National Research University – Higher School of Economics
Department of History

Syllabus of the course: “Urban History in Transnational Perspective”
Master’s program “Applied and Interdisciplinary History «Usable Pasts»”

Authors of the syllabus:

Alexandra Bekasova, Candidate of Sciences, Associate Professor, Department of History, School for Humanities and Arts, National Research University Higher School of Economics, St. Petersburg. Email: abekasova@hse.ru

Alexei Kraikovski, Candidate of Sciences, Associate Professor, Department of History, School for Humanities and Arts, National Research University Higher School of Economics, St. Petersburg. Email: akraikovskiy@hse.ru

Approved by the manager of Applied and Interdisciplinary History Programme Office: Dilorom Akhmedzhanova, dakhmedzhanova@hse.ru

«_18__»__September___________ 2018

Head of the program:

Julia Lajus

20 Sept 2018

Saint-Petersburg, 2018

This syllabus cannot be used by other university departments and other higher education institutions without the explicit permission of the department of History
• Annotation

As Charles Tilly put it, the city is a "privileged site for study of the interaction between large social processes and routines of local life". The aim of this course is to introduce interdisciplinary trends of urban studies and focus on the functioning of these processes through historical perspective. Special attention will be given to research studies focusing on urbanization in the context of social, ecological and technological history, and history of science. This is a graduate course that introduces urban history through major works in the field and examines the major topics of urban history from a transnational perspective. Moving from the early modern period to the late 20th century, this course will focus discussion on the analytic trends, major questions and issues shaping urban history.

• Scope of Use

The course is based on interdisciplinary approaches combining the analytical instruments and explanations of the urban history. Themes will include: economic aspects of urbanization, urban migration and mobility, the city as an artefact of technology and environment, cities as the loci of various practices and places for production of identities. This class is reading and discussion-intensive.

• Learning outcome:

Upon completion of the course students should:

- have a good grasp of the way institutions affect historical developments
- have obtained a general overview of the key turning points in economic history
- have gained the skills of interdisciplinary research of economics, technological, and environmental history
- have developed the skills to express sophisticated and large-scale historical arguments both orally and in writing

As a result of completing the course, students will develop the following competences:
### System competencies

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code (RUS)</th>
<th>Code (ENG)</th>
<th>Competence description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CK - 2</td>
<td>SC-2</td>
<td>Ability to generate concepts and theoretical models, to test new methods and tools for professional activities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CK - 3</td>
<td>SC-3</td>
<td>Ability to master new research methods, and to transform his or her own professional profile</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Professional competencies

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code (RUS)</th>
<th>Code (ENG)</th>
<th>Competence description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ПК - 1</td>
<td>PC - 1</td>
<td>Ability to carry out research practices drawing on up-to-date research methodologies and knowledge in the humanities, social sciences and other relevant areas of scholarship</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ПК - 2</td>
<td>PC - 2</td>
<td>Ability to engage in interdisciplinary interaction and collaboration with scholars in relevant research areas in order to adequately address fundamental and applied research problems</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ПК - 3</td>
<td>PC - 3</td>
<td>Ability to read scholarly texts and to epitomize scholarly literature in foreign languages</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ПК - 24</td>
<td>PC - 24</td>
<td>Ability to analyze and solve philosophical, social and personal significant problems</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Professional and Social Competencies

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code (RUS)</th>
<th>Code (ENG)</th>
<th>Competence Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>НИД - 2</td>
<td>NID - 2</td>
<td>Mastering, improvement and developing of theoretical and methodological approaches,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>research methods, methods of analysis in the field of study of the subjects of</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>professional activity</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>НИД - 4</td>
<td>NID - 4</td>
<td>Analysis and generalization of scholarly research according to the requirements of</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>up-to-date historical scholarship</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Prerequisites, course type, role of the discipline within the structure of Master program

This is an elective course taught in the first year of the master’s program “Applied and Interdisciplinary History «Usable Pasts»”.

The following knowledge and competences are needed to study the discipline: Upper-intermediate or advanced reading and speaking skills in English.

