1. Introduction: Aims and Objectives

This module aims to introduce students to the various responses of European cities to the ‘crisis’ they perceived after the end of World War I and to the approaches which were developed to handle this crisis, to overcome and assuage dangerous social tensions. The module is part of a linked module and will be followed in 2003 by a module on the European cities after World War II.

Over the ‘short’ 20th century – between World War I and the breakdown of communism – inhabitants of European cities lived through very difficult but also – at least in some parts of Europe – very good times. This module will concentrate on the interwar-period which was marked by sharp social tensions and antagonisms, but also by first advances towards a rather comprehensive welfare state in some European states. However the experience of the great depression and mass unemployment of the 1930s in many instances undermined such advances and promoted authoritarian and dictatorial solutions.

We will enquire, how urban experiences have been influenced by general conditions of the times and how city dwellers managed to survive in times of crisis, destruction and reconstruction. The module will be led by the general question if and to what extent urban experiences in European cities have been affected by similar problems and challenges, if there are common perceptions and comparable approaches and solutions to urban problems, irrespective or only coloured by national and cultural traditions.

This wide field will be approached by highlighting cities in special situations where local and overarching social and national conflicts intertwine. Examples will be Munich, Vienna, Berlin, Barcelona, Stockholm and other cities. From these ‘spot-light’ scenarios we will probe deeper into the history and texture of these cities, bring to light their specific profile as well as the general tendencies and forces at work in that particular city at that time.

Learning outcomes

a) Subject-specific skills

By the end of the module students should have:

- Acquired a sound knowledge and informed understanding of how major European cities coped with the crisis after World War I, with reconstruction and tackling the housing shortage and other social problems to avert social revolution.

- Understood key concepts, theories, and historiographical debates as they apply to the study of European urban change and modernization during the period 1914 to 1945.

- Related historical social and economic processes with spatial changes in the structure and functioning of cities as reflected in urban planning as well as in spontaneous processes of urban development.

- Gained an understanding of significant cultural and architectural reform movements of the interwar period, their manifestations in the cities and countries covered and the way these movements impacted on politics of space and domesticity, the reshaping of urban landscapes, the revising of ways people lived in cities.
• Analysed and discussed critically a wide range of source materials.

• Constructed extended written and oral arguments supported by relevant historical evidence.

b) Key skills

By the end of the module students should have:

• Developed further their written and oral communication skills.

• Developed further their IT skills.

Development and Assessment

This module develops and assesses the following subject-specific skills in the manner set out below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Skill</th>
<th>How developed</th>
<th>How Assessed</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>To read, analyse, and reflect critically and contextually upon historical texts and other sources materials</td>
<td>Through preparation for seminars, minor assignment, and essay(s).</td>
<td>Minor assignment, Essay(s), Examination</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To develop an understanding of the varieties of approaches to understanding, constructing and interpreting the past, and of comparative perspectives on the past</td>
<td>In seminars, and through preparation for seminars and essay(s)</td>
<td>Essay(s), Examination</td>
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<tr>
<td>Gather and deploy appropriate evidence and data to develop and sustain historical arguments</td>
<td>In preparation for, and delivery of, seminar presentations, minor assignment, and essay(s)</td>
<td>Minor assignment, Essay(s), Examination</td>
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This module develops and assesses the following skills outlined in the University’s learning and teaching strategy in the manner set out below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Skill</th>
<th>How developed</th>
<th>How Assessed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>IT</td>
<td>Minor assignment and essay(s)</td>
<td>Minor assignment and essay(s)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Written communication</td>
<td>Minor assignment, essay(s)</td>
<td>Minor assignment, essay(s), examination</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oral communication</td>
<td>Seminars, oral presentations</td>
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Teaching and Learning:

Teaching will be by seminar with lecture elements, two hours seminar each week. Each seminar will contain an introduction to key topics, themes, debates and the historical context of the respective city/cities.

Learning is based upon preparation for, attendance at, and participation in 10 weekly seminars. Each student will be required to prepare one brief oral presentation (5 min.). In most sessions students will be asked to prepare and interpret primary sources or secondary texts. Each session will, in a practical sense, also be devoted to the development of different historical skills. Every student will be required to undertake background reading and/or detailed analysis of source material by way of preparation for each seminar.

