

European Cultural History

Instructor: Dr Ulrich Maximilian Schumann
Module entirely taught in English

Course Description

This course offers an introduction to the broad phenomenon of European culture by focusing on its most complex artefact: the city. Through some of its most illustrative examples, the successful model of "the European City" will be discussed and its characteristics and role in the evolution of European culture highlighted. Correspondingly, the principal guideline will be cultural complexity. Here, the city will not be reduced to one of its major facets – f.e. technical product, administrative unit, work of art, symbol of its time, expression of anonymous history, mirror of abstract ideas – but regarded as a synthesis: a human artefact able to blend the most diverse interests into a perceptible form.

The course will be taught in the form of a dynamic lecture. The basic inputs will be brought in by the coordinator. The students are encouraged to intervene and put questions across at any time during the lecture. A lot of free room will be offered to the students for discussions and contributions.

Course Objectives

The participants shall be strengthened in their abilities to:

- Distinguish the criteria and characteristics of «the European city»
- Discern the most significant stages and milestones of its development in relation to political and social changes
- Understand the complexity of urban spaces and locate the interfaces of privacy and publicness
- Contour actual developments on the basis of historical experience
- Participate in class discussions
- Choose an individual research topic and handle it scientifically in a term paper

Reading Materials

Benevolo, Leonardo, *The European City*, Oxford and Cambridge/Mass. (Blackwell) 1993.

Curl, James Stevens, *European Cities and Society: Influence of Political Climate on Town Design*, London (Leonard Hill) 1970.

De Vries, Jan, *European urbanisation, 1500-1800*, London (Methuen) and Cambridge/Mass. (Harvard University Press) 1984

Hall, Peter, *Cities of Tomorrow: An Intellectual History of Urban Planning and Design Since 1880*, Oxford (Blackwell) 1988.

Hinse, Ton, *The Morphology of the Times: European Cities and their Historical Growth*, Berlin (Dom Publishers) 2014.

Laitinen, Riitta and Cohen, Thomas (eds.) Cultural history of early modern European streets, Leiden (Brill) 2009.

Macionis, John J. and Parrillo, Vincent N., Cities and Urban Life, Upper Saddle River (Pearson) 2010.

Meller, Hellen, European Cities, 1890-1930s: History, Culture and the Built Environment, John Wiley & Sons; Auflage: 1 (April 2001).

Mumford, Lewis, The City in History, New York (Harcourt, Brace & World) 1961.

Ward, Stephen V., Planning the Twentieth-Century City: The Advanced Capitalist World, Chichester (Wiley) 2002

Assessment

The students' success in the course will be evaluated mainly on the basis of a scientific term paper of approximately ten pages. Active participation in class will be taken into account with 25%.