The Cultural History of the City in Central Europe

Syllabus Spring 2012

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Office hours: after class (or by arrangement)

Description and Objectives of the Course

This course aims to acquaint students with the history and urban development of four principal Central European cities – Vienna, Prague, Budapest and Berlin – in the context of the European urban tradition, focusing especially on unique moments of their historical importance and cultural achievement, when they made significant contributions in the arts, science and technology; and we examine the background to these creative periods in terms of the social, economic, political and cultural conditions of the time.

Study of the selected cities will be set within the context of the main stages of urban history in Europe since the end of the Roman Empire, making comparison with major Western European and certain non-European cities.

Further themes will include where relevant: the process and causes of urbanization, the changing populations of the cities (including religious and ethnic minorities, migrant and worker communities); analysis of the physical city (its urban form and spatial topography, landmarks and architectural monuments); the distinctive identities of capital cities; and debates on urban planning and historical preservation.

Class meetings will consist of lectures, class discussions, student presentations, analysis of readings, occasional films, and short walking tours in Prague.

Students are required to make two presentations and submit two written papers. There will also be one mid-term and one final quiz.
Bibliography

Girouard, Mark, *Cities and People – A Social and Architectural History*, Yale, 1985
LeGates, R., Stout, F. (eds.), *The City Reader*, Routledge, 1999 (2nd edition) or later editions

[These books are all available in the NYU library]

Evaluation and Grading

Components of Final Grade

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Participation*</td>
<td>20 %</td>
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<tr>
<td>Presentations</td>
<td>30 %</td>
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<tr>
<td>Short Paper</td>
<td>10 %</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mid-term Quiz</td>
<td>10 %</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Paper (Paper Outline = 5% of final grade)</td>
<td>20 %</td>
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<tr>
<td>Final Quiz</td>
<td>10 %</td>
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<td>100 %</td>
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* Participation grade includes attendance, making a positive contribution to class discussion, handing work in on time, willingness to consult with instructor regarding assignments, turning up at the correct time and place for field trips.
Course work
• For detailed instructions, please see the document Assignment Instructions, which will be posted on Blackboard before class (week 2).

Schedule of classes – Spring 2012

[PLEASE NOTE: the content of classes may be subject to changes]

Week 1

Wednesday 15 February
• Overview of the course
• Background
  - What is a city?
  - How do we study cities?
  - Cities in antiquity: from the first cities to Ancient Greece and Rome
  - Europe from the fall of the Roman Empire: The early Middle Ages
  - The Central European region: Definitions
  - Budapest and Vienna as Roman settlements
  - Constantinople and the Byzantine Empire

READING: Kostof (37-41)
Hohenburg/Lees (7-34)
Fazio/Moffet/Wodehouse (244-248)
Girouard (ch. 1)

ALSO RECOMMENDED:
Benevolo (1-22) [Reader 2]

Week 2

Wednesday 22 February
• European Cities in the Middle Ages
• Central Europe: introduction to Prague, Vienna, Berlin, Budapest as medieval cities
• Walking tour in Prague Old Town

READING: Braunfels (276-307)
Demetz (67-117)
Johnson, Central Europe (13-26)

Week 3

Paper # 1 due Comparison of Prague with a city you know well. (3-5 pages)

Wednesday 29 February
• Medieval Paris
• Prague as capital of the Holy Roman Empire
- Renaissance Florence and Rome

READING: 
Braunfels (307-315)  
Demetz (67-117)  
Benevolo (chapter 3) [Reader 2]

ALSO RECOMMENDED:  
Girouard (ch. 6) [not in reader]

Week 4

Wednesday 7 March
- Counter-Reformation Rome  
- Paris – urban development under Henri IV  
- Renaissance in Central Europe cities

READING:  
Benevolo (124-130) [Reader 2]  
Braunfels (350-365)  
Girouard (171-174)

RECOMMENDED  
Girouard (ch. 7) [not in reader]