2. Assessment

Assessment will be by coursework and examination. The coursework consists of a minor assignment and essays.

The minor assignment can take the form of a brief written paper on the oral presentation or on a selected piece of reading (max. 1500 words). The minor assignment has to be handed in to the Department Office within one week of the oral presentation. It must be written on a different topic from the coursework essay.

Essay(s) should be of 2500-3000 words. All 15 credit students will be required to submit one essay, 20 credit students will submit two essays. There will be a 2-hour, 2-question examination in January.

3. General Reading

These recommendations cover only a fraction of textbooks and general overviews of interwar Europe. You may also use other books if they take into account social processes and conflicts.

General European history of interwar period:

Winter, Jay (ed.), *The upheaval of war: family, work and welfare in Europe 1914-1918* (Cambridge 1988)
City – Architecture – Urban Planning

Forgacs, Eva, The Bauhaus Idea and Bauhaus Politics (Budapest/London, 1991)
Hall, Peter, Cities in Civilization (New York, 1998)
Hall, Peter, Cities of Tomorrow: an Intellectual History of Urban Planning and Design in the Twentieth Century (Oxford, 1988)
Lees, Andrew, Cities perceived: urban society in European and American thought, 1820-1940 (Manchester, 1985)
Meller, Helen, European Cities 1890-1930s. History, Culture and the Built Environment (Chichester: John Wiley, 2001)
Wynn, Martin (ed.), Housing in Europe (London: Croom Helm, 1984)

Internet Resources

The overhead sheets and chronologies used in this course will be available on the department homepage; some might be updated in the course of the seminar so please check for the latest version - http://www.le.ac.uk/esh/teach

There is a series of valuable links for urban history on the Homepage of the Centre for Urban History University of Leicester - http://www.le.ac.uk/urbanhist/resources.html

H-Urban is an internet forum on urban history with international participation. You can address their homepage on - http://www2.h-net.msu.edu/~urban/

and browse for special queries in the mail-archives deposited there. Quite user-friendly!
On the Garden-city movement and Letchworth you can find information on - http://letchworthgardencity.net/index.htm

Links on urban history mainly in Germany are presented on the homepage of the “Institut fuer Stadtgeschichte, Uni Muenster” - http://www.uni-muenster.de/Staedtegeschichte/links.htm
For Berlin - http://www.berlin.de/english/pastpresent.html (History section on the official Berlin webpage)

On the urban history of Vienna you can browse at - http://www.magwien.gv.at/english/history/

On the urban history of Barcelona you can browse at - http://www.bcn.es/english/ihome.htm (The official website of the City of Barcelona with abundant information)

Also - http://www.bcn.es/english/laciutat/barcelona/welcome.htm (The history section on the city’s website)

On urban history in Sweden you can find information on the homepage of the Stockholm Institute for urban History - http://www.urbanhistory.su.se/engelska/infoe.htm

If you look around in the net you will of course find many more sites. Most cities dealt with during the course will entertain at least some rudimentary information about their history on their homepages. But remember: Surfing is not knowing and it is even further from understanding. There is a lot of crap out in the net and it is up to you to judge critically your information wherever you get it from whether it is reliable and which bias it might have.

If you want to gain a real and deeper understanding of the historical processes we focus upon you must do a fair amount of traditional, old-fashioned reading and not just on the limited subject you have chosen for your essay.

4. Seminar programme

Outline

1. Introduction: Lessons from the ‘Great War’: The Crisis of ‘Old Europe’
2. New Cities – New Houses - New Society: Reform movements in art, architecture and urbanism
3. Reconstruction after the Great War: Expectations and Realities
4. Munich 1923: Inflation and ultra-nationalism
5. Vienna 1927: Civil War Suspended – integration by workers housing
6. Berlin 1932: Democracy in tatters
7. Barcelona 1936/7: Revolution in the City
9. Blitz in the City: Coventry 1940 – Dresden 1945
10. Warsaw 1943/44: Ghetto – Uprising - Annihilation

Seminar 1. Introduction: Lessons from the ‘Great War’: The Crisis of ‘Old Europe’

During the first session you are given an introduction into the general situation after the first World War and the overall structure of the module.

