

QUEENS COLLEGE - DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY
COLLOQUIUM – SPRING 2019

392W (01) 10047 NATURE AND THE CITY: U.S. URBAN
ENVIRONMENTAL HISTORY

Professor K. Schlichting Mondays 1:40-4:30pm

Americans often think of cities as places without nature, and nature is often defined as the antithesis of urban spaces. This course challenges this assumption, drawing on scholarship from the growing field of urban environmental history to uncover the interconnections between urban America and the natural world. We will explore the process of urbanization, one of the fundamental themes of American history, to examine how nature and cities have shaped one another. Readings and discussion topics will survey urban spaces in the nation across space and time, include the role nature played in the situating of cities across North America; colonial and nineteenth-century cultural reactions to urbanization; the social and economic relationships between cities and their hinterlands; the debates around public parks, pollution, and public health; and the urban environmental justice movement. The goal of the course is to investigate how American society has drawn upon nature to build and sustain urban growth, and, in the process, transformed the natural world and ideas about it.

392W (02) 10048 WESTERNERS IN THE MIDDLE EAST, 1700s-1800s
Professor E. Frangakis-Syrett Tuesdays 1:40-4:30pm

The colloquium will examine the perceptions of the Middle East, in the 1700s-1800s, at the cusp of modernity, by Europeans –from diplomats and merchants to travelers and missionaries— men and women too, who visited it, for long or short periods of time and the opposite: namely how visitors from the Middle East viewed the West. The course will offer examples of points of contact where interactions occurred, usually in urban centers of the Middle East, such as the marketplace; ceremonial gatherings at halls of diplomacy; social gatherings at merchants' homes; café society; outdoor entertainment; religious festivals, schools; homes. Since the Middle East at the time as part of the Ottoman Empire, was a multi-ethnic, multi-confessional and multi-linguistic society, with Christians, Jews and Muslims, all living together --albeit within changing boundaries of toleration--, the course will also examine how these communities fared with each other and what opportunities they had to grow economically as well as culturally within the Ottoman state of which they were subjects and paid taxes to. Another question will be whether they interacted differently, according to their religious or ethnic affiliation, with the Europeans or not. We will equally ask what this reveals of the relationship between the East and West; to what degree such interaction tested the boundaries of knowledge, acceptance, and toleration of each other, and the degree to which these changed over time as well as what historical conditions made them change. To reconstruct examples of interaction we will use travelers' accounts; merchants' papers; diplomats' memoirs; women's diaries; court records and other historical documents.

T U R N O V E R

392W (04) 10050
Professor C. Giardina

AMERICA IN THE 1960s
Wednesdays 6:30-9:20pm

How did the socially conscious, uproarious, irreverent "Sixties" evolve from the quietism of the 1950s? What has been the impact of this period of deep and rapid change? From the signature social movements to hallmark legislation, from the counterculture to the political murders and assassination of leader after leader, the course will explore the highs and lows of this tumultuous decade. The course will include the role of Queens College activists on campus and nationally.

392W(05) 54062 CRIME, PUNISHMENT, AND XENOPHOBIA IN
CONTEMPORARY HISTORY

Professor A. Freundschuh Thursdays 12:15-2:55pm

This writing-intensive seminar will investigate representations of criminality while also examining historical debates over the problem of urban crime. With attention to specific contexts, student writing will ask how these broad themes have intersected with the histories of foreignness and xenophobic politics in western Europe and the United States during the past two centuries. The final project will be a case study deriving from primary-source research.