Anthropology 119P: Cities Past and Present
Rolle 3135, T-Th 11-12:15

Cities are the most complex form of human organization, consisting of a social and physical space that enables and compels people to become interdependent. How did ancient cities develop and thrive? Is there any relationship between the success of ancient cities and modern ones? Why do people come into a city? How do they interact once they arrive? In this course, we'll start by looking at theories of urbanism and the way in which modern cities work; then we'll look at archaeological cases to how ancient cities were lived in and used. Readings will include new archaeological research in progress in both the Old World and the New World, including the Maya and other Mesoamerican cities, China, the South American Andean region, Mesopotamia, and early West Africa. Based on the readings, two observation exercises and a final paper, students will discuss and write about the conditions that make urban centers an attractive place for human social interaction in both the present and the past.

Course texts (required). All are available at the UCLA bookstore; in addition, the O'Meara text is also available online for free in .pdf format (http://www.worldwatch.org/pubs/paper/147).


**Reinventing Cities for People and the Planet**, by Molly O'Meara. Worldwatch Institute, Washington D.C.

**Tues. 4/6:** Course introduction

**Thurs. 4/8:** O'Meara, pp. 5-40.
“Migration and Adaptation: Tzintzuntzeños in Mexico City and Beyond” in Urban Life, pp. 193-204.


**Thurs. 4/15:** “The Earliest Cities” in Urban Life, pp. 3-19.
“Human Health and the City” in Urban Life, pp. 32-52.
First paper due: enclaves

   (reminder: today is the day to identify your topic for the course paper)


Thurs. 5/6:  Second paper due: crossroads

Tues. 5/11:  MIDTERM in class

   “Cities as a Place of Ethnogenesis” in Social Construction, pp. 184-211.


   Rough drafts of final papers due


Thurs. 6/10:  O’Meara, pp. 40-68. Final papers due by 5:00 today in 341 Haines Hall.
Course grading:

Grading will be based on two short papers, a midterm, and a final paper. The topics of the three papers are as follows:

1) Studying enclaves: Go to the ethnic L.A. neighborhood of your choice, and spend a couple of hours in a local cafe. What kinds of people are there (gender/age in addition to ethnicity)? What kinds of advertising/media/reading materials are evident? What is the function of the locale in the ethnic neighborhood? Paper due April 15, 3-4 pages double-space.

2) Studying crossroads: Go to a crossroads of L.A. where people from a variety of ethnic groups mix (for work or pleasure). What kinds of people do you see (gender/age and apparent ethnicity)? What is the function of the crossroads, and how does it differ from the ethnic neighborhood that you saw? Paper due May 6, 3-4 pages double-space.

3) Choose an ancient city from which archaeological evidence can be utilized to understand social and economic interactions (a list will be provided). Can we see enclaves and crossroads? What kinds of social, ethnic or class divisions are suggested in architecture and artifacts? Is there evidence for migration? How was the city spatially organized, and how would those spaces have been used by different inhabitants? Due on the last day of class (June 10), 12-15 pages double-space + references + illustrations.

Timetable for final paper completion:

April 22: identify your topic (5 points penalty for lateness)
May 20: rough draft due (15 points penalty for lateness)
June 10: final paper due in instructor’s Anthropology department mailbox (341 Haines) by 5:00. (10 points penalty for each calendar day that the paper is late)

Grading breakdown:

Paper #1: 30 points (15%)
Paper #2: 30 points (15%)
Midterm: 60 points (30%)
Final paper: 80 points (40%)

Total: 200 points (100%)

Make-up examinations will only be given under unusual and extreme circumstances, and to schedule one, you must provide written documentation from a doctor or recognized University authority.

Extra Credit Opportunity:

You may write up a one-page (double-space) summary of any of the Social Construction readings for up to 10 points extra credit, turned in on the day that the reading that you’ve written up will be discussed. You can turn in up to three of these throughout the quarter.
Instructor and Student Responsibilities:

As instructors, it is our responsibility to come to class, to present materials in an organized way, to help students understand the concepts and materials of the course, to construct and grade examinations in a fair manner, and to assist students as they develop writing and thinking skills.

As a student, it is your responsibility to come to class, to read the material assigned for each lecture, and to be actively engaged in the learning process. We expect that you will adhere to the highest standards of academic conduct. For examinations and written assignments, we expect that the work which you turn in is exclusively your own with a proper citation to all reference materials. The Guide to Academic Integrity (see www.deanofstudents.ucla.edu) is the means by which your good efforts and hard work are protected and rewarded, and it must be treated with the utmost sincerity and seriousness.