This class will present a visual and historical analysis of urban space as seen through the medium of cinema. This is primarily an urbanism, social history, and architectural history class. The subject goes beyond individual buildings -- the subject here is the city, its life, and its representation. Movies illustrate theories of urban planning; on-location shooting can reveal aspects of urban life, and fanciful set designs can expose the unrealistic goals of some architects. Themes to be explored include early American immigration, the contrast between the city and the suburb, the city as a disciplinary space of social control, film noir, utopian and dystopian cities, gentrification, and the hyper-real world of New Urbanism.

The course is interdisciplinary in nature: our investigation into the cinematic city will include methods and theory from anthropology, art history, environmental studies, ethnomusicology, geography, history, and literary studies. We will use both primary and secondary sources to gain an understanding of the city as depicted through film -- the course readings will be coupled with music, poetry, and narratives. Students should be willing to complete the reading, view the films, think deeply about the themes covered, and come prepared to participate in class.
LEARNING GOALS
At the end of this course, students will be able to:

- Develop a foundation for visual literacy through the introduction and practice of various methods of analysis
- Demonstrate an ability to discuss urban development and social conditions of the city
- Draw clear connections between the built environment and ways cities function
- Critique various representations of urban life
- Synthesize information from multiple sources in order to generate new insights

This course fulfills the Core Requirement AH: Arts and Humanities Goal AHp. As such, students should be able to analyze art in itself, and in relation to specific histories, values, languages, cultures, and technologies.

GRADING
Participation (10%)
Exams (2) (30%)
Argumentative Analysis Paper (4-6 pp) (30%)
Film Analysis Paper (4-6 pp) (30%)

ATTENDANCE
Your success in this course depends entirely on your attendance, participation, reading, and completion of course assignments. This course meets twice a week and attendance is mandatory. Students are expected to attend all classes. Special circumstances such as excused absences are the exception. These include illness, religious holiday, or a personal/family crisis that is documented by an academic administrator. If you expect to miss class, please use the University absence reporting website https://sims.rutgers.edu/ssra/ to indicate the date and reason for your absence. An email is automatically sent to me. You are allowed three unexcused absences; absences after that are detrimental to your class grade. Each unexcused absence will result in a 2% lowering of the final grade in this course. Timeliness is paramount, class meetings are 80m, and tardiness can cause you to miss important class announcements and information in lecture.

PARTICIPATION
Participation includes contributing to in-class discussions by speaking, being intellectually present and engaged for each meeting, paying attention to what is said by your peers, and being an active learner and listener. In order to make meaningful contributions to class discussions your participation should reflect your engagement with, and understanding of, the assigned course readings and films. Students should therefore have the texts read and films viewed prior to the date on which they first appear on the syllabus. Not participating in lectures and classroom discussions will result in a lower class grade. Laptops are allowed in class, but if they prove to be a distraction, I will revoke that privilege.

Film Viewings. Some shorter films and clips will be screened in class. Students are expected to view other films on their own time. Films will be available on Kanopy, Netflix, Amazon, or on reserve through the library.
Mutual respect. Each person in this course has unique prior experiences and a unique viewpoint to share. This offers a great opportunity for us to learn from each other. Though disagreement and even conflict may occur, I expect your cooperation in maintaining an atmosphere of mutual respect. When participating in discussions, it is perfectly acceptable to have strong opinions – in fact I encourage you to do so. In the process, however, I expect you to respect the basic intelligence and humanity of each of the other participants in the discussion. Disagreement is not necessarily a bad thing, as long as there is a commitment to mutual respect. Hateful and demeaning speech will not be tolerated.

CANVAS
Our readings will be available through our course Canvas site: https://canvas.rutgers.edu/ From Canvas, you will be able to review the syllabus, download articles and lectures, submit assignments, and check your grades.

QUIZZES AND ESSAY ASSIGNMENTS
The quiz material will be covered both in class lectures and assigned readings. It will be necessary to attend all lectures and read all assigned material in order to be prepared for these exercises. Please follow the Chicago Style for essay citations. Full credit will not be given to papers that do not meet minimum length requirements. There will be no makeup given for a missed quiz or extension granted on the essay due date, except for a legitimately documented excused absence. You will receive a 1/3 reduction in your grade for each day that exceeds the stated submission deadline, meaning, a high A will become a mid-A after one day, a low-A after two days, a B+ after three days, etc.

GRADE SCALE
A 90 - 100 (Outstanding): Exceptional performance, exceeding the requirements of the course, showing strong academic initiative and independent resourcefulness.
B+ = 87 - 89 (Very Good): With more research and rigor the work has great potential.
B = 80 - 86 (Good): Performance above the norm; accurate and complete; beyond the minimum requirements of the course; work demonstrates marked progress and initiative.
C+ = 77 - 79 (Slightly Above Satisfactory): With significantly more research and rigor the work could be above average.
C = 70 - 76 (Satisfactory): Satisfactory work that adequately meets minimum requirements and demonstrates satisfactory comprehension, communication skills, and effort; demonstrates little initiative to investigate the problem without substantial prodding of the instructor; work shows little improvement.
D = 65 - 69 (Poor): Unsatisfactorily meets minimum requirements; demonstrates minimum comprehension, communication skills, and effort at an inferior level; initiative lacking; improvement not noticeable.
F= 64 and Below (Failing): Does not meet minimum requirements; fails to adequately demonstrate comprehension, communication skills, and effort.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY
Absolute honesty of the entire community is expected in all academic endeavors. As part of the community, students have responsibilities regarding the originality of all independent work that forms the basis for the evaluation of their academic achievement. All suspected cases of cheating and plagiarism will be automatically referred to the Office of Judicial Affairs, and I will recommend penalties appropriate to the gravity of the infraction. Examples of a violation of academic honesty include, but are not limited to: submission of the same written work in more than one course; plagiarism – the use of someone else’s words, ideas, information, or original
material without acknowledging the source. If you are unclear about how to cite sources in your papers, you should ask. I have a zero-tolerance policy for plagiarism – plagiarizing sources will result in a failing grade for an assignment. The university’s policy on Academic Integrity is available at http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/academic-integrity-policy/ I strongly advise you to familiarize yourself with this document, both for this class and for your other classes and future work.

ACCESSIBILITY SERVICES
Any student who feels s/he may need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability should contact me privately to discuss specific needs. Please contact the Office of Disability Services to establish eligibility and to coordinate reasonable accommodations: https://ods.rutgers.edu/

MISCELLNEA
I reserve the right to make changes to the readings and assignments as the semester moves along, but will stay within the boundaries of the workload signaled in this syllabus. I will do my best to respond to emails within 24 hours, except on weekends and holidays, and I do not check email after 5pm.