

STUDY PROGRAMME

European Interdisciplinary Studies, Natolin campus (Advanced Academic Master)

YEAR

2019 - 2020

COURSE TITLE

Modernity - Technology - Cities

SEMESTER

2

COURSE PROFESSOR(S)

WEEKS Theodore

ACADEMIC ASSISTANT(S)

PUJSZO Pawel

COURSE TYPE

Optional Specialist Course

MAJOR(S)

EPAP, EUW, EUN, EHC

ECTS CREDITS

4

CONTACT HOURS

20

INDIVIDUAL STUDY TIME

80

TUTORIALS

COEFFICIENT

1

LANGUAGE(S)

EN

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES

- Students will be able to grasp the concept of modernity in the European context.
- Students will learn basic historical milestones in the application of technology in the context of European cities.
- Students will be able to gain a basic knowledge of urban history in Europe.
- Students will become acquainted with the importance of urban areas in the development of modern politics, everyday life, technology, and diverse forms of culture.
- Students are able to develop and sustain historical arguments in a variety of literary forms, formulating appropriate questions and utilizing evidence
- Students are able to tackle questions of general historical significance, ranging widely across time and space, and to exemplify their syntheses with detailed evidence.
- Students are able to master a significant body of historical literature on European political, cultural, and urban history.
- Students are able autonomously to gather and sift evidence, to interpret primary and secondary sources critically, and to draw reasoned and justifiable conclusions and new information on the basis of the evidence while showing an appreciation of the complexity of reconstructing the past.
- Students understand the variety of approaches that can be used in understanding, constructing and interpreting urban and cultural history and will appreciate approaches from other fields, such as literary studies, art history, and sociology.

RECOMMENDED PREPARATION

Please consult the selected readings.

TEACHING METHOD(S)

Lectures, including powerpoints, and discussion.

ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA

- Paper of 2000-2500 words (including footnotes, excluding bibliography) (50%)
- 2-hour closed-book, written exam (1 out of 4 essay questions) (50%)

Retake examinations, i.e. exams passed in the second examination session, will have the same format as those taken during the first exam session. The only exception concerns oral exams, which are replaced in the second exam session by written exams. When a student takes an examination during the second session, the final mark for the course is based solely on the result of the retake examination. No other element of evaluation which would have been taken into consideration in the calculation of the final mark during the first examination session will be considered in the second session.

COURSE CONTENTS

The course will cover urban history and technological change in Europe in the period ca. 1870 to 2000. In the period before World War I, the course will examine in some detail Paris and St. Petersburg as exemplars of “urban modernity.” The impact of new forms of technology, in particular technologies of communication, transport, time-keeping, and consumption will be discussed. The impact of these technologies on city life in general and on specific European cities will be covered. In the interwar, the course will look at how both the newly-independent countries of East-Central Europe and the newly socialist USSR used urban space to exhibit national and communist ideology. In the postwar period, we will concentrate on Berlin, Warsaw, and Vilnius to look at how ideology and practical considerations influenced the rebuilding of cities heavily damaged by the war.

COURSE MATERIALS (readings and other learning resources/tools)

Articles, stories, and chapters from books will be available in scanned form on the intranet. Illustrations and maps will be incorporated into the lectures.