Reading

View under ‘General reading’, esp. Gilbert/ Large or Golby.

This session will provide an overview of major reform movements in art, architecture and urbanism as they had developed since the end of the 19th century and how they presented themselves after 1918. The focus will be on the urban dimension of these rather comprehensive reform movements, on the issue how living in the city should be changed, what kind of houses, what kind of cities and settlements were to be constructed for the ‘new society’ these reformers envisaged.

Reading
View under ‘General reading’, esp. Peter Hall, Cities of Tomorrow, and Helen Meller, European Cities

Seminar 3. Reconstruction after the Great War: Expectations and Realities

The end of the ‘Great War’ induced a sense of far-reaching changes to society in many war-faring countries. ‘Reconstruction’ became a short-hand term for the rebuilding not just of houses and public buildings, but also for the regeneration of the social, economic and political system in general which the war had shown to be deficient in many aspects. Due to the military history of World War I and the state of armament technology damages from military action were basically restricted to the zone of actual ground fighting, especially those regions in France and Eastern Europe where protracted trench warfare had taken place. This session will take account of the general expectations connected with ‘reconstruction’ in a comprehensive sense and then look in more detail at actual physical reconstruction as it was to take place in Belgium and Northern France in the period immediately after the war.

Reading
Abercrombie, Patrick (P. A.), Pinon, Town Planning Review 9 (1921), 12-14.
Great Britain: Ministry of Reconstruction, Housing in England and Wales (London, HMSO, 1918)
Great Britain: Min. of Reconstruction, The aims of reconstruction (London, HMSO, 1918)
Holliday, A.C., ‘The Rebuilding of Chauny’, Town Planning Review 9 (1921), 101-4
International Labour Office, European housing problems since the war: 1914-1923 (Geneva: ILO, 1924)
Smets, M.(ed.), Resurgam: La reconstruction en Belgique apres 1914 (Brussels: Credit Communal de Belgique, 1985)
Seminar 4. Munich 1923: Inflation and ultra-nationalism
This session will look into major causes of social and political unrest in Munich as an important regional capital in Germany and centre of ultra-nationalist activism. We will try to gain a general understanding of the contemporary problems of German cities in a period of hyper-inflation as well as explore the specific political culture of Munich as a breeding ground for right-wing radicalism.

Reading
Large, David C., *Where ghosts walked: Munich’s road to the Third Reich* (New York, 1997)
Hughes, Michael L., *Paying for the German inflation* (Chapel Hill, N.C.; London, 1988)

Seminar 5. Vienna 1927: Civil War Suspended – integration by workers housing
This session will start off from violent demonstrations in Vienna in 1927 and enlarge from there to analyse the situation of ‘red Vienna’ as a city governed by a strong socialist majority. We will look into the core elements of the socialists’ strategy to turn Vienna into a ‘workers city’ which were focussed around the issue of public housing.

Reading
Canetti, Elias, *Crowds and power* (Gollancz, 1962)
Lewis, Jill, *Fascism and the working class in Austria 1918-1934* (New York; Oxford, 1991)


Rabinbach, Anson, The crisis of Austrian socialism: from Red Vienna to civil war 1927-1934 (Chicago; London, 1983)

Weinzierl, Erika & Kurt Skalnik (eds), Österreich, 1918-1938: Geschichte der Ersten Republik (Graz, 1983)

**Seminar 6. Berlin 1932: Democracy in Tatters**
This session will explore the situation of the German capital on the height of economic and political crisis: Mass unemployment, general social disintegration, massive political unrest and violent manifestations ruled the day. At the same time we will look in comparative perspective at the way the city had tried to cope with social problems in the interwar period and had been looking for urbanistic solutions to the typical problems of large metropolises.

