



HIST 1978A - Spring 2014
JUDS 1981S - S01

Drifting cities. Multiethnic societies from empire to nation-state

What happens to a multiethnic city, one inhabited by Jews, Christians, and Muslims, Italians, Slavs, and Germans, or Czech, Bohemians and Jews, when it passes from a dying empire to a nascent nation-state? This course focuses on Vienna and the Mediterranean ports of Trieste and Salonica from the late 19th century to the end of the Second World War and examines their transformation from cradles of Habsburg and Ottoman imperial modernity into laboratories of Austrian, Italian and Greek nationalism. , the course stresses the unique characteristics, the shared patterns, and no less the circulation of peoples, ideas, and things between the three cities, to: question the dichotomy of European - non-European empires; to suggest other geographies (i.e. “Mediterranean” - “Central European”); to discuss the relationship between urban modernity, empire and the nation-state; to assess the impact of the First World War, of interwar nationalism, of antisemitism and state policies on the multiethnic urban fabric and the local class and ethnic hierarchies of power; to examine the Holocaust and its traumatic memory; and to ponder on the nostalgic imaginings of these cities in current public discourse. Students will work through a variety of primary sources, literary works, maps and films, and will learn to inventively apply the tools of digital humanities.

Mondays 3-5:20 pm, 101 Thayer St. (VGQ) 116E

Professor Paris Papamichos Chronakis
Sharpe House 102B (130 Angell Street)
Fridays 12:00-1:30 and by appointment

Goals

1. Examine major historical phenomena from the perspective of urban history;
2. Acquaint oneself with the merits of a comparative approach to history;
3. Develop skills of analysis and interpretation that question the national framework.

Assignments

The requirements of the course are active and thoughtful participation in class discussions and successful, punctual completion of written assignments. Informed, productive questions, comments and criticisms concerning the week's readings are expected. Small presentations and reading responses are going to be part of the seminar. There will be two longer papers [one historiographic essay (7 pp.) and one research paper (12-15 pp.)].

Grading

Historiographic paper: 20%

The historiographic essay should be 7 pp. in length and should be a discussion of 3-4 works (articles, essays, monographs) dealing with a particular topic. Students are invited to ask for guidance in searching for works that match their interests.

Using Digital Humanities tools: 20%

Students will work through two Holocaust survivors' audiovisual testimonies applying digital humanities tools to construct their social networks at the concentration camps.

Research paper: 30%

The research paper should be 13-15 pp. in length and argumentative in nature. You should speak with me well in advance if you have a particular topic you would like to pursue. Papers should draw from, cite, and engage with the arguments of a variety of sources, including course readings or other material.

Participation (including reading responses and presentations): 25%

Assessment

Student performance will be assessed according to three criteria:

1. Quality of written assignments and engagement with the key concepts and events analyzed in the course;
2. Active participation in the classroom and the course blog demonstrating critical engagement with course material;
3. Attendance and punctuality.

Class Blog

Every week students will be expected to write a short reading response (of approximately 500 words) on the week's readings and post it **by 10am on Mondays**. I will provide guiding questions in advance. Ideal blog posts will synthesize the assigned materials, connect them to earlier readings and ask critical questions about a given author's argument.

Due Dates

27 February (11 pm): Topic proposal for historiographic essay (1 p. plus bibliography) due by email.

20 March (11 pm): Historiographic essay (5-7 pp.) due by email.

9 April (11 pm): Topic proposal for research paper (1 page plus bibliography) due by email.

25 April (11 pm): Using digital humanities tools

May 10 (11 pm): Final research paper (12-15 pp.) due by email.

* Attendance is mandatory. It is not only essential for your own edification but also for securing a good final grade. Absence does NOT constitute a reason for not handing in assignments, except in the case of severe illness, religious holidays or serious emergencies. If, for no serious reason, work is handed in late, this will result in a lower grade. The same applies to frequent late arrivals. If there are any exceptional circumstances that might affect your performance or attendance, please let me know at once (this includes religious holidays). **Students with multiple unexcused absences or excessive lateness may not pass the course.**

* Laptop use must be reduced to the minimum and should be confined to note taking. Failure to comply with this basic rule may result in a lower class participation grade.

