

Course Title	: CITIES ACROSS CIVILISATIONS
Course Code	: HST3268
Recommended Study Year*	Second and third-year students
No. of Credits/Term	: 3
Mode of Tuition	: Sectional approach
Class Contact Hours	: 3 hours per week
Category in Major Prog.	: Free Elective for non-History students, or History Elective for History students.
Prerequisite(s)	: None
Co-requisite(s)	: None
Exclusion(s)	: None
Exemption Requirement(s)	: N/A

Brief Course Description

Comparative in thrust, the course explores the economic, social, and cultural life of several cities with special attention to the 19th and 20th centuries. A selection of historic cities representing are included with the intent of exploring commonalities across civilizations as well as the traits that make for uniqueness.

Aims

Enhance cross-cultural perspectives (Europe and America, China and the West)
 Explore links between material life (standard of living) and cultural institutions (educational, artistic, etc.)
 Trace pre-modern roots of modern metropolises (enduring infrastructures)
 Assess environmental factors in shaping history
 (population, disease, relief programs)

Learning Outcomes

Develop methods for comparative thinking by comparing different societies
 Augment critical reading skills through classroom discussion and essays
 Enhance verbal skills through class participation (students discuss assigned readings and present materials related to city of their choice)
 Enhance writing skills through exams and essays
 (mid-term exam for retention of information and final essay for analytical skills)

Indicative Content

- I. Medieval and Early Modern Roots: religion and commerce, contrasting Changan China with early Paris, London, and New York
- II. 19th Century Transitions: commerce and culture – industrial infrastructures, Domestic trade and international commerce, Educational institutions
- III. 20th Century metropolises as magnets for the Disenfranchised and hotbeds of revolution
- IV. Comparative Issues: religious institutions of the West vs. government in the East
- V. The Future: Reconciling culture with commerce

Teaching Method

Lectures including slides and other visuals

Weekly discussion of reading assignments (50-60 pp. per week)

Student presentations on designated city (1 per semester)

Measurement of Learning Outcomes

- a) Attendance at lecture (Wednesday) and participation in discussion (Friday)
- b) Mid-term examination
- c) Final paper on city selected by students

Assessment

Continuous Assessment: 25%

(participation in weekly discussion sections and student presentations)

Mid-term Exam: 25%

Final Paper: 50%

Required Readings

Horne, Alistair, *Seven Ages of Paris*. New York: Vintage Books, 2004.

Lankevich, George J., *New York City: A short history*. New York: New York University Press, 1998, 2002.

Picard, Liza, *Elizabeth's London: Everyday life in Elizabethan London*, New York: St. Martins, 2003

0-312-32565-7

*Benn, Charles, *China's Golden Age: Everyday Life in the Tang Dynasty* (Oxford: Oxford Univ. Press, 2002)

(Reserve Desk)

Important Notes:

- (1) Students are expected to spend a total of 9 hours (i.e. 3 hours of class contact and 6 hours of personal study) per week to achieve the course learning outcomes.
- (2) Students shall be aware of the University regulations about dishonest practice in course work, tests and examinations, and the possible consequences as stipulated in the Regulations Governing University Examinations. In particular, plagiarism, being a kind of dishonest practice, is “the presentation of another person’s work without proper acknowledgement of the source, including exact phrases, or summarised ideas, or even footnotes/citations, whether protected by copyright or not, as the student’s own work”. Students are required to strictly follow university regulations governing academic integrity and honesty.
- (3) Students are required to submit writing assignment(s) using Turnitin.
- (4) To enhance students’ understanding of plagiarism, a mini-course “Online Tutorial on Plagiarism Awareness” is available on <https://pla.ln.edu.hk/>.