



STUDY PROGRAMME

European Interdisciplinary Studies, Natolin campus (Advanced Academic Master)

YEAR

2020-2021

COURSE TITLE

Modernity in European Cities

SEMESTER

2

COURSE PROFESSOR(S)

WEEKS Theodore

ACADEMIC ASSISTANT(S)

MARTIN MORAN Álvaro

COURSE TYPE

Optional Specialist Course

MAJOR(S)

EPAP, EUW, EUN, EHC

ECTS CREDITS

4

CONTACT HOURS

20

INDIVIDUAL STUDY TIME

80

TUTORIAL(S)

COEFFICIENT

1

LANGUAGE(S)

EN

COURSE OBJECTIVE

- 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.

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES

- **A2:** Students acquire a sound understanding of the history of the European construction within the longer context of the history of European Civilization, including Central and Eastern Europe, and its wider neighbourhood and global contexts. They are able critically to analyse and evaluate the changing idea of

Europe, the changing aims of the European construction and changing social, political and economic realities in Europe and in the world.

- **B6:** Students develop the ability autonomously to gather, sift, assess and interpret information from multiple sources. On the basis of referenced evidence, they are able to formulate and develop a coherent and reasoned stance, justifiable conclusions, specific policy recommendations and/or historical arguments.
- **EHC1:** Students master a significant body of historical literature on broad topics in European and global history, including Central and Eastern European History [develops A2].
- **EHC2:** Students develop the ability to construct historical arguments in a variety of literary forms and to tackle questions of general historical significance, ranging widely across time and space, formulating appropriate questions and exemplifying their syntheses with detailed evidence [develops B4 and B5].
- **EHC3:** Students develop the ability to design, research and present a sustained and independently conceived piece of historical writing in European and/or global history [develops B5].

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.

The College of Europe reserves the right to change the delivery and assessment of the course in case of circumstances beyond the reasonable control of the College (force majeure). Any communication from the campus administration in this regard takes precedence over the information provided in this ECTS card.

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.

The course is divided into two equal parts: eight hours of recorded lectures/PowerPoints + two hours of Zoom discussion (10 hours) + ten hours of in-person lectures and discussion.

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.