

HIS 328
History of New York City:
From Manahatta to the Gilded Age

Satisfies: SBS+

Thematic Categories: “Arts, Ideas & Culture”; “Law Politics & Social Justice”;
“Race, Religion, Gender & Sexualities”

T/TH 11:00 am - 12:20 pm

Prof. Jennifer Anderson

In this course, students will explore how the small island of *Manahatta*, long an integral part of the Lenape people’s ancestral homeland, was transformed into one of the most important and cosmopolitan urban centers in the world. In the semester’s first half, we’ll learn about the island’s unique ecology and Indigenous inhabitants, the arrival of Dutch settlers and their founding of New Amsterdam, the consequences of the 1664 English takeover of the city, its 18th-century development into a leading seaport with an increasingly diverse population, culminating with the British occupation during the American Revolution. In the semester’s second half, we’ll examine New York City’s astonishing growth—from the “new nation” era of the 1810s to the “Gilded Age” of the 1890s—into a vibrant global hub of immigration, culture, commerce, communications, and capitalism. For each period, we’ll consider how the city both mirrored and shaped larger political, economic, social, and cultural trends.