

The History of Urban Life: [Course Site](#)
Fall 2021
Dr. Samuel Finesurrey
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Course Learning Outcomes:

This course examines the development of urban communities across the United States and beyond both temporally and geographically. It examines the patterns of cleavage, conflict, convergence of interest, and consensus that have structured urban life. Social, cultural, and economic forces will be analyzed for the roles they have played in shaping diverse communities of America's cities. Because we this class is involved in an international exchange program we will be comparing NYC to Cairo specifically.

Meeting Times:

Class: Mondays 3-4:30 ([Zoom Link](#))

Office Hours: Mondays 4:30-5:30 ([Zoom Link](#))

NOTE: The syllabus may change if the instructor feels it will improve how the class operates.

Weekly Schedule – All work will be due Sundays at 11:59 PM

- Thursday 9/9: Classes Start at Guttman
- **Sunday 9/12: Week One Assignment Due (Introduction to Work and Class)**
- Monday 9/13: Week One Class ([Zoom Link](#))
- Tuesday 9/14: Last day to drop courses for 75% tuition refund
- Wednesday 9/15: Last day to add/swap courses
- **Sunday 9/19: Week Two Assignment Due (Introduction to NYC and Cairo)**
- Monday 9/20: Week Two Class ([Zoom Link](#)) – Last day to drop courses for 50% tuition refund
- Saturday 9/25: Last day to drop courses for 25% tuition refund – Last day to change major for Fall 2021
- **Sunday 9/26: Week Three Assignment Due (Foundation of U.S. Cities and NYC/Project Formation)**
- Monday 9/27: Week Three Class ([Zoom Link](#))
- Tuesday 9/28: Course withdrawal drop (WD) period ends
- Wednesday 9/29: 100% tuition obligation for course drop
- **Sunday 10/3: Week Four Assignment Due (Conduct Interviews)**
- Monday 10/4: Week Four Class ([Zoom Link](#))
- **Sunday 10/10: Week Five Assignment Due (Schedule One on One with Finesurrey)**
- Monday 10/11: No Class, College is Closed
- **Sunday 10/17: Week Six Assignment is Due (NYC Emerges as Dominant in the 19th Century/Interviews Due/)**
- Monday 10/18: Week Six Class ([Zoom Link](#))
- **Sunday 10/24: Week Seven Assignment Due (Urbanization and Industrialization)**
- Monday 10/25: Week Seven Class ([Zoom Link](#))
- **Sunday 10/31 (Halloween): Week Eight Assignment Due (Immigration and Poverty at Turn of 20thCentury/ Transcript Due)**
- Monday 11/1: Week Eight Class ([Zoom Link](#))
- **Sunday 11/7: Week Nine Assignment Due (Slum Removal, Redlining and Organizing)**
- Monday 11/8: Week Nine Class ([Zoom Link](#))
- Wednesday 11/10: Rosie's Second Birthday
- **Sunday 11/14: Week Ten Assignment Due (The Radical 1960s/Paper Outline Due)**

- Monday 11/15: Week Eleven Class ([Zoom Link](#))
- **Sunday 11/21: Week Eleven Assignment Due (Into the Modern Era)**
- Monday 11/22: Week Eleven Class ([Zoom Link](#))
- Thursday 11/25- Sunday 11/28: Thanksgiving Break
- Monday 11/29: Week 12 Class ([Zoom Link](#))
- **Tuesday 11/30: Class with AUC @ 10 AM -- Extra Credit**
- **Sunday 12/5: Week Thirteen Assignment Due -- Final Paper/Presentations Due**
- Monday 12/6: Week 13 Class ([Zoom Link](#))
- Friday 12/10: Classes End
- Thursday 12/16: End of Fall Session 1

GRADING

A	100-93	4.0	C	76-73	2.0
A-	92-90	3.7	C-	72-69	1.7
B+	90-87	3.3	D+	69-67	1.3
B	86-83	3.0	D	67-60	1.0
B-	82-80	2.7	F	59-0	0.0
C+	79-77	2.3			

Small Shops, Big Cities: Transnational Interview Project (400 Points or 40%): You will conduct an oral history with a bodega owner or worker with a group of your peers. While you do not have to be recorded on the interview, you need to work as a class, and as smaller groups in designing and transcribing this interview. The testimonies you produce will become a part of [Voices from the Heart of Gotham: Undergraduate Scholars Oral History Collection at Guttman Community College](#).

