

Cities, Culture, Creativity: European cities as centers of culture

MA Graduate Seminar

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Urban history has offered the most varied approaches, methodologies and achievements in mapping up the city as a highly diverse product of modern society. The “cultural turn” intensified the interest in the metropolis bringing new insights in the research on the construction of modern culture and modern society in general. A flood of city monographs and comparative, interdisciplinary studies demonstrates that this branch of history can offer unusual constructions and visions of how society is organised and how it reflects on itself.

The course will bring together different aspects of urban and cultural history and provide the students both with the classical works (mainly discussed in the seminar) and the latest achievements in the field. The course dwells on the existing contacts and co-operation of the CEU History Department. The visiting lecturers, the leading figures in their research areas in Great Britain, Germany, Austria and Hungary, will introduce the students to the latest methodological issues and, through their case studies, will demonstrate the possible interlinks between the urban and the cultural in the nineteenth and twentieth century.

The seminar will also cover the diverse fields of culture that are constitutional parts of urban history: urban planning, architecture, literature, music and the fine arts, in Europe.

The course:

- (1) develops a comprehensive and critical understanding of different methodologies of urban studies in the local and the European context.
- (2) provides familiarity with the current research in the field elaborating a range of historical and interdisciplinary approaches with the view also to develop a new research agenda for urban studies.
- (3) through the involvement of visiting scholars the course enhances the internationalization of work at the CEU

Method

The course is conceived on two levels. On the introductory level, it consists of weekly two-hour seminars devoted to the survey and discussion of some of the literature of the field. On a more advanced level, each week we plan to host a guest lecture (also announced as a public lecture, sponsored by Pasts Inc. Center for Historical Studies).

Course Requirements

Students who take the course for credit are required to attend the seminars as well as the guest lectures. More than two unexcused absences will result in failing the course. Each participant will be required to give one “position paper” (a ca. 10 minute statement proposing issues to be

discussed in the particular class meeting as gleaned from the weekly readings), to contribute actively to class discussion, and to write a ca. 4,000 word seminar paper. The topic for the seminar paper must be developed, in consultation by the instructors, by Week 6, a draft version presented in the final course workshop, and submitted two weeks after the end of the term. The grade will emerge from the combination of the position paper (10%), class activity (40%) and the seminar paper (50%).

COURSE SCHEDULE AND READINGS

(1) Sept. 25-26 Richard Rodger (Sept. 25, public lecture)

You're an urban historian - you just don't know it: cities, cameras and urban culture

Reading:

- Richard Rodger, "'There is no nobler sphere than to take part in municipal work': public administration in historical perspective," D. Schott and M. Toyka-Seid, ed., *Die europäische Stadt und ihre Umwelt* (Darmstadt 2008), 169-92.
- Idem, "In pursuit of the indefinable? The urban variable reconsidered," in S. Supphellen, ed., *The Norwegian Tradition in a European Context*, Trondheim Studies in History no.25 (Trondheim 1998), 47-56.
- Idem and Roey Sweet, "The changing nature of urban history," *History in Focus* 13, 2008, 'The City'.

Optional:

- *Urban History*, Volume 33, Issue 01, May 2006. (Urban Icons)

(2) Oct. 2-3, Helen Meller (Oct. 2, public lecture)

European cities: Towns, plans and society in the nineteenth and early twentieth century Europe

Reading:

- Helen Meller, *Towns, plans, and society in modern Britain* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1997), 1-25.
- Helen Meller, *European cities, 1890-1930s: history, culture, and the built environment* (Chichester Wiley, c2001), 7-17.

Optional:

- Eve Blau and Monika Platzer, eds. *Shaping the great city: modern architecture in Central Europe, 1890-1937* (Munich: Prestel, c1999), 58-93.
- Helen Meller, *European cities, 1890-1930s: history, culture, and the built environment* (Chichester Wiley, c2001), 77-117.

(3) Oct. 9-10, Ilona Sármány-Parsons (Oct. 9, public lecture)
Cities as Works of Art: Framing the art life of the cities

Reading:

- Peter Hall, "City as Pleasure Principle: Vienna 1780-1910," *Cities in Civilization* (London: Phoenix Giant, c1998) 159-201.
- Mark Girouard, *Cities & people: a social and architectural history* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1989, c1985), 285-300.

Optional:

- Donald Olsen, *City as a Work of Art* (New Haven, London 1996), 3-11.
- Carl E. Schorske, *Fin-de-siecle Vienna: politics and culture* (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, c1979), 24-115.

(4) Oct. 16-17, Rosemary Sweet (Oct. 16, public lecture)
British perceptions of Italian cities in the long eighteenth century

Reading:

- Black, Jeremy, Chapter "Numbers, Roots and Destinations," *The British and the Grand Tour* (Stroud, 1985), 1-37.

Optional:

- Hanns Gross, Chapter "The City," *Rome in the Age of Enlightenment* (Cambridge, 1990), 15-39.

(5) Oct. 30-31, Gábor Gyáni (Oct. 30, public lecture)
The City as Constituted by Everyday Life

Reading:

- Gábor Gyáni, *Identity and the urban experience: fin-de-siècle Budapest* (Boulder, Colo.: Social Science Monographs, 2004), 4-23.
- Peter Hanak, *The Garden and the Workshop* (Princeton 1998), 63-97.

