

Hilary Term Special Subject Options for Senior Fresh



William Henry Jackson, 'Street scene, Peking, 1895',

HIU22032 **Cities of Empire in the Long Nineteenth Century**

Co-ordinator **Isabella Jackson**

Credits **10 ECTS**

Semester **Hilary Term**

Assessment A 1,000-1,500 word essay (40%), and a 2,000-2,500 word essay (60%)

Module Description: Today, slightly over half of the world's population lives in cities. Many of the biggest cities – including Delhi, London, Shanghai and Tokyo – grew to great prominence in a world of empires and inequality that was epitomised in urban society. Colonial cities were characterized by racial segregation and exploitation, while imperial metropolises profited from the investment opportunities in, and exports flooding into them from, port cities dotted across empires. The module is global in scope, covering cities across the Americas, Africa, Asia, Australia and Europe in the long nineteenth century and encompassing different empires including the British, German and Japanese. We will seek to understand how key cities of empire developed and how they were administered, what life was like in them for both colonised and coloniser, how colonial urban planning and architecture shaped the urban environment, and how gender, race and class were manifest in them. Combining global history, urban history, colonial history, social history and more, the module will introduce students to diverse ways of approaching the past. It will leave them with a rich understanding of the cities of empire in which so many people live and have lived.