

The Fall 2012 Seminar

Wild Cities: The Nature of the Modern Metropolis

The Fall 2012 Seminar will examine the history, literature, and geography of the new mega-cities that emerged in the Americas between 1850 and 1950, taking Chicago and Buenos Aires as its point of departure and exploring two distinct but interrelated understandings of what made the modern metropolis “wild.”

The first is environmental. Although seemingly divorced from nature, modern cities developed their own ecology, extracted considerable resources from their natural surroundings, and remained perennially subject to natural disasters.

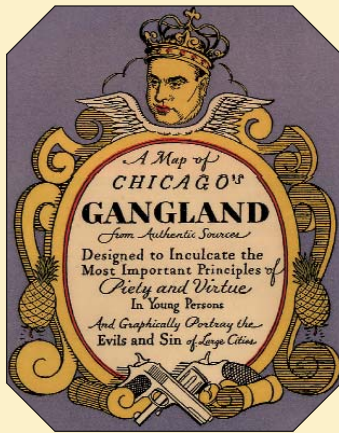
The second is cultural. Thanks to its colossal size, unstable politics and populations, and artistic dynamism, the modern metropolis came to be seen as a new kind of wilderness, complete with its own distinctive flora — skyscrapers, monuments, factories, parks — and fauna, with workers, bosses, *flâneurs*, bohemians, street vendors, prostitutes, and neighborhood toughs.

While some at the time feared this new “wild” side of the city, others embraced its creative potential or sought to channel its energy.

During the first half of the semester, the seminar will meet regularly to explore the Newberry’s collections and to discuss common historical and theoretical texts, urban literature, city maps and plans, and popular music — especially tango and jazz.

In the second half of the semester, students will conduct original, extensive research using the Newberry’s multi-disciplinary and cross-cultural resources.

Throughout, faculty and students will examine the role of conversation and debate in shaping scholarly inquiry (framing questions), research (investigation into the sources), and writing (developing conclusions).



Detail from *A Map of Chicago's Gangland from Authentic Sources* ([Chicago?]: Bruce-Roberts, Inc., 1931). Map G 10896.548.



Hanna Schell

Above: Newberry Seminar participants on a tour of Chicago's historic Graceland Cemetery.

Cover: A view of the Newberry Library and the surrounding neighborhood. Photo courtesy of the Newberry Library.

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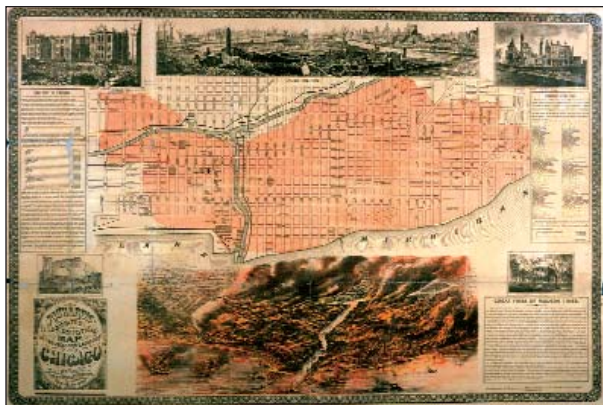
Newberry Seminar

Research in the Humanities



*Independent research
& writing in Chicago
at one of the world's
great libraries*

www.acm.edu/newberry



The Newberry Library

Richard's Illustrated and Statistical Map of the Great Conflagration in Chicago. Map 6F G4104.C6 1871 R3.

Research in the humanities at an unparalleled library

In the ACM Newberry Seminar: Research in the Humanities, students conduct independent research and writing at one of the world's great libraries in the exciting city of Chicago.

Students write a substantial paper on a topic of their choice, based on research in the rich primary collections of the Newberry Library. The program fosters a collaborative spirit among its participants, who work closely with faculty and a select group of colleagues in a seminar that provides context and guidance for their research.

The Newberry Seminar gives participants significant research experience that prepares them for graduate study, professional education (such as law school), or other careers.



The Newberry Library

A Horse Race, in Emeric Essex Vidal, *Picturesque Illustrations of Buenos Ayres and Monte Video...* (London: R. Ackerman, 1820), opp. p. 113. Ayer 1269.A7 V64 1820.

For more details, go to www.acm.edu/newberry

Fall 2012 Seminar

Seminar Topic Wild Cities: The Nature of the Modern Metropolis

Faculty Brian Bockelman, History, Ripon College
David Miller, English, Allegheny College

The Newberry's resources

Participants in the Fall 2012 Seminar will find the Newberry Library's collections endlessly stimulating. There are vast holdings relating to various aspects of Chicago, including environmental and ecological themes, booster literature and guidebooks, diverse materials on westward expansion, and the personal papers of artists, writers, city planners, and activists.

Like Theodore Dreiser, in writing *The Titan* (1914), students may want to research Charles T. Yerkes, Chicago's streetcar Czar and the model for Dreiser's protagonist Frank Cowperwood, offering insight into Chicago's amazing economic development.

Those of a literary bent can consult the Newberry's extensive holdings in regional literature, exploring the cultural relationship between hub and frontier tied to this development. The city's giddy expansion in the late 19th and early 20th centuries is further illuminated by the Chicago Region Map Collection, along with photographic resources.

Popular culture enthusiasts will find a motherload of material in the Driscoll Collection of American Sheet Music.

Students interested in the settlement house movement can examine the extensive papers of Graham Taylor, a leading figure in this effort to "tame" the city's wildness.

Those who instead wish to focus their research on Buenos Aires will find plenty of materials relating to their interests in the Edward E. Ayer and William B. Greenlee collections as well as elsewhere.

Host institution The Newberry Library, an independent research library on Chicago's Near North Side (www.newberry.org).

The Newberry's collections span the history and culture of western Europe from the Middle Ages to the mid-20th century and the Americas from the time of first contact between Europeans and Native Americans.

Dates Fall semester (*early September - mid-December*)

Credits Recommended credit is 16 semester credits or the equivalent.

Enrollment Maximum of 20 students

Eligibility Juniors and seniors interested in pursuing serious research in the humanities and humanistic social sciences.

Living arrangements Students live in furnished apartments near the Newberry Library in the Gold Coast neighborhood.

Costs For information about program costs and an expense budget, go to www.acm.edu/newberry. Students also should check with their Off-Campus Study or Financial Aid Office for information about their college's pricing policies for off-campus study.

How to apply

- Access the ACM application at www.acm.edu/apply.
- Students should check with their Off-Campus Study Office about their college's application procedures and deadlines.
- ACM must receive completed applications by **March 15**.

Newberry Seminar: Research in the Humanities schedule

Introduction to the Newberry collections	Independent research and writing Meet individually with faculty	Research Symposium
Seminar meetings: Readings and discussion		
Write research proposal	Seminar meetings	

www.acm.edu/newberry