Optional:

- Peter Hanak, *The Garden and the Workshop* (Princeton 1998), 3-43.

(6) Nov. 4-7, Susan Zimmermann (Nov. 4, public lecture on Tuesday, 18:00-19:00)

Urban Betterment? A New Era of Municipal Policy in Vienna, Prague, and Budapest 1867-1914

Reading:

- Gary Cohen, "Society and Culture in Prague, Vienna, and Budapest in the late Nineteenth Century," *East European Quarterly* 20 (1986): pp. 467-84.
- Susan Zimmermann, "'Making a Living from Disgrace': The Politics of Prostitution, Female Poverty and Urban Gender Codes in Budapest and Vienna, 1860s - 1920s," in Malcolm Gee, Tim Kirk and Jill Steward, eds., *The City in Central Europe: Culture and Society in Central Europe since 1800* (London 1999), 175-195.

Optional:

- Susan Zimmermann, "Die aktive Stadt," in Gerhard Melinz and Susan Zimmermann, eds., *Wien, Prag, Budapest: Blütezeit der Habsburgermetropolen: Urbanisierung, Kommunalpolitik, gesellschaftliche Konflikte, 1867-1918* (Wien: Promedia, 1996), 140-176.

(7) Nov 13-14, Term papers seminar

(8) Nov. 20-21, Michael Miller (Nov. 20, public lecture)

Alienation, 'Degeneration' and Cultural Creativity in Fin-de-Siecle Central Europe

Reading:

- George L. Mosse, "Max Nordau: Liberalism and the New Jew," in George L. Mosse, *Confronting the Nation: Jewish and Western nationalism* (Hanover: Brandeis University Press by University Press of New England, 1993), 161-175.
- Steven E. Aschheim, "Friedrich Nietzsche, Max Nordau, and Degeneration," in Steven E. Aschheim, *In Times of Crisis: Essays on European culture, Germans, and Jews* (Madison, Wisc.: University of Wisconsin Press, c2001), 3-12.

Optional:

- Max Simon Nordau, *Degeneration* (New York: D. Appleton and Company, 1905), Preface and Introduction.
- Steven Beller, *Vienna and the Jews 1867-1938. A cultural history* (Cambridge, 1989), 1-32.

(9) Nov. 27-28, Nathaniel D. Wood (Nov. 27, public lecture)

Not just the National: Modernity and Identity in the Cities of East Central Europe

Reading:

- Jeremy King, "The nationalism of East Central Europe: Ethnicism, Ethnicity, and Beyond" in Maria Bucur and Nancy Wingfield, eds, *Staging the past: the politics of commemoration in Habsburg Central Europe, 1848 to the present* (West Lafayette, IN: Purdue University Press, 2001), 112-152.
- Nathaniel D. Wood, "Urban Self-identification in East Central Europe before the Great War: The Case of Cracow," *ECE* 33 (2006) 1-2.

Optional:

- Gabor Czoch, "The Question of Urban Citizens' National Identity in Mid-Nineteenth Century Hungary" *ECE* 33 (2006) 1-2, 121-139.

(10) Dec 4-5, Dr. Peter Urbanitsch (Nov. 4, public lecture)

Austrian society and the making of the image of Vienna

Reading:

- Robin Okey, "Liberalism," "Economics," "Society and Social Movements," *The Habsburg Monarchy from the Enlightenment to the Eclipse* (Palgrave, Macmillan 2001), 193-211; 245-282.
- Peter M. Judson, "Rethinking the Liberal Legacy," Steven Beller, ed., *Rethinking Vienna 1900* (New York and Oxford: Berghahn Books, 2001), 58-79.

Optional:

- Wolfgang Maderthaner and Lutz Musner, "Projection and Grids" and "Panorama of Misery," in Wolfgang Maderthaner and Lutz Musner, *Unruly Masses: The Other Side of Fin-de-Siecle Vienna* (New York and Oxford: Berghann, 2008).
- Wolfgang Maderthaner and Lutz Musner, "Textures of the Modern: Viennese Contribution to Cultural History and Urban Studies," *Cultural Studies* 2002.

(11) Dec. 11-12, Prof. Karl Schlögel (Dec. 11, public lecture)

Russian Cities: Urban Cultures, Creative Milieaus, Questions of Methodology

Reading:

- Karl Schlögel, "Neue Urbanität im neuen Europa," in Karl Schlögel, *Marjampole oder Europas Wiederkehr aus dem Geist der Städte* (Munich: Hanser Verlag, 2005), 183-202.
- Michael F. Hamm, "Introduction," in Michael F. Hamm, ed., *The City in Late Imperial Russia* (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, c1986), 1-8.

Optional:

- Joseph Bradley, "Moscow: From Big Village to Metropolis," in Michael F. Hamm, ed., *The City in Late Imperial Russia* (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, c1986), 9-41.
- Blair A. Ruble, *Leningrad: shaping a Soviet city* (Berkeley: University of California Press, c1990), 1-19.

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