RECOMMENDED BOOKS

All recommended books are on reserve in the library

Mark Mazower, *Salonica, City of Ghosts: Christians, Muslims and Jews, 1430-1950* (Knopf, 2005)

Steven Beller, *Vienna and the Jews, 1867-1938: a cultural history* (Cambridge, 1991)

Glenda Sluga, *The problem of Trieste and the Italo-Yugoslav border: difference, identity and sovereignty in twentieth-century Europe* (New York, 2001)

Introductory texts

Barbara Jelavich, *Modern Austria: Empire and Republic, 1800-1986* (Cambridge, 1987)

All weekly readings are on Canvas

27 January. Introduction: Imperial modernities east and west, north and south

- Mark Mazower, *Salonica, City of Ghosts: Christians, Muslims and Jews, 1430-1950* (Knopf, 2005), Introduction, pp. 3-16.
- Municipality of Thessaloniki. Heritage walks (any one of them)
- [Welcome page of the Municipality of Trieste](#)
- [The history of Vienna in the website of the Municipality of Vienna](#)
- [History of the Jews of Vienna in the website of the Municipality of Vienna](#)

3 February. Ottoman Salonica, the Jerusalem of the Balkans

- Leon Sciaky, *Farewell to Salonica: City at the crossroads* (Paul Dry Books, 2003), excerpts.
- Mark Mazower, *Salonica, City of Ghosts: Christians, Muslims and Jews, 1430-1950* (Knopf, 2005), Chapters 8 (Religion in the Age of Reform), 11 (In the Frankish style) & 12 (The Macedonian Question).

10 February. Habsburg Trieste: the city of nowhere?

- Edward Freeman, *Sketches from the subject and neighbour lands of Venice* (London, 1881), pp. 70-82.
- Thomas Jackson, *Dalmatia, the Quarnero, and Istria* (London, 1887), pp. 343-368.

- Paul Waley, 'Introducing Trieste: a cosmopolitan city?', *Social & Cultural Geography* 10/3 (2009), pp. 243-256.
- Tullia Catalan, 'The Ambivalence of a Port-City. The Jews of Trieste from the 19th to the 20th Century', *Quest. Issues in Contemporary Jewish History. Journal of Fondazione CDEC* 2 (2011).
- Marina Cattaruzza, 'Slovenes and Italians in Trieste, 1850–1914', in Max Engman (ed.), *Ethnic Identity in Urban Europe* (New York, 1992), pp.189-219.

24 February: Fin-de-siècle Vienna: cultures and clashes of modernity

- *Vienna 1900* (documentary)
- Steven Beller, 'Big-City Jews: Jewish Big City: The Dialectics of Jewish Assimilation in Vienna c. 1900', in Malcolm Gee, Tim Kirk & Jill Steward (eds.), *The City in Central Europe* (London, 1999), pp. 145-158.
- Gustav Mahler, [Symphony no. 1, part 3](#), & '[Der Abschied](#)' ('Farewell') from *Das Lied von der Erde* ('The Song of the Earth').
- Carl Schorske, 'Gustav Mahler: formation and transformation', in Carl Schorske, *Thinking with History. Explorations in the passage to Modernism* (Princeton, 1999), pp. 172-190.
- Klaus Hödl, 'From acculturation to interaction: a new perspective on the history of the Jews in fin-de-siècle Vienna', *Shofar* 25/2 (2007), pp. 82-103.
- Tim Kirk, 'Popular culture and politics in imperial Vienna', in Malcolm Gee, Tim Kirk & Jill Steward (eds.), *The City in Central Europe* (London, 1999), pp. 159-175.

