Course Description:

Part and parcel of the global context of urbanization, this region’s urban experience is crucial to the understanding of the condition of modernity and its consequences for culture. The city was both the catalyst and a product of this change that documented itself in various fields of what we broadly call culture: everyday practices and special events, royal celebrations and urban revolts, the reports of the modern press and the municipal (and other) approaches to urban “improvement,” the changing cultural norms of behavior and, lastly, diverse representations in architecture, music, theatre and the arts. Hence a diverse array of approaches and methodologies offered within these fields as attempts to link the urban and the cultural in the nineteenth and twentieth century. Method: Each class will consist of a brief overview of the topic by the instructor (circa 30 min), three very brief student presentations of the assigned readings (up to 10 min), and a discussion moderated by the instructor.

Learning Outcomes:

- the course provides the students with a comprehensive and critical understanding of the recent scholarship on urban history in the Habsburg, Russian and Ottoman Empires and offers a broader European perspective of urbanisation and various aspects of urban culture at the turn of the century.
- the course develops skills and techniques of comparative analysis and their application to urban and cultural history in the region and therefore aims at - developing a new research agenda for urban studies.

Assessment:

The attendance of all class sessions is mandatory. Missing two sessions will result in failing the course. The final grade will be composed of class participation, including regular brief presentations of the required reading in class throughout the course (40 %) and either a weekly class journal or a final essay (3,000-4,000 words; 60 %).

READINGS

(1) Fin-de-siècle Cities: An Introduction

Reading:


Stephen Frank, “Confronting the Domestic Order: Rural Popular Culture and Its Enemies in fin de siècle Russia”, in Stephen Frank, Mark D. Steinberg, eds, Cultures in Flux: Lower-class


Optional:


(2) Urbanization: Generalities and Specifics

Reading:


Optional


(3) Urban Society and Culture

Reading:


Optional:


(4) Architecture and Representation

Reading:


Optional:


(5) Monuments and the Public Space

*Reading:*


*Optional:*


(6) The Street Spectacle

*Reading:*


*Optional:*


(7) Women, Gender and the City

Reading:


Fanny Davis. The Ottoman Lady: A Social History from 1718 to 1918. Greenwood Press 1986, 131-70.

Optional:


(8) New Press and the New Metropolitan Identity

Reading:


Optional:

(9) The Jews

Reading:


Optional:


(10) Serious entertainment

Reading:


Optional:


(11) Popular entertainment

Reading:


Optional:


(12) Everyday Life

Reading:


Optional: