

HIST 2739:  
**City as Text: Reading Urban Landscapes**  
Instructor: Gregor Thum  
Wednesday, 6-8:25pm

Transnational theme: Texts & Contexts  
Regional field: Europe

Cities are among the most fascinating manifestations of human civilization. They are not just the places where most people live and work in modern times, but also highly symbolic spaces designed to express a given society's aspired social and political order. This seminar seeks to enable graduate students to appreciate the ways in which urban landscapes can be understood as physical and symbolic manifestations of those political, social, economic, technological, or cultural forces that shaped a given (urban) society. While this course focuses on European cities, students with a research focus on other regions in the world are welcome and will be accommodated regarding the choice of paper topics.