

Dr. James Palmer  
Seminar: Medieval Urban History  
Monday 3-6pm

The rise of towns and the spread of urbanization fundamentally transformed the fabric of Europe from the eleventh century on. This class will explore the urban history of Europe in the medieval and early modern periods, stretching from the rise of medieval towns to the commercial urban worlds of the seventeenth and eighteenth-century. Cities will be considered as economic structures, spiritual communities, and political societies. Among other things, we will examine how the study of urban history lends itself to efforts to rethink the periodization of premodern European history, as well as ways that it might help us situate that same history in a global context. This semester (Spring 2021), special attention will be paid to the cities of Italy and the Low Countries, with additional general readings and some excursions into England and France.