**Reading:**
Berger, Stefan, Social Democracy and the Working Class in Nineteenth and Twentieth-Century Germany (Harlow: Longman, 1999)

Gill, Anton, A dance between flames: Berlin between the wars (London, 1993)
Glass, Derek, Dietmar Rösler & John J. White (eds), Berlin: literary images of a city (Berlin, 1989)

Hüter, Karl-Heinz, Architektur in Berlin, 1900-1933 (Stuttgart, 1988)

Large, David C., Berlin (London: Allen Lane, 2001)


Lane, Barbara Miller, Architecture and politics in Germany, 1918-194 (Cambridge, Mass., 1968)

Lieberman, Ben, From recovery to catastrophe: municipal stabilization and political crisis in Weimar, Germany (New York: Berghan, 1998)


Simmons, Michael, Berlin: the dispossessed city (London, 1988)


Trends of the twenties, [an exhibition held in Berlin, 14 August-16 October, 1977/catalogue by Dieter Honisch and others] (Berlin, 1977)
Seminar 7. Barcelona 1936/7: Revolution in the City

Spain was shaken by violent social and political unrest in the 1930s which eventually led to the outbreak of a civil war in 1936. This was to become a battle ground for the different ideologies and political movements of the whole of Europe and a testing case for the new armaments of expansionist states like Germany and Italy. In Barcelona, the most industrialised and most progressive city of Spain, at the same time a stronghold of Catalan nationalism, tensions came to a high point with anarchosyndicalist tendencies temporarily transforming the social structure of the city.

Reading
Blinkhorn, Martin, Democracy and civil war in Spain, 1931-1939 (London, 1988)
Broué, Pierre & E. Témine, The revolution and the civil war in Spain (London, 1972)
Fernández-Armesto, Felipe, Barcelona: a thousand years of the city’s past (Oxford, 1992)
Forrest, Andrew, The Spanish Civil war (London, 2000)
Fraser, Ronald, Blood of Spain: the experience of civil war, 1936-1939 (London, 1979)
Hughes, Robert, Barcelona (London: Panther, 2001)
Kaplan, Temma, Red city, blue period: social movements in Picasso’s Barcelona (Berkeley, Calif.; Oxford, 1992)
Martorell Portas, V., Historia del urbanismo en Barcelona: del plan Cerdá al área metropolitana (Barcelona, 1970)
Mendoza, Eduardo, City of marvels (London: Collins Harvill, 1986)
Orwell, George, Homage to Catalonia (Harmondsworth, 1989)
Shubert, Adrian, A social history of modern Spain (London 1990)
Souchy, Augustin et al., The May Days, Barcelona 1937 (London, 1987)
Torres I Capell, Manuel de, ‘Barcelona: planning problems and practices in the Jaussely era, 1900-1930’, Planning Perspectives, 7 (1992), 211-33


In the 1930s Sweden embarked on the road towards the construction of a welfare state after the Social Democrats had become the largest party and dominated the government. This session will explore the basic concept of this venture which came to be much admired in the postwar era. We will especially focus on the housing policies and the regional planning and transit policies by which the Swedish government sought to achieve its goals in spatial terms.

Childs, Marquis, Sweden: The middle way on Trial, (New Haven 1980)
Cole, Margaret (ed.), Democratic Sweden (orig. 1939, Repr. Freeport 1970)
Hall, Peter, Cities in Civilization (New York, 1998) ch. on Stockholm.
Hall, Thomas (ed.), Planning and urban growth in Nordic countries (London: Spon, 1991)
Hammarström, Ingrid & Thomas Hall (eds), *Growth and transformation of the modern city* (Stockholm, 1979)


Olsson, Sven E., *Social policy and welfare state in Sweden* (Lund, 1990)


**Seminar 9. War and Destruction: Blitz in the City: Coventry 1940 – Dresden 1945**

This session will enquire into the experience of unprecedented wartime destruction wrought on cities and urban populations by the new dimensions of air warfare. Air warfare and the ability of bombing aircrafts to reach distant targets tended to involve the civilian population to a far greater extent into war and military considerations than had been the case since city fortifications had been demolished. The vulnerability of urban population to air-raids and the experience of the bombed and burning city as a death-trap accelerated and facilitated radical restructuring of cityscapes after the war.

