TENTATIVE SCHEDULE, SUBJECT TO CHANGE

EMPIRE CITY: NEW YORK FROM 1877 TO 2001
JUNE 24–JUNE 30 & JULY 8–14, 2012
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

INSTRUCTORS
KENNETH T. JACKSON, Jacques Barzun Professor in History and the Social Sciences, Columbia University
KAREN MARKOE, Distinguished Service Professor of History, State University of New York Maritime College

GILDER LEHRMAN INSTITUTE STAFF
ANTHONY NAPOLI, Director of Education, The Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History

GUEST LECTURER
JOHN ROCCO, Associate Professor of English, State University of New York Maritime College
JOSHUA FREEMAN, Professor of History, Queens College, City University of New York

REQUIRED READINGS

COURSE DESCRIPTION
This seminar will focus on the intersection of history and place in one spot on the map that has had a large role in the national past. In 1624, the Dutch West India Company set up a small trading post in the huge, sheltered harbor where three rivers came together and several islands offered protection against potential enemies. Four hundred years later, the little settlement at the southern tip of the island of Manhattan has grown into the center of the largest metropolis on earth and the capital of capitalism. This seminar will focus on New York from the Civil War to the attack on the World Trade Center on September 11, 2001. During those years Gotham was typically about twice as large as the next-ranking American metropolis (Philadelphia from 1850 to 1880, Chicago from 1880 to 1960, and Los Angeles since 1960). Until about 1955, New York was the leading industrial city in the nation and until about 1980 its busiest port. And since the Civil War it has been the US capital of business, finance, publishing, fashion, and culture.

But what does this tell us about the history of the United States? This seminar will focus on five broad topics that have affected most Americans:
1. **New York City and the Transformation of Post–Civil War America:** The seminar will look at the creation of order in the metropolis as well as the development of the police and fire departments. New ways of living developed in the metropolis. Issues to be examined include the transportation revolution, the rise of the penny press, the development of the apartment building, the creation of the department store, the beginnings of suburbanization, and the evolution of new forms of entertainment.

2. **The Immigrant Metropolis:** Though no city attracted as many newcomers as New York, most immigrants did not find the prosperity of which they dreamed, and in no city anywhere were they as crowded into such inadequate tenements. The seminar will explore why such conditions developed and the methods reformers used to alleviate them.

3. **Wealth and Power:** Some of America’s greatest and most powerful corporations, such as U.S. Steel, were created in New York. The seminar will explore American industry and finance, focusing on New York as a magnet for industrial leaders and entrepreneurs such as Henry Clay Frick, John D. Rockefeller, J.P. Morgan, Andrew Carnegie, F.W. Woolworth, and Jay Gould.

4. **Black Metropolis:** Every great northern and midwestern city saw the influence of the influx of tens of thousands of African Americans from 1890 to 1970. In New York, Harlem became the unofficial capital of Black America by 1930, and the five boroughs came to be home to more African Americans than any other place in the United States. The seminar will look at civil rights, music, literature, and politics to explore how New York witnessed and encouraged the development of new attitudes about race.

5. **Post-Industrial New York:** The transformation of the American economy since World War II has had a dramatic impact upon the nation. The seminar will use New York, the world’s leading manufacturing city and its busiest port until the mid-1950s, to examine this phenomenon. Those pillars of the local economy collapsed in the second half of the twentieth century and the metropolis was declining and virtually bankrupt by the mid-1970s. The revival of Gotham, however, and its transformation to a service economy, led the way in the larger transformation of the American economy.
Daily Schedule
(Schedule subject to change)

All Classes will be held in 304 Hamilton Hall unless otherwise noted

Sunday
Readings
• Kenneth T. Jackson and David Dunbar, eds., Empire City: New York through the Centuries, pp. 1–3.

12:00 P.M. – 5:00 P.M. Arrival in New York City. Register and check-in at Barnard College, Elliott Hall (49 Claremont Avenue, at the corner of 119th Street).
6:00 P.M. – 8:00 P.M. Welcome and Dinner; Introduction to the seminar (Amsterdam Restaurant and Tapas Lounge, 1207 Amsterdam Avenue)

Monday
New York City and the Transformation of Post–Civil War America
Rise of Manhattan to national dominance and the economic transformation of the city in the half-century after the Civil War. The focus will be on the water system and development of police as well as the development of parks and such tragedies as the Triangle Shirtwaist Factory Fire and the General Slocum.
• Field Trip: The Gilder Lehrman Collection, the New-York Historical Society, and Central Park
Readings

7:30 A.M. – 8:30 A.M. Breakfast
8:45 A.M. – 9:45 A.M. Gilder Lehrman Session
9:45 A.M. Lecture and Discussion: The Rise of New York to National Dominance, Professor Kenneth T. Jackson
11:00 A.M. Break
11:15 A.M. Lecture and Discussion: Women: The Changing Role in Post–Civil War America, Professor Karen Markoe
12:45 P.M. Lunch
1:30 P.M. Guest Lecture and Discussion: John Rocco: Edith Wharton, The Age of Innocence, New York, and the Novel: Reading the Once and Future City.
3:30 P.M. Field trip to the Gilder Lehrman Collection, the New-York Historical Society and Central Park
6:00 P.M. Dinner

