DEPARTMENT OF ART HISTORY & ART CONSERVATION

ARTH 383 / 3.0
The City

CALENDAR DESCRIPTION:
This course examines the phenomenon of the city, a settlement of high density that has, throughout history, offered many distinctive social and cultural experiences. The focus of this course will be urban art, architecture, planning, and material culture, and their relationship to those experiences. Specific urban case studies, Western and non-Western, will provide the foundation for our study.

Prerequisites: Level 3 or above.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:
The focus of this course is urban architecture and urban design. We will study structures, materials, forms, and spaces, as well as ideas, representations, and experiences. The sources of our knowledge will be factual data (for example, documentary photography and film, urban and architectural plans, demographic data), scholarly interpretation (analysis by historians and critics), and subjective records of experience and perception (diaries and letters, fiction, the visual arts, even our own experiences). Our aim will be to use these sources, and our discussions about them, to achieve a better understanding of cities both as a general phenomenon and as an event linked to specific times, places, and cultures.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:
Students will be responsible for weekly readings on a range of subjects. Assignments will take a range of forms, and students will choose three from a list of five, which will include different types of analytical, creative, and archival projects.