Hitherto it had gone by the original Indian name Manna-hatta, or as some still have it, ‘The Manhatoes’; but this was now decried as savage and heathenish... At length, when the council was almost in despair, a burgher, remarkable for the size and squareness of his head, proposed that they should call it New-Amsterdam. The proposition took everybody by surprise; it was so striking, so apposite, so ingenious. The name was adopted by acclamation, and New-Amsterdam the metropolis was thenceforth called. Washington Irving, 1808

This course examines the evolution of New York City from 1607 to the present. Not only were work and workplaces transformed, but the fabric of society was reshaped in the city of New York. People, things, and words moved faster over great distances as millions of people poured into the city, living in a more densely populated world than they had known; their presences transformed the physical environment, as well as the rhythms and contours of urban life. The readings focus on the city’s cultural, social and environmental histories, and the class discussions compare New York’s development to patterns in other cities. Your grade is composed of one essay, two possible quizzes, a final exam project, class participation, and a possible trip to New York City.

These courses will be taught at the Stony Brook Campus.
More classes in New York City.