

L ARCH 454

History of Urban Landscapes and Environments

“Street trees have stood at the very core of events that have shaped and characterized the evolution of the modern city.”

– Sonja Dümpelmann, *A History of Street Trees in New York City and Berlin*, 2019

MARIA C. TAYLOR, PH.D
5 CREDITS
MWF 11:30-12:50
SYNCHRONOUS

OPTIONAL WRITING
I&S

BLA/MLA HISTORY
REQUIREMENT

(Non-LArch Students)
NEED AN ADD CODE?

Contact Jennie Li,
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QUESTIONS ON
COURSE CONTENT?

Contact iDr. Taylor
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This course explores the history of more-than-human city landscapes in critical and comparative perspective. We will bring a climate justice lens to bear on understanding changes over time in community public space, urban morphology, and society-nature relations. We will explore the urban environmental intersection of three historical phenomena: industrialization, urbanization, and colonial/transnational circulation. By focusing on a wide range of city case studies and ways of knowing, we will engage with both dominant root causes and non-dominant alternative precedents relevant to current issues in climate and environmental justice, such as urban heat islands, neighborhood segregation, disparate access to urban greenspace and exposure to environmental pollution.

Scope & Expectations:

This course will examine urban environmental and climate justice issues starting with the intensification circa 1800 of global networks of trade, industrial production and natural resource exploitation, tracing themes of power, aesthetics, and hygiene in urban landscapes through to the early 21st century. Assignments will center skills-based and collaborative learning in inquiry, analysis and both written and visual/multi-media communication. Emphasis will be placed on the history of urban landscapes developed outside or in opposition to dominant “Western” capitalist traditions, including the (post) socialist cities, in order to investigate the impact of ideology on the development of urban socioecologies and other infrastructural systems.

Specific cities included will depend on student interest but will include multiple examples from indigenous and settler-colonial communities in North America (e.g. **Seattle, San Francisco, New York, New Orleans, Tenochtitlan/Mexico City**) and other regions of the world, particularly Eurasia and the Indo-Pacific (**Honolulu, Manila, London, Berlin, Moscow, Delhi, Hong Kong, Shanghai** and others TBD).