

# City in Fiction & Film

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Last Updated: Mon, 01/05/2026

**Course prefix:** CP

**Course number:** 4040

**Section:** NG

**CRN**

31603

**Instructor first name:** Emily

**Instructor last name:** Lasser (Smith)

**Semester:** Spring

**Academic year:** 2026

**Course description:**

The "Cinema and City" course explores how cinema uses the urban scene as a landscape of the imagination. The assumption underlying this effort is that films help structure our understanding of urban affairs, influence public perception, and reflect our collective societal attitudes toward city life. Movies can tell us much about our urban pasts, presents, and futures and provide insights into our collective hopes, fears, fantasies, and phobias. The course focuses on a number of complementary and competing images of our cities in cinema over the last century.

**Academic honesty/integrity statement:**

Students are expected to maintain the highest standards of academic integrity. All work submitted must be original and properly cited. Plagiarism, cheating, or any form of academic dishonesty will result in immediate consequences as outlined in the university's academic integrity policy.

**Core IMPACTS statement(s) (if applicable):**

Core IMPACTS refers to the core curriculum, which provides students with essential knowledge in foundational academic areas. This course will help master course content, and support students' broad academic and career goals.

This course should direct students toward a broad Orienting Question:

- How do I interpret the human experience through creative, linguistic, and philosophical works?

Completion of this course should enable students to meet the following Learning Outcome:

- Students will effectively analyze and interpret the meaning, cultural significance and ethical implications of literary/philosophical texts or of works in the visual/performing arts.

Course content, activities and exercises in this course should help students develop the following Career-Ready Competencies:

- Ethical reasoning
- Information Literacy
- Intercultural Competence