

# THE CITY

Elective Seminar  
Spring, 2019  
Graf



**The seminar will look at the history and structure of the city and the impact of various ideas on the organization, appearance, and functioning of the city. Within a general framework, there will be a particular focus on a smaller group of cities which have had a significant impact on the structure of other cities, on the imagination, or are particularly interesting over long periods of time.**

Topics will include:

- The general history of cities
- Significant types and exemplars
- The specific histories of representative cities
- Issues of geography and its relation to cities
- Formal invention and its impact on cities
- Peripheral inventions and their consequences (the train, the automobile, water power, the elevator, the internet, etc.)
- Unintended consequences in general (war [Berlin, Coventry], developing industries [Detroit], declining industries [Detroit])
- The economies of cities
- The role of planning, its successes and failures
- The various forms of housing and their relationship to the structure of the city
- The impact of transportation and other innovative technologies
- The relationship of the city to architectural and landscape ideas, in general, and select specific buildings and landscapes particularly.
- The history of environmental issues, and especially the challenges of climate change.
- The image of the city and its significance in politics, the arts, and popular culture.

Readings will be assigned and discussed and a general critical framework will be developed.

There will be no paper or exam, but periodic presentations will be made by the seminar participants on particular issues or particular places to further our investigations and facilitate class discussion.