3 March. Cities at War. The impact of the Balkan Wars and the First World War

Guest lecturer: Jean Bauer (digital Humanities librarian): Introduction to social network analysis and digital humanities tools

- *Salonica, nest of spies* (spy film, 1936)
- British and American consular reports and Jewish community documents on the situation in Salonica during the Balkan Wars and the First World War.
- Mark Levine, 'Ni grec, ni bulgare, ni turc'. Salonika Jewry and the Balkan Wars, 1912-1913', *Simon Dubnow Institute Yearbook* 2 (2003), pp. 65-97.
- Maureen Healy, *Vienna and the fall of the Habsburg Empire* (Cambridge, 2004), Chapter 1 (Food and the politics of sacrifice), pp. 31-86.
- Rozenblit, Marsha, 'The dilemma of identity: the impact of the First World War on Habsburg Jewry', in Ritchie Robertson and Edward Timms (eds.), *The Habsburg Legacy: national identity in historical perspective* (Edinburgh, 1994), pp. 144-157.

Recommended

- Marsha L. Rozenblit, 'For Fatherland and Jewish People: Jewish Women in Austria during World War I', in Frans Coetzee and Marilyn Shevin-Coetzee (eds.), *Authority, Identity and the Social History of the Great War* (Providence, 1995), pp. 199-222.

10 March. Remaking the city

- Maps of Vienna
- Carl Schorske, 'The Ringstrasse, its critics, and the birth of urban modernism', in Carl Schorske, *Fin-de-siècle Vienna. Politics and culture* (London, 1980), pp. 24-115.

- Maps of the new plan of Salonica
- Petitions of the Jews of Salonica against the city's new plan.
- Vassiliki Mangana, *Westernization and Hellenicity. Form and meaning in Thessaloniki, Greece, 1850-1940* (Unpublished PhD Thesis, Ann Arbor, 1995), Chapters 1 & 2.

17 March. Refugees and exiles

- Giorgos Ioannou, *Refugee capital* (Athens, 1997), excerpts.
- David Rechter, 'Galicia in Vienna: Jewish refugees in the First World War', *Austrian History Yearbook* 28 (1997), pp. 113-130.
- Harriet Pass Freidenreich, 'Natives and foreigners: geographic origins and Jewish communal politics in interwar Vienna', in Ronald Dotterer, Deborah Dash Moore and Steven M. Cohen (eds.), *Jewish Settlement and Community in the Modern Western World* (Selinsgrove: Susquehanna University Press, 1991), pp. 117-131.
- Pamella Ballinger, 'Exhumed histories. Trieste and the politics of (exclusive) victimhood', *Journal of Southern Europe and the Balkans* 6/2 (2004), pp. 145-159.

31 March. Outcasts: workers and women, gender, class and ethnicity

- Yannis Ritsos, '[Epitaphios](#)' (poem)
- British consular reports from Salonica on the conditions of the working classes
- Efi Avdela, 'Class, ethnicity, and gender in post-Ottoman Thessaloniki. The great tobacco strike of 1914', in Billie Melman (ed.), *Borderlines. Genders and identities in war and peace, 1870-1930* (London, 1998), pp. 421-438.
- Helmut Gruber, 'Red Vienna and the "Jewish question"', *Leo Baeck Institute Year Book* 38/1 (1993), pp. 99-118.
- Helmut Gruber, 'Working class women in Red Vienna: socialist concepts of the New woman vs. the reality of the triple burden', in Friedhelm Boll (ed.), *Europäische Arbeiterkulturen der Zwischenkriegszeit* (Vienna 1986)
- Maura Hametz, 'The carabinieri stood by: The Italian state and the "Slavic threat" in Trieste, 1919-1922', *Nationalities Papers: The Journal of Nationalism and Ethnicity* 29/4 (2001), pp. 559-574.

7 April. Processes of assimilation, cultures of Zionism, and minority nationalisms

- Eyal Ginio, "'Learning the beautiful language of Homer': Judeo-Spanish Jews and the Greek language and culture between the wars", *Jewish History* 16/3 (2002), pp. 235-262.
- Maria Vassilikou, *Politics of the Jewish community of Salonika in the inter-war years: party ideologies and party competition* (Unpublished PhD, London, 1999), Chapters 4-6.
- Glenda Sluga, 'Italian national identity and fascism: aliens, allogenes and assimilation on Italy's north-eastern border', in Gino Bedani & Bruce Haddock (eds.), *The Politics of Italian National Identity* (Cardiff: University of Wales Press, 2000), pp. 163-190.
- Marsha L. Rozenblit, 'Jewish ethnicity in a new nation-state: the crisis of identity in the Austrian Republic', in Michael Brenner & Derek J. Penslar (eds.), *In search of Jewish community. Jewish identities in Germany and Austria, 1918-1933* (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1998), pp. 134-153.

14 April. Varieties of fascism and antisemitism

- British, Jewish, and Greek reports on anti-semitism in Salonica in the 1930s
- Aristotle A. Kallis, 'The Jewish Community of Salonica under Siege: The Antisemitic Violence of the Summer of 1931', *Holocaust and Genocide Studies* 20/1 (2006), pp. 34-56.
- Maura Hametz, 'The Ambivalence of Italian Antisemitism: Fascism, Nationalism, and Racism in Trieste', *Holocaust and Genocide Studies* (2002) 16/3, pp. 376-401.
- Steven Beller, "'Pride and Prejudice" or "Sense and Sensibility"? How reasonable was anti-Semitism in Vienna, 1880-1939?', in Daniel Chirot & Anthony Reid (eds.), *Essential Outsiders. Chinese and Jews in the Modern Transformation of Southeast Asia and Central Europe* (Seattle: University of Washington Press, 1997), pp. 99-124.
- Harriet Pass Freidenreich, *Jewish politics in Vienna, 1918-1938* (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1991), Chapter 7 (Confronting Antisemitism), pp. 180-203.

21 April. The Second World War: the Holocaust and its remembrances

- Audiovisual testimonies of Salonican, Triestine, and Viennese Jews from the Shoah Foundation Institute's Visual History Archive.
- Carol Reed (dir.), [The Third Man](#) (1949, fiction film)
- Orna Ben-Dor Niv (dir.), *Because of that war* (documentary film, 90 min., 1997)
- Mark Mazower, *Salonica city of ghosts*, Chapters 22 (Genocide) & 23 (Aftermath), pp. 421-461.
- Gaia Baracetti, 'Foibe: nationalism, revenge and ideology in Venezia Giulia and Istria, 1943-1945', *Journal of Contemporary History* 44 (2009), pp. 657-674.
- Evan Burr Bukey, *Hitler's Austria: Popular Sentiment in the Nazi Era* (Chapel Hill, 2000), Chapter 7 (The popular assault on the Jews), pp. 131-153.

Recommended reading:

- Matti Bunzl, 'On the Politics and Semantics of Austrian Memory: Vienna's Monument against War and Fascism', *History and Memory* 7/2 (1995), pp. 7-40.

28 April. The power of the past. Cosmopolitan nostalgias and exilic memories of home

- Maurice Amaraggi, *Salonica, city of silence* (documentary film, 2006)
- Jan Morris, *Trieste and the meaning of nowhere* (Da Capo Press 2002), excerpts
- Annalisa Colombino, 'Multiculturalism and time in Trieste: place-marketing images and residents' perceptions of a multicultural city', *Social & Cultural Geography* 10/3 (2009), pp. 279-297.
- Steven Beller, 'The World of Yesterday Revisited: Nostalgia, Memory, and the Jews of fin-de-siècle Vienna', *Jewish Social Studies* 2/2 (1996), pp. 37-53.
- Matti Bunzl, 'The city and the self: narratives of spatial belonging among Austrian Jews', *City & Society* 8/1 (1996), pp. 50-81.