**Reading:**

Beyme, Klaus von (ed.), *Neue Städte aus Ruinen: deutscher Städtebau der Nachkriegszeit* (München, 1992)


Irving, David *The destruction of Dresden* (London, 1963)

Lancaster, Bill & Tony Mason (eds), *Life and labour in a twentieth century city: the experience of Coventry* (Coventry, 1986)


McGrory, David, *Coventry at war* (Stroud: Sutton, 1997)

Smith, Albert and Fry, D., *The Coventry we have lost* (Berkswell: Simanda Press, 1991)


Tiratsoo, Nick, J. Hasegawa et.al. (eds), *Urban Reconstruction in Britain and Japan, 1945-1955* (Luton: University of Luton Press, 2002)
This session will focus on an Eastern European city during World War II, the Polish capital of Warsaw. In the war experience of Warsaw we can observe how the city became a battlefield in cultural as well as real terms. This dual struggle which took dramatic forms in the Warsaw uprising and the Ghetto uprising will be analysed in this session.

Reading:
Borowiec, Andrew, Destroy Warsaw! Hitler’s punishment, Stalin’s revenge (Westport/London: Praeger, 2001)
Ciborowski, Adolf, Warsaw: A City Destroyed and Rebuilt (Warsaw, 1964)
Garlinski, Jozef, Poland in the Second World War (Houndsmill: Macmillan, 1985)
Gutman, Israel, Resistance: the Warsaw Ghetto uprising (Boston, Mass., 1994)
Hanson, Joanna K. M., The civilian population and the Warsaw Uprising of 1944 (Cambridge, 1982)
Korczak, Janusz, Ghetto diary (New York, 1978)
Zuckerman, Yitzhak, A surplus of Memory: Chronicle of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising (Berkeley, 1993)
5. **Essays**

**EH3110 (15 credit value)**
You are required to submit one essay of 2,500 words (± 10%) before midday (12 noon) on Friday 13 December 2002.

**EH3610 (20 credit value)**
You are required to submit two essays of 2,500 words (± 10%) before midday (12 noon), the first on Friday 13 December 2002, the second on Friday 17 January 2003.

**Essay topics**

1. Which problems were most urgent for European cities after the First World War? Explain how these were addressed, using examples from at least two different countries.

2. Compare and contrast any two major reform movements in art and architecture in the period 1900-30. What were their effects on cities and urban planning?

3. What were the aims of ‘Reconstruction’ in Britain and France? Compare their post-war experiences and explain the outcome of reconstruction in both countries.

4. What was the impact of post-war inflation and of the Great Depression on interwar urban development and reconstruction? Give examples from different European countries.

5. Assess the importance of the ‘Bauhaus’ for the development of German culture and society in the Weimar Republic.

6. Why did Munich become the hot-bed of right-wing radicalism in the early 1920s? Identify general factors favouring right-wing radicalism as well as specific local circumstances.

7. Why was Vienna called ‘red Vienna’ in the period 1919-1934? Explain the political structure and the special conditions enabling such development and identify the major fields where this claim was substantiated.

8. How did the social housing projects of Vienna differ in terms of architectural style, design of apartments and political thrust to those of German cities such as Berlin or Frankfurt in the period 1925-1933?

9. In what sense and how far was the crisis of the Weimar Republic also an urban crisis, a crisis of local government?

10. What was at stake in Barcelona in spring 1937? Briefly present the major local social and political forces, their goals and their relation to each other.

11. Why did Barcelona become such a vibrant cultural centre in the late 19th and early 20th century?

12. Briefly sketch the general conditions for the rise of the welfare state in Sweden in the 1930s and show how the idea of ‘folkhem’ took shape in urban planning, urban development and housing projects around Stockholm.

13. Explain strategic intentions of large-scale aerial bombing of major cities in World War II and how city dwellers experienced them. In which way did this influence expectations about the future of cities?

14. Which concepts did the German occupation force and the Polish underground develop for the fate of Warsaw after the war?