- Assessment

Attendance 10 %
Participation (discussion questions and discussion-leading, thoughtful contributions in the class) 50 %
Review and presentations discussion 30%
Exam 10%

- Guidelines for Knowledge Assessment

The final grade will be based on: a) attendance b) participation in classroom discussions c) review essay, d) exam.

Those students whose cumulative grade for all these assignments will be equal or above the minimum pass level (4 points) do not need to take the final oral exam, however they may do so if they wish. The exam will take place during the ‘exam week’. Students will have discuss the same texts they were requited to do for the seminars; they will be given about 15-20 minutes to prepare. The choice of the text depends on the instructor.

Course plan

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>№</th>
<th>Themes</th>
<th>Total hours</th>
<th>Lectures</th>
<th>Seminars</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Introduction</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Urban History as interdisciplinary field or research</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>Growth and development of cities in the modern era: migration and urban change</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>Historicizing urban mobility: transnational perspective</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>Emergence of calculable</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>urban space and governmentality</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---</td>
<td>---------------------------------</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>---</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6.</td>
<td>The emergence of a ‘modern city’: new principles of planning, urban living and governance</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7.</td>
<td>Industrial towns: past and present</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.</td>
<td>Cities and markets. Commerce and urbanization</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9.</td>
<td>Cities and ports. Urban aspects of the coastal experience</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.</td>
<td>Cities and environment. Resources of the city. Urban metabolism as historical phenomenon</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11.</td>
<td>Ideal towns and cities of the future: from utopian urban planning to contemporary principles of</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Structure and content

The course consists of lectures and seminars and includes the following main sections:

Urban History as interdisciplinary field or research

Growth and development of cities in the modern era: migration and urban change

Reading for the seminar:


Historicizing urban mobility: transnational perspective

Reading for the seminar:


Supplementary reading:
Emanuel, Martin, Schipper, Frank and Oldenziel, Ruth, “Historicizing Sustainable Urban Mobility”
Emergence of calculable urban space and governmentality

Reading for the seminar:


The emergence of a ‘modern city’: new principles of planning, urban living and governance

Reading for the seminar:


Industrial towns: past and present

Reading for the seminar:


Cities and markets. Commerce and urbanization

Reading for the seminar:


Cities and ports. Urban aspects of the coastal experience

Reading for the seminar:


**Cities and environment. Resources of the city. Urban metabolism as historical phenomenon**

Reading for the seminar:


**Ideal towns and cities of the future: from utopian urban planning to contemporary principles of urban development**

Reading for the seminar:


**What is socialist about the socialist city?**

Reading for the seminar:

Evaluation

Students are expected to attend all seminars, to do all the required readings, and to participate actively in the seminar discussions.

Once during each part of the course each student will act as a discussion leader. It means that during this seminar the student will be responsible for structuring our discussion by providing a list of important, analytical questions for other students to think about while preparing for the seminar. These questions should be circulated among other students no later than 1 day before the seminar. There is no fixed number of questions but something in the range between 6 and 8 questions will do. The choice of the seminar is up to a student. Please, sign up during the first two weeks of the course!

By the last week of the course (deadline is 7 December), all students should have submitted the written assignment – the review essay of any article from the list. The review essay of 2,000 words should be critical analysis of one article from the list proposed by the professors. In the essay, students should give a short introduction about the author and to make a concise summary of the main argument. Moreover, students have to draw links between the article under review and the broader historiographic context of the urban history field. The presentations that should be made on the basis of the text of reviews will be discussed on the last seminar. (30% of the final grade for the course)

Those students whose cumulative grade for all these assignments will be equal or above the minimum pass level (4 points) do not need to take the final oral exam, however they may do so if they wish. The exam will take place during the ‘exam week’. Students will have discuss the same texts they were required to do for the seminars; they will be given about 15-20 minutes to prepare. The choice of the text depends on the instructor. (10% of the final grade for the course).

Literature

Obligatory reading


Additional reading:
