the day assigned before class (no late submissions will be accepted). These are to be in your own words—**do not plagiarize the in-text summaries or use AI assistance.**

Follow specific format. **Use headings.**

Title: (complete bibliographic information; single-spaced)

Description: (include a detailed description of the main themes and arguments of the reading; 1 page).

Relevance: (Describe how this reading relates to the course and our class discussions; 1 page).

(Summaries are worth 2% each)

Assigned Readings

Each class has been broken down into individual reading assignments that are expected to have been read **prior** to each class.

ARTICLE LISTSection 1: Introduction

- Sabloff, Jeremy A.
2016 Why Cities? In *Archaeology Matters*, pp. 69-77. Left Coast Press, Walnut Creek, CA ([Just read, but no summary](#)). (Moodle)

Section 2: Origins and Development of Urbanism: Theoretical Perspectives

- Marconis, John J. and Vincent N. Parrillo
2013 Spatial Perspectives: Making Sense of Space (Chapter 6), In *Cities and Urban Life*, sixth edition, pp. 149-171. Pearson, Upper Saddle River, NJ. (Moodle)

Section 3: Urban Anthropology: The City and Society

- Marconis, John J. and Vincent N. Parrillo
2013 The Origins and Development of the World's City (Chapter 2), In *Cities and Urban Life*, sixth edition, pp. 23-54. Pearson, Upper Saddle River, NJ. (Moodle)

Section 4: Origins and Development of Urbanism: Archaeological Perspectives (3 pages; 3%)

- Smith, Michael E.
2007 Form and Meaning in the Earliest Cities: A New Approach to Ancient Urban Planning. *Journal of Planning History* 6(1):1-47/
<http://jph.sagepub.com.libproxy.stfx.ca/content/6/1/3.full.pdf+html>

Section 5: Mesopotamia: The First Cities

- van der Mierop
1999 Chapter 4 "The Urban Landscape". In *The Ancient Mesopotamian City*, pp. 23-41. Oxford University Press, Oxford. (Moodle)

Section 6: Egypt: A Civilization without Cities?

- Morell, Virginia
2013 Pyramid Builders, In *Archaeology: Cities, Empires, Religion, Migrations of the Past*, pp. 2-27. National Geographic Learning Reader, Washington D.C. (Moodle)

Section 7: Angkor

- Stone, David
2009 Divining Angkor. *National Geographic* 216(1):27-54. (text only)
<http://search.proquest.com.libproxy.stfx.ca/docview/200962703/fulltext/C9FF62DFB1E84230PQ/1?accountid=13803>

Section 8: Urbanism in the Americas: Ancient Andes

- Pringle, Heather
2013 Lofty Ambitions of the Inca, In *Archaeology: Cities, Empires, Religion, Migrations of the Past*, pp. 70-95. National Geographic Learning Reader, Washington D.C. (Moodle)

Section 9: Indus Valley and China

- Menon, Shanti
1998 Indus Valley, Inc. *Discover* 19(12):67-71.
<http://search.proquest.com.libproxy.stfx.ca/docview/205986270/fulltextPDF/3E3E4E1A07024C85PQ/67?accountid=13803>
- Xu, Miao and Zhen Yang Yates
2009 Design history of China's gated cities and neighbourhoods: Prototype and evolution. *Urban Design* 14:99-117. (Springer; Moodle)

Section 10: Social Psychology: The Urban Experience

- Marconis, John J. and Vincent N. Parrillo
2013 Social Psychology (Chapter 8), In *Cities and Urban Life*, sixth edition, pp. 202-229. Pearson, Upper Saddle River, NJ. (Moodle)

Section 11: Classical Cities

- Morris, A.E.J.
1994 Greek City States, In *History of Urban Form*. Third edition, pp. 35-54. Longman Press, London (Moodle)
- Ling, Roger
1990 A Stranger in Town: Finding the Way in an Ancient City. *Greece & Rome*, Second Series, 37(2):204-214.
<http://www.jstor.org.libproxy.stfx.ca/stable/pdfplus/643047.pdf?&acceptTC=true&jpdConfirm=true>

Section 12: Urbanism in the Americas: Ancient Mesoamerica

- Carballo, David M. and Brent Fortenberry
2015 Bridging Prehistory and History in the Archaeology of Cities. *Journal of Field Archaeology* 40(5):542-559. <https://www-tandfonline-com.libproxy.stfx.ca/doi/pdf/10.1179/2042458215Y.00000000019?needAccess=true>

Section 13: Urban Anthropology and the Ancient City

- Smith, Michael
2010 Sprawl, Squatters and Sustainable Cities: Can Archaeological Data Shed Light on Modern Urban Issues? *Cambridge Archaeology Journal* 20(2):229-253.
<http://www.public.asu.edu/~mesmith9/1-CompleteSet/MES-10-CAJ-SprawlSquatters.pdf>

Grading Policy

Submitting exercises late will result in losing 25% for each day (late summaries will be accepted). Cheating and plagiarism will be dealt with in strict accordance to the StFX's Academic regulations (<http://www2.mystfx.ca/registrars-office/academic-integrity>). If students miss class, they are responsible for obtaining their own notes as I do not give out my class notes.

SPECIAL ACCOMMODATIONS

I encourage students that require special testing accommodations or other classroom modifications to contact Learning Services (http://sites.stfx.ca/accessible_learning/services). Please make arrangements within two weeks from the start of the course.

All StFX students have access to Microsoft Cloud services and should take advantage of this to ensure a backup of academic files. If you choose not to use this service, you are responsible for making your own backups to prevent losing data and not being able to submit required coursework.

Communication

All students have a StFX e-mail account, which must be checked regularly as notices and information pertaining to the course will be sent electronically. You can send electronic correspondence to my university e-mail address (mhaller@stfx.ca). Handouts and syllabus are available on the course Moodle site

Students may drop a course, online in Banner, on or before the deadline of October 30, 2024.

Everyone learns more effectively in a respectful, safe, and equitable learning environment, free from discrimination and harassment. I invite you to work with me to create a classroom space – both real and virtual – that fosters and promotes values of human dignity, equity, non-discrimination, and respect for diversity. Please feel free to contact the Human Rights and Equity Advisor Megan Fogarty if you have questions or concerns about equity in the classroom or in the StFX Community in general. Megan can be contacted by email at mfogarty@stfx.ca or by telephone at 902-867-5306.

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St. Francis Xavier University is located in Mi'kma'ki, the ancestral and unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq.
We are all Treaty people.

MONTH	DAY	TOPIC	READINGS	HAND OUT	DUE
SEPT	5	Introduction			
SEPT	10	Introduction	Sabloff 2016*(No summary)		
SEPT	12	Origins and Development of Urbanism: Theoretical Perspectives	Marcionis and Parrillo 2013:Chapter 6		
SEPT	17	Origins and Development of Urbanism: Theoretical Perspectives			
SEPT	19	Urban Anthropology: The City and Society	Marcionis and Parrillo 2013:Chapter 2		
SEPT	24	Urban Anthropology: The City and Society			
SEPT	26	Origins and Development of Urbanism: Archaeological Perspectives	Smith 2007*(3page; 3%)		
OCT	1	Origins and Development of Urbanism: Archaeological Perspectives			
OCT	3	Mesopotamia: The First Cities	van der Mieroop 1999		
OCT	8	Mesopotamia: The First Cities			
OCT	10	Egypt: A Civilization without Cities?	Morell 2013	Mid-term Exam	
OCT	15-17	FALL BREAK (NO CLASSES)			
OCT	22	Khmer Empire: Angkor	Stone 2009		Mid-term (O19)
OCT	24	Khmer Empire: Angkor		Machu Picchu	
OCT	29	Andes: Machu Picchu	Pringle 2013		
OCT	31	Andes: Machu Picchu			
NOV	5	Urbanism in the Indus Valley	Menon 1998		
NOV	7	Urban Tradition of Shang China	Xu and Yang 2009		
NOV	12	Social Psychology: The Urban Experience	Macionis and Parrillo 2013:Chapter 8		
NOV	14	Classical Cities: Greece, Rome, and Pompeii	Morris 1994		
NOV	19	Classical Cities: Greece, Rome, and Pompeii	Ling 1990		
NOV	21	Classical Cities: Greece, Rome, and Pompeii			
NOV	26	Mesoamerica: Teotihuacan; Aztec City States	Carballo and Fortenberry 2015		
NOV	28	Mesoamerica: Teotihuacan; Aztec City States			
DEC	3	X-RING (NO CLASSES)			
DEC	5	Urban Anthropology and the Ancient City	Smith 2010		Machu Picchu
DEC	15	Final Exam Due			