Tuesday
The Immigrant Metropolis
From the most polyglot of American colonial settlements to the saga of Ellis Island, we consider immigration by Irish, Germans, Jews, Italians, and others
• Field Trip: Walking Tour of Lower Manhattan: Tenement Museum, Brooklyn Bridge, Five Points, Little Italy, Chinatown

12:00 P.M. – 5:00 P.M. Arrival in New York City. Register and check-in at Barnard College, Elliott Hall (49 Claremont Avenue, at the corner of 119th Street).
6:00 P.M. Welcome and Dinner; Introduction to the seminar (Amsterdam Restaurant and Tapas Lounge, 1207 Amsterdam Avenue)
• **Film:** *The American Experience: Murder of the Century*

**Reading**


7:30 A.M. – 9:00 A.M.  Breakfast

9:15 A.M.  Lecture and Discussion: Immigrants and Tenements, *Professor Kenneth T. Jackson*

10:15 A.M.  Lecture and Discussion: City Boss and Ward Boss: The Legacy of Tammany Hall, *Professor Kenneth T. Jackson*

11:30 A.M.  Break

11:40 A.M.  Guest Lecture and Discussion: Screening New York: A History of the Empire City in the Movies, *Professor John Rocco*

12:30 P.M.  Lunch

1:15 P.M.  Walking Tour of Lower Manhattan: Tenement Museum, Brooklyn Bridge, Five Points, Little Italy, Chinatown

6:00 P.M.  Dinner in Chinatown

7:30 P.M.  Film: *The American Experience: Murder of the Century*

**Wednesday**

*Wealth and Power*

The transportation revolution, the rise of Tammany Hall and machine politics, the development of new social elites, and the literary figures who helped define the age.

**Field Trip:** Frick Collection and Henry Frick Residence

**Reading**

• Jackson and Dunbar, *Empire City*, pp. 422–42 and 474–76 (Note in particular: Veiller, Tenement House; Padrone System; Schopfer, Plan of a City; Dunne, Immigrant Attitudes; Carnegie, Gospel of Wealth; Palmer, Day’s Work).

• Jackson and Dunbar, *Empire City*, pp. 305–310 (George, Selected Writings); pp. 443–451 (Steffens, Good Government in Danger”); and pp. 488–495 (Riordan, Plunkitt).

7:30 A.M. – 8:30 A.M.  Breakfast

8:45 A.M. – 9:45 A.M.  Gilder Lehrman Session

9:45 A.M.  Lecture and Discussion: City People: New Ways of Living and Traveling in the Metropolis, *Professor Kenneth T. Jackson*

10:45 A.M.  Break

10:55 A.M.  Lecture and Discussion: Making the City Livable: Cemeteries, Parks and Open Spaces, *Professor Kenneth T. Jackson*

11:45 A.M.  Guest Lecture and Discussion: *Joshua Freeman*
1:00 P.M. Lunch
2:00 P.M. Lecture and Discussion: NY the Epicenter of Dissent, Professor Karen Markoe
3:30 P.M. Depart for tour of the Frick Collection and Henry Frick Residence
6:00 P.M. Dinner

Thursday

Black Metropolis

The growth of the largest African American community in the United States; discussion of Five Points, San Juan Hill, Harlem, the Bronx, and Bedford-Stuyvesant.

• **Field Trip:** Harlem and the South Bronx

**Readings**


7:30 A.M. – 8:45 A.M. Breakfast
8:45 A.M. Lecture and Discussion: Ethnic and Racial Conflict in the Twentieth Century, Professor Kenneth T. Jackson
10:00 A.M. Bus Tour of Harlem and Bronx
Harlem: Morningside Park, the Apollo Theater, Hotel Theresa, Strivers Row, Sugar Hill, Marcus Garvey Park
Lunch in Bronx, Arthur Avenue
Bronx: Grand Concourse, Bronx Museum of the Arts, Joyce Kilmer Park

7:00 P.M. Dinner

Friday

Post-Industrial New York

The decline of the port and the loss of industry; development of cultural capital; new immigrants and new challenges; the attack on the World Trade Center.

• **Field Trip:** Walking tour of World Trade Center, Chelsea, and the Meatpacking District

**Readings**

- Jackson and Dunbar, *Empire City*, pp. 851–863 (Sleeper, “Boodling, Bigotry, and Cosmopolitanism: The Transformation of a Civic Culture” from *Dissent*)
- “Jackson and Dunbar, *Empire City*, pp. 895–904

7:30 A.M. – 9:00 A.M. Breakfast
9:00 A.M. Lecture and Discussion: From the Civil War to 9/11: Fire and Police, Professor Kenneth T. Jackson
10:15 A.M. Lecture and Discussion: Deindustrialization and the Rise of the Service Economy, Professor Kenneth T. Jackson
11:30 A.M. Depart for Chelsea and Meat Packing District
12:00 P.M. Walking tour: Highline, Chelsea, and Meatpacking District
1:00 P.M. Lunch
2:00 P.M. Depart for downtown
2:30 P.M. Tour of World Trade Center, Ground Zero, 9/11 Memorial
7:00 P.M. Final Dinner and Seminar Conclusion, Dinosaur Barbeque
Saturday

Conclusion

7:30 A.M. – 11:00 A.M.  Breakfast & Check-out