1. Due Sunday October 3 (30 Points)
 - a. You will receive your group assignments next week. As a group you must work to create a list of 5 questions and write how and why you would edit or eliminate five existing questions.
2. **Due Sunday October 17 (120 Points)**
 - a. **Create a Dropbox --** Create a Dropbox folder titled with your group number, name and share it with samuel.finesurrey@guttman.cuny.edu
 - b. Gain permission to use and make public the interview of the person you've chosen to interview by having them fill out a consent form attached to this assignment. Your entire team who is on the recording must also sign a consent form. You will submit the consent form in the dropbox folder you've shared with Dr. Finesurrey.
 - c. Record an interview with that person over the phone or by zoom. You will submit the recording in the dropbox folder you have shared with Finesurrey.
 - d. You must upload a photo of the person you interviewed, or if they prefer, a photo of something they talked about in their interview to the dropbox folder shared with Finesurrey.
3. Due Sunday October 31 (50 Points)
 - a. As a group you must edit a transcript of your interviewee. I will give you a sloppy AI generated transcripts from which to work and you will be graded on accuracy and editing.

4. Due Sunday November 14 (50 Points)
 - a. As an individual you must outline your final paper. Using your own interview, and the interviews conducted by your classmates at Guttman and AUC you must explain the common and unique obstacles faced by small business owners in NYC and Cairo respectively.
 - b. The outline must have...
 - i. A clear thesis.
 - ii. At least three body paragraphs outlined with each having a clear topic sentence followed by at least three quotes from the oral histories that will be used as evidence.
 - iii. These quotes will be used as evidence and must come from at least four different interviews conducted by you and/or your classmates.
 - c. Follow this format for your outline.
 - i. Historical Question
 - ii. Thesis Statement
 - iii. Topic Sentence For Body Paragraph One
 1. Quote 1
 2. Quote 2
 3. Quote 3
 - iv. Topic Sentence For Body Paragraph Two
 1. Quote 1
 2. Quote 2
 3. Quote 3
 - v. Topic Sentence for Body Paragraph Three
 1. Quote 1
 2. Quote 2
 3. Quote 3
5. Due Sunday December 5 (100 Points)
 - a. You will submit your final paper/presentation on Sunday November 28. It will be a five-page response paper.
 - i. You must have a clear introductory paragraph that lays out the overall argument you will be making and details the various points you will use to make that argument. The introduction will finish with a thesis statement that clearly states your argument.
 - ii. Each body paragraph must have a clear topic sentence with an argument. The topic sentence should support the essay's thesis and will be supported throughout the paragraph with evidence from *multiple* interviews you are using to write your paper.
 - iii. While this essay will incorporate the words of the interviewees, it will mostly be focused on your analysis of those words.
 - iv. In your conclusion, you will repeat your main argument and the points that support that argument.
6. Due Sunday December 5 (50 Points)
 - a. You must submit your presentation of your final paper. You can submit a recording by Sunday 12/5 and/or present in class on Monday 12/6.

Participation (100 Points or 10%): You will be graded on your participation in class work. Whether your participation comes in the form of attending and engaging during class time or strong participation during group work, you will be evaluated by how you communicate with me and your peers about the material.

Weekly Assignments (500 Points or 50%): Nearly every week there will be notes and a response questions you will be required to submit on the readings and videos due. The due date will always be Sunday at midnight.

How to Take Good Notes:

1. Take notes in your own words. Do not use my words or those of you classmates.
2. Organize your notes in an outline, not paragraph format.
3. Organize your notes with captions or subheadings.
4. Focus on what's most important rather than taking notes on everything.
5. Make sure key names and events are covered in your notes.
6. Make sure you have notes for the entire video and reading, not just the first half.

Potentially New Technology: Slack, Dropbox

1. **What is Slack?** Slack is a communication platform that users can use to send messages in a chat format. Slack offers chat-based channels that faculty can customize around specific topics. Using a free account associated with an email address, faculty can set up an online space where students can interact with other students and exchange text, images, and web links as well. This tool can be used either synchronously or asynchronously. We will be using Slack for the international project with students from the American University of Cairo.
 - a. **Compatible with phones?** Yes, students can download a free app and sign on to a Slack space using a free account.
 - b. Watch [this short video](#) (1:14) to learn more about Slack
 - c. Read [this quick guide](#) to create a profile once you join the Slack community
 - d. Click [here](#) to access more tutorials about Slack
2. **What is Dropbox:** Dropbox is a platform that allows you to store large files. You will be using it to upload your oral histories and access the transcripts from other oral histories.
 - a. You will receive a tutorial later in the semester on how to use dropbox for the purpose of our class.

CLASS RULES

Office Hours: Because we're doing this online, Office Hours are so important. Please make an effort to make it at least once a week. I gave a variety of times, including a weekend, so try your best.

Plagiarism: If you have a question about if something is plagiarism, always err on the side of caution, or come and ask the professor if it is ok. Getting caught cheating will negatively impact your grade and your academic career, in a dramatic way.

Late Assignments: Every week that an assignment is late you will lose a letter grade.

Questions: If you ever need clarification on something, or have a question about anything, please do not be afraid to ask me. I will return your text or email within 24 hours. I can almost guarantee that turnaround will be quicker, however there will be times this semester when I may not have access to internet.