The rise of the modern city makes possible new modes of experience, new kinds of people, and new kinds of stories. To appreciate these novelties, we will start by looking at sociologist Georg Simmel’s “The Metropolis and Mental Life”. Then we will explore how writers and filmmakers have tried to capture this experience of city life in different genres (the detective story, romantic comedy, modernist poetry, realism), and from different social perspectives.

**M**

Morning LR: **Introduction:** Simmel, “The Metropolis and Mental Life” (9 pp.) Virginia Woolf, *Street Haunting* (5 pp.)


**T**

Morning LR: **Mysterious City:** Edgar Allan Poe, “The Man of the Crowd”

Afternoon VN: **Organization and Disorganization**


**W**


**Th**

Morning VN: **Social life of the City:** *Chungking Express*

Tonkiss, Fran 2005. “Community and Solitude: Social Relations in the City” *Space, the City, and Social Theory* Malden, MA: Polity Press. 8-29.

Afternoon: Field trip to Chungking Mansions

**Mini Ethnography Assignment**
Morning VN: The City in Nature and Nature in the City

Afternoon LR: Noir City, The (film)

Morning LR: Baldwin, “Sonny’s Blues” (31 pp)
Afternoon VN: Urbanization and Its Discontents
  • Assignment one returned

Assignment 2 -- Research 1 visual artist whose work is affected by and/or raises ideas about the city; pick one image and a) present it to the class; b) write a paragraph about it to turn in. In this paragraph, you should offer your own opinion (aka the most interesting thing you can say) about how the image complicates, extends, illustrates, or challenges Simmel’s or Woolf’s or Conan Doyle’s or Eliot’s or Whitman’s or Chungking Express way of seeing the city. Your paragraph should start with a claim sentence, followed by sentences that provide one or at most two reasons why your claim is a solid one. For each reason, you must also provide evidence (preferably more than one piece of evidence) that you identify in the image, evidence that you interpret. [Riis, Stieglitz, Steichen, Jaffe, Evans (subway series), Hine, Parks, Vanderzee, Kline, Pollack, deKooning, Hopper, Weegee, Goldin, Basquiat, Arbus, the Ashcan School, etc.]

Lunchtime film: Woody Allen, Manhattan
Afternoon: Glamorous City – discussion of Manhattan
[start reading Chang for Thursday]

Lunchtime film: Blade Runner
Afternoon LR: Post-modern City – discussion of Blade Runner
[continue reading Chang]

Morning: Eileen Chang, “Love in a Fallen City” (60 pp.)
Afternoon: Field trip

F
Morning: Final Discussion
Afternoon: Student Presentations
Graduation ceremony, course evaluations