THE CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE CITY IN CENTRAL EUROPE
Berlin, Budapest, Prague, Vienna
Spring semester 2011

Professor/lecturer: PhDr. Marie Homerová
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Office hours: every Tuesday from 8:00-9:00, NYU building, classroom, or upon request of students

Course description:
The course consists of two parts:
- a general overview of the development of a European city in each historical period, the main cultural attributes and appearance of the city from Antiquity to modern times
- a cultural development of Central European capital cities, their specifics and significant cultural achievements throughout history

Knowledge and intellectual skills:
- to learn about historical types of European cities and urbanism throughout the European history
- to study the role and significance of the city’s cultural environments in every historical period
- to analyze the intellectual and educational contribution of cities
- to learn about the cultural achievements and specifics of Central European capitals
- to learn about the everyday life in every historical period

Students are expected to acquire a comprehensive knowledge and the basic intellectual skills related to the cultural development of a European city in each historical period, i.e. the city in Antiquity, in the Middle Ages, in Baroque, an industrial city of the 19C and a modern city. This general knowledge will be used in learning about the capitals in the Central European region. The concept of the course is comprehensive.

Students who major in urban studies will elaborate at least 2 specialized research papers and present the results to the other students. The students who do not major in urban studies will elaborate presentation on Central European capitals related to their major study, e.g. presentation on music in Vienna by music students.

Short tours in Prague will be incorporated to complete the teaching in the city’s environs.

Grading policy
Class participation/attendance: 30%
Assignments, course work: 40%: based on lectures, readings, extra course activities
Mid-term test: 15%
Final test: 15%
Extra credits for extra activities will be incorporated in the evaluation too.

Note: each student of the course is obliged to elaborate at least 2 presentations, one for the first half of the semester (from Antiquity to Renaissance), one for the second half of the semester (from Baroque to the 20C). The obligatory weekly short assignments will be focused on the general city’s cultural development, the students’ presentations on the capitals of Central European region (see the suggested topics below). The assignments will be based on the reader’s texts or the recommended professional literature (see the list below) and lectures. Students can choose the topics for their presentations according to their interest and their major study. Students are encouraged to prepare extra presentations too, e.g. using their travel experience, focused on cultural specifics of Central European capitals, etc.. The professor will recommend a convenient professional literature or provide advice if needed.

Recommended literature for the course work:
Leonardo Benevolo: The European Cities, OUP, 1993
Lewis Mumford: *The City in History*, NY 1964
Jahn Lukacz: *Budapest 1900*, NY 1989
Andrew Rees: *Perceived Cities*, Blackwell 1984
Carl Schorske: *Fien-de-Siecle Vienna*, NY, 1980
These books are available in the NYU library.

Suggested topics for the presentations:
The legends about the beginnings of the capital cities in Central Europe, Budapest and Vienna as the Roman settlements on the Limes Romanus, Beginnings of medieval Prague and Berlin, The development of medieval Prague and Vienna, The medieval monuments and cathedrals in Central European capitals, Prague in the time of Charles IV and Rudolf II, Vienna and Budapest in Renaissance, Baroque re-development of Vienna, Prague, Berlin and Budapest, Habsburg Monarchy and the Turkish wars, the Industrial revolution in the capital cities, Central European cities in Art Nouveau, Central European capitals in between-the wars period, Nazi art and propaganda and the City of Berlin, The different development of “two Berlins” after 1945, Prague in the time of “socialist realism”, Vienna as the new cultural city after 1945, Current Central European capitals.

Schedule of classes

**Week 1**
25 January:
Overview of the course. Introduction: beginning of urbanism, Central European region.

**Week 2**
1 February:
European Urbanism, Cities in Antiquity: Budapest and Vienna as the Roman settlements.

**Week 3**
8 February:
Cities in the Middle Ages, Central European medieval capitals: Prague and Vienna as medieval cities.

**Week 4**
15 February
Cities in the Middle Ages. Budapest and Berlin in the Middle Ages

**Week 5**
22 February

**Weeks 6/7–Midterm evaluation: papers or a test. Byzantine and Muslim influences in Central European capitals**

**Week 6**
1 March:
Cities in Baroque. Prague and Vienna in Baroque

**Week 7**
8 October:
Cities in Baroque. Berlin and Budapest in Baroque. Jewish ghettos in Central Europe,

**Week 8**
Spring break, no classes:
Week 10
29 March:
Industrial Cities in Europe. Prague and Budapest as Industrial Cities

Week 11
5 April:
Industrial Cities in Europe. Berlin and Vienna as Industrial Cities

Week 12
12 April:
Modern Cities. Prague and Budapest in the 20C

Week 13
19 April:
Modern Cities in Europe. Berlin and Vienna in the 20C

Week 14
26 April:

Week 15
Current positives and negatives in Central European capitals.

Week 16
Evaluation: papers, a comprehensive test