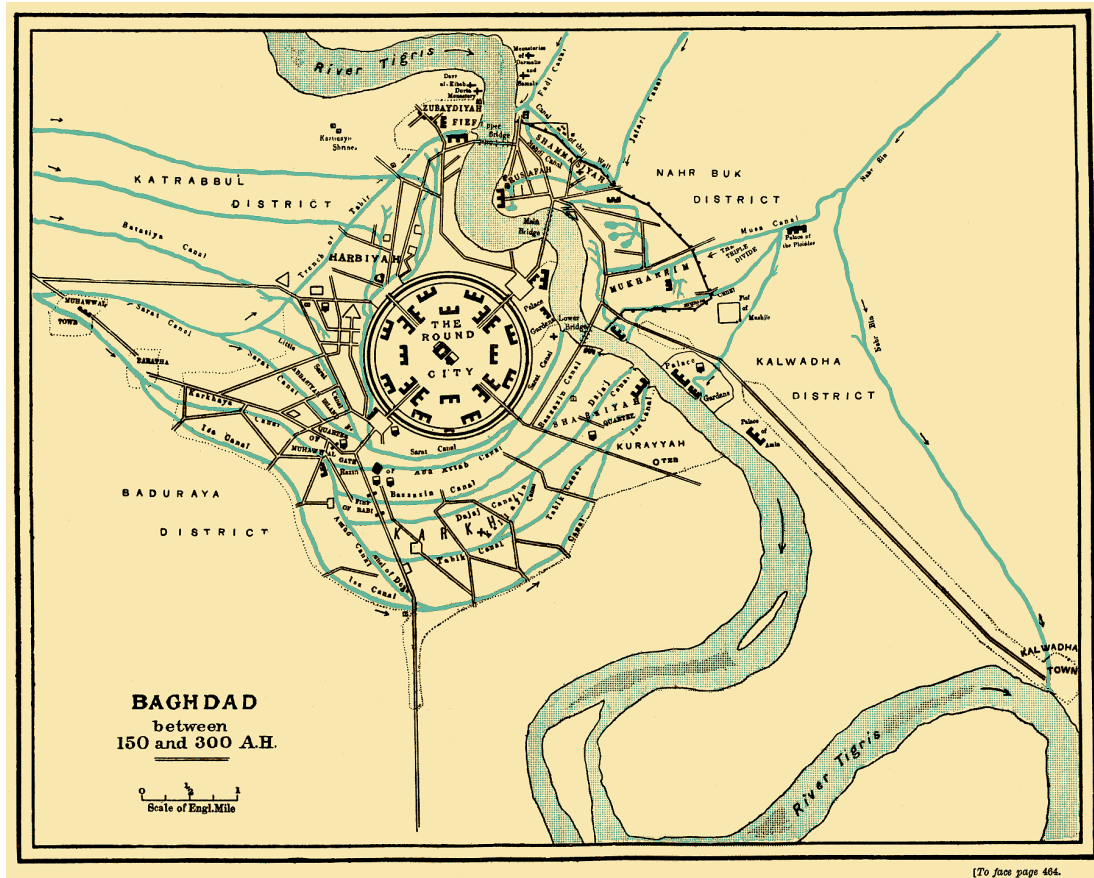


ARHS 6321 Seminar on Medieval Art: The Medieval Walled City

Tuesdays, 2-4:50 PM,
Visual Resources Laboratory, Hamon Arts Library Basement

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One of the defining features of pre-modern urbanism was the city wall, a structure that identified a reliable center of civilization within the landscape. Most commonly understood as a physical boundary, city walls were remarkably fluid in their spatial, theoretical, and phenomenological conceptions. Though walls can often appear constrictive from a contemporary perspective, entire communities often sprang up outside them, creating their own urbanities in miniature. And while walls could serve as important legal boundaries, shaping juridical and military precincts, urban resources often flowed through them, complicating their function. Of course, the defensive purpose of walls cannot be denied, but the structure and organization of wall systems can reveal just what sorts of enemies a city was expecting. This course will examine these variant and, at times, contradictory roles that walls played in shaping urban life in the medieval world. Drawing upon case studies from across the medieval world—Baghdad, Toledo, Carcassonne, Jerusalem, and Dubrovnik to name a few—students will explore these themes in context.