



**HISTORY 334.01E
URBAN UNDERWORLDS
COURSE SYLLABUS: SPRING 2014**

Instructor: Dr. Sharon Kowalsky

Office Location: Ferguson Social Sciences 105

Office Hours: Monday and Wednesday, 10:00-11:00, 2:30-5:00, or by appointment

Office Phone: 903-886-5627

University Email Address: Sharon.Kowalsky@tamuc.edu

COURSE INFORMATION

Course Description:

Industrialization and the urbanization that accompanied it changed the nature of Europe's cities permanently. These new metropolises brought the contradictions of modern life into sharp relief. This course takes a comparative approach to analyze the urban environment in cities such as London, Paris, Vienna, Berlin, St Petersburg, and Moscow. Focusing on the "hidden" worlds of the ordinary person, we will examine issues of class, crime and social control, prostitution and vice, entertainment and culture, and health and hygiene, as we explore the impact of change and modernity on Europe's urban landscape.

Prerequisite and/or Corequisite Majors: Hist 253. Non-Majors: may enroll with consent of instructor.

Course Materials:

The following required books are available at the bookstore:

- Emile Zola, *L'Assommoir* (Oxford University Press, 2009) ISBN 978-0199538683, \$12.95
- Henry Mayhew, *London Labour and the London Poor* (Penguin Classics, 1986) ISBN 978-0140432418, \$16.00
- Lombroso and Ferrero, *Criminal Woman, the Prostitute, and the Normal Woman*, trans Rafter and Gibson (Duke University Press, 2004) ISBN 978-0822332466, \$24.95
- Christina Vella, *Indecent Secrets: The Infamous Murri Murder Affair* (Free Press, 2005) ISBN 978-0743250467, \$25.16

Any additional materials will be distributed in class by the professor or made available to students through eCollege.

Student Learning Outcomes:

This course will teach students to evaluate and analyze materials and to link cultural representations to the underlying historical realities that helped shape them. By the end of the semester:

1. Students will be able to form substantive and evidence-driven arguments to propose solutions to problems or explain phenomena.

2. Student communication will follow conventions of grammar and syntax appropriate to the audience, purpose and message.

The objectives of this course include: (1) to gain factual knowledge about the period under discussion; (2) to develop the specific skills and points of view needed by historians; (3) to improve skills needed for oral and written expression; (4) to be able to place the present in a historically based context; and (5) to learn to analyze and critically evaluate ideas, arguments, and points of view.

Students' ability to meet the objectives and learning outcomes of this course will be evaluated through essays and research projects.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

Instructional / Methods / Activities Assessments

Attendance and Participation

Attendance is strongly encouraged. You are responsible for all material covered in our class meetings, regardless of your physical presence in the room. Students are expected to come prepared to engage with and discuss the assigned material. This means preparing the assignment before class and bringing the reading material with you to class. I expect all students to participate in our class discussions and to contribute their thoughts, ideas, and questions to our collective exploration. I especially encourage you to bring your questions to class. I will create, and expect you to uphold, an intellectual environment in the classroom where we can listen to and consider others' arguments and opinions with an open mind and where we respect viewpoints other than our own. Your participation grade will be based on your engagement in our class discussions and be guided by the following rubric:

- A = Always prepared, frequently participates, rarely absent
- B = Always prepared, participates only when called on, rarely absent
- C = Usually prepared, rarely speaks, rarely absent
- D = Often unprepared, several absences
- F = Usually unprepared, frequent absences

Any quizzes or smaller writing assignments given in class from time to time will be included as part of the participation grade.

Written Assignments

Each student in the class will be assigned to one of several groups relating to each assigned book for the course. Each group will be responsible for making a presentation to the class over a particular issue related to the book and its subject matter. Each presentation will involve some external research. The professor will focus the group on the appropriate issues and subjects. Students will then develop a research/term paper based on the research conducted for the presentation. Details and requirements for this assignment can be found on the eCollege site. Additional short writing assignments may be assigned at the discretion of the professor and will be counted as part of the participation grade.

Exams

Students will take one exam and one final over the course of the semester, covering the major themes we will be addressing. For each, students will be asked to develop analytical essay responses to questions posed by the professor. Portions of the exams may be take home, on eCollege, or in-class. The exam will be worth 15 percent of the final grade; the final exam will count for 20 percent.

Grading

Grades for the semester will be determined according to the following breakdown:

Research Paper	30%
Class Presentation	10%
Exams	35%
Participation/Attendance	25%

Your grades for written work will be determined based on the following rubric:

- A = Mastery of reading and class material; factual accuracy; thoughtful, historical argumentation demonstrating ability to synthesize and/or some originality of thought; technically clean
- B = Good to excellent command of most reading and class material; accuracy; good level of historical argumentation; reasonable thesis statement
- C = Good command of class material; accuracy; ability to articulate a historical point of view, even if it is not compelling or is poorly reasoned
- D = Poor command of required assignments; errors; ahistorical or narrow reasoning

The grading scale used for this course is as follows:

90-100 =	A
80-89 =	B
70-79 =	C
60-69 =	D
59 or less =	F

TECHNOLOGY REQUIREMENTS, ACCESS, AND NAVIGATION

The following information has been provided to assist you in preparing to use technology successfully in this course:

Word Processing:

You will need access to a word processor and printer to prepare written exams and research projects. You should be able to insert footnotes in your papers.

eCollege:

This course is web-enhanced through eCollege, the Learning Management System used by Texas A&M University-Commerce. To access eCollege you will need an internet connection, preferably high speed, and your CWID and password. If you do not know your CWID or have forgotten your password, please contact Technology Services at 903-468-6000 or helpdesk@tamuc.edu. To get started with the course, go to: <https://leo.tamuc.edu/login.aspx>. eCollege will be used to send you announcements and reminders, to post grades, and to provide access to course materials (except required readings) such as handouts and assignments. In addition, eCollege will be the primary means for me to communicate with you outside the classroom. Be sure that you can access the email account the university has on record for you. You should get into the habit of checking the eCollege site for this course on a daily basis.

