

Module I: Urban Histories: From Roman Garrison to Industrial Chic (3 credits)

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Old and new co-exist in close proximity in the dense fabric of Zurich's urban topography; with every step, one encounters translations of the past into visions of the present. The city's development from a remote Roman garrison to a globally imbricated metropolis, currently modernizing itself from its charming medieval center to its ragged post-industrial fringes, tells of the dialectics of social change, economic development and cultural tradition. This module is an urban studies course that introduces students to Zurich and, by extension, to Switzerland by tracing its Celtic prehistory and Roman beginnings through to its medieval expansions, from the physical traces left by the Swiss Reformation, the guild system and the industrial revolution to the birth of Zurich as a leading global financial capital in the 20th century and its urban sprawl and societal transformations of the present era. We will speak to historians, architects and urban planners as we peel back the various layers of the city of Zurich. We will also visit other medieval Swiss cities, such as Bern, Basel, Lugano and Geneva, to compare their transformations into modern urban centers, and we will ask how Zurich can be understood as a filter through which to read Swiss, and indeed European, urban cultures.

Course research emphases: urban history and development, city planning, theories of city development, urban history. Suggested credits: Urban Studies, History, Cultural Studies, Comparative Literature, electives.

ASSESSMENT OVERVIEW

Assessment for this course will be based on reading notes, class participation, class presentations of readings and individual research, research papers, quizzes and urban analysis

COURSE RATIONALE

Along with other Swiss cities we visit, Zurich allows for the comprehensive study of how a modern city has developed from medieval times to the 21st century. In that sense it serves as a microcosm in which to study urban culture in tandem with social, political and religious developments over six hundred years.

COURSE GOALS

Goals of this course include the following:

- to acquire an understanding of the urban development of Zurich
- to learn about different theoretical models of urban development
- to become familiar with some of the key questions and theoreticians of urban studies
- to learn about the history of Zurich within the context of Swiss and European history
- to reflect on the interplay between urban development and social transformation
- to explore Zurich as a model for other urban centers in Switzerland and beyond

SPECIFIC LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon completion of this class students should:

- have acquired an understanding of key concepts and theoretical paradigms in urban studies
- be able to analyze the city's growth and development as a mirror of its social, political and religious transformations
- have a grasp of the importance of Zurich's urban development, locally and globally
- have developed a critical vocabulary with which to discuss urban planning, urban development and social transformation in tandem with urban change
- be able to write and speak analytically and critically about city structures and urban development
- be able to use library, university and academic resources in Zurich to complete papers and presentations

CONTACT HOURS AND MODULE STRUCTURE

Each module consists of four weeks of concentrated in-depth study in a particular topic area and offers a number of problem-based, disciplinary approaches. Depending on the research emphasis a student chooses in each module, credits will be awarded for business, management, art history, history, environmental studies, cultural studies, comparative literature, urban studies or media studies. The research seminar will award credits in the discipline in which students write their final research projects. The research seminar ends in a research symposium at Franklin University Switzerland in Lugano. Students may earn an additional credit if they successfully turn their research project into a publication in our online undergraduate research journal.

While the overall curriculum is set for fall 2019 and is designed to offer 15 credits, there is a bit of flexibility built in. Students may opt out of the language classes to drop the load to 12 credits for the semester, or they may replace one of the three modules with a second language course in order to study both French and German. Students that publish their research papers can obtain up to 16 credits for the semester.

Each course, modules and seminar will offer the equivalent of 42 contact hours. Students will participate not only in more traditional lectures held in the seminar space in Zurich, but also in excursions, fieldwork, hands-on encounters and programmed trips to the rest of Switzerland.