

History 3551: The People of the City of New York

Baruch College, Fall 2002. Monday and Wednesday, 2:30 – 4:00 pm. Room 4170.

Professor Zachary M. Schrag

Vertical Campus 5/257 • Office Hours: Monday and Wednesday, 4-5 pm.

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Introduction

New York City is distinguished by its size, its wealth, its fame, and the diversity of its people. This course will ask how it is possible for people from all over the world to share a common urban identity, and how the city's residents have defined themselves as New Yorkers since the city's founding. In particular, it will explore the relationship between identity and wealth. In a city devoted to trade, is there more to being a New Yorker than buying and selling?

Readings

Books

Anbinder, Tyler. *Five Points: The 19th-century New York City Neighborhood that Invented Tap Dance, Stole Elections, and Became the World's Most Notorious Slum*. New York: Free Press, 2001.

Ewen, Elizabeth. *Immigrant Women in the Land of Dollars: Life and Culture on the Lower East Side, 1890-1925*. New York : Monthly Review Press, 1985.

Kwong, Peter. *The New Chinatown*. Rev. ed. New York : Hill and Wang, 1996.

Wilder, Craig Steven. *A Covenant with Color: Race and Social Power in Brooklyn*. New York : Columbia University Press, 2000.

Articles and Chapters (to be handed out or posted on Blackboard)

Padilla, Elena. "Living with Others in the Neighborhood," in *Up from Puerto Rico*. New York: Columbia University Press, 1958: 82-100

Pessar, Patricia R. "The Dominicans: Women in the Household and the Garment Industry," in *New Immigrants in New York*, ed. Nancy Foner. New York: Columbia University Press, 1987, 103-27

Additional material may be handed out in class.

Assignments

Reading Responses (20%). Due most Mondays. For each week in which reading is assigned, you must come to class with a one- or two-paragraph answer (1 double-spaced typed page maximum) to a question that will be provided ahead of time. These papers will not be graded, but they will be returned with comments and will help you prepare for discussions and exams. There are nine

of these assignments, but only eight will count toward your grade, so you may skip one week. If you will not be in class, you may place your assignment in the Digital Drop Box of the Blackboard site.

Class Participation. (20%). You are expected to arrive in class promptly, prepared to discuss the assigned reading, with cell phones and beepers turned off. Late arrivals or early departures may be counted as absences.

Tour Reviews (30%). Due September 18 and November 20. During the term you must take two tours concerning the history of New York City. You will be provided with a list of valid historic sites, museum exhibits, and walking tours, or you may choose another tour with the approval of the instructor. You are responsible for finding a tour that meets your schedule and paying any admission fee.

Each review should describe the site or event described, the decisions made by the people who created the exhibit or tour, and what you learned on the tour that you did not learn in your assigned reading. More detailed instructions will be provided separately, and general guidelines for writing a review can be found at <http://www.schrag.info/teaching/review.html>.

Each review should be 900-1200 words (roughly 3-5 double-spaced typed pages). If the second paper is superior to the first it will be weighted more heavily in your final grade.

Exams (Midterm, 10%; Final, 20%). These essay exams will test your understanding of the readings and lecture and your ability to synthesize them.

Schedule

Introduction

Week 1.

September 4. What Makes a New Yorker?

Unit One: Dutch, English, African

Week 2. Colonial New York: Imperial Outpost

September 9. READING RESPONSE DUE: Wilder, 1-79.

September 11.

Week 3. Merchant New York: Grid and Canal

September 16. NO CLASS

September 17. (Monday Schedule)

September 18. 1st PAPER DUE.

Unit Two: German, Irish

Week 4. Public Works: Aqueduct and Park

September 23. READING RESPONSE DUE: Anbinder, 1-66.

September 25.

Week 5. The City at Mid-Century: Theater and Courthouse

September 30. READING RESPONSE DUE: Anbinder, 67-140.

October 2.

Week 6. Beyond Manhattan: The Brooklyn Bridge

October 7.

October 9. MIDTERM

Unit Three: Italian, Jewish

Week 7. Life in the Tenements

October 14. NO CLASS (COLUMBUS DAY)

October 16. Film: *Hester Street*

Week 8. The City at Work and Play: Factory, Department Store, Amusement Park

October 21. Ewen, chapters 2, 3, 6 7, 14. READING RESPONSE DUE:

October 23.

Week 9. The Progressive Response: Subway and Settlement House

October 28. Ewen, chapters 4, 5, 10, 11. READING RESPONSE DUE:

October 30.

Unit Four: White, Negro, Puerto Rican

Week 10. Boom and Bust.

November 4. Film: *The Crowd*

November 6. READING RESPONSE DUE: Wilder, 107-74.

Week 11. Postwar New York: Suburbs and Urban Renewal.

November 11. READING RESPONSE DUE: Wilder, 175-242. Padilla, "Living with Others in the Neighborhood."

November 13.

Week 12. New York in Crisis: The South Bronx

November 18.

November 20. 2nd PAPER DUE.

Unit Five: World

Week 13. The World Arrives: Queens

November 25. READING RESPONSE DUE: Pessar, "The Dominicans."
Kwong, pages to be announced.

November 27. Film: *Do the Right Thing*.

Week 14. Gentrification and Tourism: Making Times Square Pretty

December 2. READING RESPONSE DUE: Kwong, pages to be announced.

December 4.

Week 15. The Future of New York City

December 9.

December 11.

Final Exam

Wednesday, December 18. 3:30 – 5:30 pm