Turnitin:

Students must submit all written work to Turnitin. Work is submitted through the dropbox eCollege. All student work must be turned in to the dropbox on eCollege and will automatically be submitted to Turnitin. Please let me know if you have any problems.

COMMUNICATION AND SUPPORT

Interaction with Instructor:

Students are encouraged to contact the professor for any and all reasons whatsoever. The more you let me know what is going on with you, the better I can help you out when necessary. Beyond the classroom, the best way to get in touch with the professor is through email. I am also available during my office hours. Please come to talk to me about any concerns you might have and about any problems or issues that arise during the semester. I can be very understanding but only if I know what is going on with you.

Librarian:

Our librarian for Humanities and Social Sciences is Megan Beard. She is available to assist you in your research, whether it is using the library or identifying and locating sources. Please take advantage of this assistance as you need it. Her contact information is as follows:

Megan Beard, Reference Librarian
Gee Library
Megan.Beard@tamuc.edu

COURSE AND UNIVERSITY PROCEDURES/POLICIES
--

Classroom Behavior

All students are expected to observe basic tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment (See Student's Guide Handbook, Policies and Procedures, Conduct). During class time, I expect your undivided attention. This means turning off cell phones, pagers, iPods, and other devices, and putting away newspapers and other forms of distraction, for the duration of the class period (exceptions will be allowed for emergencies with advance permission of the professor). Please come to class on time and plan to stay for the entire period. Coming late and/or disrupting the learning environment shows disrespect for me, your colleagues, and the educational endeavor in which you are engaged. If you must leave early, please let me know at the beginning of class. I can be very understanding of problems that might arise over the course of the semester, but only if I know what is going on with you. I encourage you to come to my office hours, to get to know me, and to keep me informed of any issues you might have that would affect your performance in this class.

Late Papers

All written assignments are due to the dropbox on the date listed in the Course Schedule below. Late assignments may be accepted only with the advance approval of the professor and will be assessed a penalty of one letter grade per week. If you have a problem with a due date because of a specific emergency, please notify the professor in advance or plan to turn the assignment in early. *I can be very understanding and flexible with you, but only if you come to talk to me in advance.* To pass this class, all assignments must be completed. Any missing assignments at the end of the course will result in an overall course grade of D or F.

Academic Honesty

In all courses, we expect that all work that you do and turn in is your own. It is the policy of the University, the History Department, and myself that no form of plagiarism, cheating, collusion, or any other form of academic dishonesty will be tolerated. Plagiarism is defined as deliberately taking the words or ideas of someone else and passing them off as your own. Cheating is obtaining unauthorized assistance on any assignment. Collusion is the selling of academic products with the intention that they be submitted to satisfy an academic requirement. Students are expected to uphold and support the highest academic standards at all times. Any student found guilty of academic dishonesty will automatically fail the assignment in question, will likely fail the entire course, and will be subject to disciplinary action by the University (See Texas A&M University-Commerce Code of Student Conduct 5.b[1,2,3]). Further information on the History Department plagiarism policy can be found on the History Department web page. If you are even unclear about what constitutes plagiarism or academic dishonesty, please ask.

Writing Center

Students are encouraged to take advantage of the resources of the Writing Center for assistance with drafting their papers. The Writing Center is a resource for you. They will not write your paper; they will help you improve your writing skills. If you use the Writing Center, please plan ahead. They can only help you if you see them in advance and have time to incorporate their suggestions into the final paper. More information can be found at <http://www.tamu-commerce.edu/litlang/CSC/>.

Students with Disabilities

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

Office of Student Disability Resources and Services
Texas A&M University-Commerce
Gee Library 132
Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835
Fax (903) 468-8148
StudentDisabilityServices@tamu-commerce.edu
[Student Disability Resources & Services](#)

COURSE OUTLINE / CALENDAR

This schedule will guide you through the semester. It should be referred to often. I will do my best to adhere to this schedule, but I reserve the right to make adjustments to it during the course of the semester as such circumstances arise. More specifics about daily assignments and topics will be provided as in advance as we proceed through the semester.

January 13: Introduction

Background: Urbanization: Weeks 1-2

Reading: TBA

January 15: lecture

January 20: no class, Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

January 22: lecture

Poverty: Weeks 3-8

Readings: Zola, *L'Assommoir*; Mayhew, *London's Labour*

January 27: lecture

January 29: lecture

February 3: lecture

February 5: discussion/presentation

February 10: lecture

February 12: lecture

February 17: lecture

February 19: lecture

February 24: discussion/presentation

February 26: lecture

March 3: lecture

March 5: exam

Crime: Weeks 9-15

Readings: *Indecent Secrets*; Lombroso, *Criminal Woman*

Excerpts on eCollege

March 17: lecture

March 19: lecture

March 24: lecture

March 26: lecture

March 31: discussion/presentation

April 2: lecture

April 7: lecture

April 9: lecture

April 14: lecture

April 16: discussion/presentation

April 21: lecture

April 23: lecture

April 28: lecture

April 30: lecture

Final Exam TBA