

Great Cities: Capitals of Western History

Winter 2021 - Encore Edition

Over the centuries, European history unfolded in a series of major stages. Each of these stages can be seen as having a Capital City, an urban center from which power and influence radiated. Part of this influence took the form of creative expression, since each of these cities were also capitals of a distinctive artistic culture. As the course moves chronologically from Renaissance to Modern times, each class session highlights the leading city of its epoch – six Great Cities in their Golden Age.



Venice – Grand Canal



Amsterdam – Rembrandt



London – St. Paul's

Great City

- 1) **Venice** – *Renaissance* – Gateway to the Exotic Orient
Maritime Empire – Venetian Doge & Senate
- 2) **Madrid** – *Age of Exploration* – Conquering New Worlds
Counter-Reformation – Inquisition & Armada
- 3) **Amsterdam** – *Commercial Revolution* – Venice of the North
Protestant Ethics & the Spirit of Capitalism
- 4) **Vienna** – *Bastion of Tradition* – Seat of Holy Roman Empire
Congress of Vienna – Grand Art of Historicism
- 5) **London** – *Industrial Revolution* – Ingredients for Growth
Seat of World Empire – Victorian Sensibilities
- 6) **New York** – *Triumph of Modernity* – The First Metropolis
Great Melting Pot – Subways & Skyscrapers

Visual Feature

Venetian Cityscapes

Baroque Intensity

The Dutch Masters

Habsburg Dynasty

Romantic Protest

NY's Modern Artists

Instructor: Dr. Bruce Elliott belliot@berkeley.edu