Week 5

Wednesday 14 March
- London in the Elizabethan era  
- Rudolfine Prague  
- Amsterdam and the Dutch Republic’s “Golden Age”

READING:  
Benevolo (124-135) [Reader 2]  
Braunfels (327-339)  
Girouard (151-166)  
Marshall, The Mercurial Emperor (43-86) [not in reader*]  
[*not in reader – available as separate handout]

RECOMMENDED  
Hall (chapter 4)

Week 6

Wednesday 21 March
17th C  
[Student presentations]  
- Architecture and absolutism  
- Baroque cities: Rome, Paris,  
- Vienna and the Turkish Wars
READING:  Benevolo (136-159) [Reader 2]
Braunfels (289-302)
Hohenberg / Lees (151-159)
Parsons, Vienna: A Cultural and Literary History (149-172)
Fazio et al. (chapter 12)
Girouard (171-174)
Kostof (chapter 4 selections)

Week 7

Wednesday 28 March
Student presentations
• The Enlightenment
• [18th Century Vienna – city of music]
Prague in the Baroque era: walking tour of Klementinum, Charles Bridge, Vrbovska Gardens

READING:  Hall (chapter 5 (159-182)
Johnson, L., Central Europe
Parsons, Vienna: A Cultural and Literary History (149-172)
Girouard (chapter 10)

Weeks 7/8 – MIDTERM EXAMS – YOU SHOULD SCHEDULE YOUR MIDTERM EXAM OR PAPER FOR WEEK SEVEN OR EIGHT.

Week 8

Wednesday 4 April
Quiz # 1
• London after the Great Fire
• Berlin: from its origins to Frederick the Great

READING:  Reader, John, Cities (144-146, 261-270)
Ladd, (ch. 2)
Braunfels (261-270)
[*not in Reader – available as separate handout]

Week 9

SPRING BREAK – NO CLASSES

Week 10

Wednesday 18 April
• American cities [briefly]
• The rise of the capitalist industrial city – Manchester
• London and the growth of the suburb [Great Exhibition]
• (Urban renewal – Paris)

READING: Benevolo (ch. 6) [Reader 2]
Girouard (ch. 13 & 14)
Friedrich Engels: The Great Towns (in The City Reader)

RECOMMENDED:
Hall, (ch.6)

Week 11

Wednesday 25 April
• Urban renewal – Paris (the Haussmann plan)
• Vienna – from Biedermeier to the Ringstrasse
• Berlin – the pioneer technopolis; as capital of the German empire

READING: Girouard (ch. 14)
Hall (chapters 6, 12)
Parsons (chapters 18, 19)
Schorske (ch.2)

Week 12  Final Paper – topic choice to be approved this week

Wednesday 2 May
• Budapest in the 19th century
• Berlin – the pioneer technopolis; as capital of the German empire
• [Fin-de-siecle [Paris], Vienna, Prague, Budapest]

READING: Dent, Bob: Budapest – A Cultural and Literary History, (ch.1,2,3,4)
Lukacs (ch. 1,2)
Hall, (ch. 12)
[Schorske (ch. 1,2)

Week 13

Wednesday 9 May
• [Avant-garde to WWI]
• Berlin – the pioneer technopolis; as capital of the German empire
• Berlin, capital of the Weimar Republic [Ladd, ch. 3] [DVD Frei ??/??]

READING: Hall, (ch. 7)
Ladd, (ch. 3, 4)
[Schorske (ch. 1, 2)
Week 14

*Paper # 2 due  Short research paper (6-8 pages)*

Wednesday 16 May

*Student presentations*
- Prague, capital of the first Czechoslovak Republic
- European cities in totalitarian regimes
- Nazi Berlin [*Ladd, ch. 4*][DVD Frei ??/??]
- The Berlin Wall [*Ladd, ch. 5*][DVD Frei ??/??]

Central European cities today

**READING:** Ladd, (ch. 4, 5)

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Week 15  

*Exam week*

Wednesday 23 May

*Paper # 2 due  Short research paper (6-8 pages)*

*Final Quiz / Exam / Paper*