



Detailed Course Syllabus

Academic Year	2025/2026	Semester	Winter
Study Program	University Undergraduate Program	Specialization/Major in	History, Sociology, Communication Sciences
Year of Study	1-3		

I. BASIC COURSE INFORMATION

Name	Premodern cities of Europe		
Abbreviation	IZBP259	Code	278814
Status	Elective	ECTS	4
Prerequisites	None.		
Total Course Workload			
Teaching Mode	Total Hours	Teaching Mode	Total Hours
Lectures	30	Seminars	15
Class Time and Place	CUC according to published timetable.		

II. TEACHING STAFF

Course Holder			
Name and Surname	Irena Benyovsky Latin		
Academic Degree	PhD	Professional Title	Full Professor
Contact E-mail	ibenyovsky@isp.hr	Telephone	
Office Hours	According to published timetable Office		

III. DETAILED COURSE INFORMATION

Teaching Language	English
Course Description	<p>The course aims to acquaint students with the origin and development of European cities in the context of general historical processes and the development of urban planning. A comparative analysis of the development of European cities will present the basic characteristics of development and evaluate their main features with regard to chronological, geographical conditions, regional affiliation and cultural circle affiliation.</p> <p>Content: The course provides an overview of the development and structure of European cities from antiquity to the 19th century. Using the examples of different European cities, the course presents the main features of topography, functional</p>

and morphological structure. Specific historical periods and social structures influenced the creation of a specific spatial structure of the city. Thus, we distinguish the characteristic stages in the development of the city: the ancient period, the Middle Ages, the early modern period from 1500 to 1800. Cities will also be analyzed with regard to geographical characteristics (Mediterranean city, Central European city, Scandinavian city, etc.), size (metropolis, small cities), topography (port cities, island cities, etc.), special circumstances (wars, epidemics, earthquakes), regarding the foundation (royal cities, monastery cities, satellite towns). The emphasis of the lecture will be on selected European cities and on comparative Croatian examples.

Expected Educational Outcomes	<p>Knowledge and understanding:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Master basic historiographic concepts from Croatian and European history from ancient times to industrial age; 2. Recognize fundamental processes from Croatian and European history from ancient times to industrial age; 3. Distinguish processes of individual historical periods and themes according to historiographic approaches and research achievements. <p>Application of knowledge and understanding and drawing conclusions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Critically analyze and interpret sources, scientific and professional literature; 5. Use the contributions of other scientific disciplines in historiographic work. <p>Presentation and communication:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 6. Write a clear and structured paper; 7. Hold a clear and structured oral presentation; 8. Participate actively and arguably in the discussion.
--------------------------------------	--

Textbooks and Materials

Required	<p>Selected chapters from:</p> <p>P. Clark, <i>European cities and towns, 400-2000</i>, Oxford University Press, 2009; P. M. Hohenberg and L. Hollen Lees, <i>The Making of Urban Europe: 1000-1994</i>, Cambridge-Massachusetts-London 1996; <i>Towns and Cities of the Croatian Middle Ages (I-IV)</i>, eds. Irena Benyovsky Latin and Zrinka Pešorda Vardić, Croatian institute of history, Zagreb (2013-2024).</p>
Supplementary	<p>C. Gates, <i>Ancient Cities</i>, Routledge, New York 2003. (repr. 2011.); <i>De bono communi : the discourse and practice of the Common Good in the European city, 13th-16th</i>. Ed: Elodie Lecuppre Desjardin, Brepols, Turnhout, 2010; Giorgio Chittolini, Cities, "City-States," and Regional States in North-Central Italy", in: <i>Theory and Society</i>, Vol. 18, No. 5, Special Issue on Cities and States in Europe, 1000-1800 (Sep., 1989), pp. 689-706.; <i>Protagonists of urban order</i>, eds. Irena Benyovsky Latin, Martina Stercken and Tonija Andrić, Amsterdam University Press, 2025.; Wim Boerefijn, "New towns of the twelfth to fourteenth centuries and the grid plan", in: Sofia Greaves & Andrew Wallace-Hadrill (eds.), <i>Rome and the Colonial City. Rethinking the Grid</i>. Publisher: Oxbow Books, 2022; H. J. Dyos, <i>Exploring the urban past Essays in urban history</i>, Cambridge Univ. Press, 2003, S. R. Epstein, ed., <i>Town and Country in Europe, 1300-1800</i>, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2001, and other literature.</p>

Examination and Grading

To Be Passed	Exclusively Continuous Assessment	Included in Average Grade
Yes	No	Yes
Prerequisites to Obtain Signature and Take Final Exam	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Regular attendance at classes – attendance of at least 70 % of classes according to the study program. 2. Fully completed seminar obligations - prepared presentation and submitted and accepted written version of the seminar. 	

3. Obtaining a minimum success rate of 35 % during classes within the assigned teaching activities - achieved cumulatively.

Examination Manner	1. Teaching activities – Class activities and seminar obligations 2. Final exam (oral)
	Grade Scale: insufficient (1) – 0 to 49.9% sufficient (2) – 50–64.9% good (3) – 65–79.9% very good (4) – 80–89.9% excellent (5) – 90% and above.

Grading Manner

a) Teaching activities:

- p) Activities in class – 30 % of the grade
- q) Seminar obligations – 40 % of the grade

b) Final exam:

- f) **Final exam** – 30 % of the grade (*to pass, it is necessary to solve at least 50% of the exam*)
 - Oral exam – 30 %

Detailed Overview of Grading within ECTS

ACTIVITY TYPE	ECTS Student Workload Coefficient	GRADE PERCENTAGE (%)
Class Attendance	1,2	0
Class Activities	1,14	30
Seminar Presentation	1,52	40
Total in Class	3,86	70
Final Exam (oral)	1,14	30
TOTAL ECTS (Classes + Final Exam)	5	100

Final Exam Dates

According to published timetable.

IV. WEEKLY CLASS SCHEDULE

Lectures

Week	Topic
1.	Introductory Lecture
2.	Ancient City (European examples)

3.	Early Medieval City (European examples)
4.	Late Medieval City (European examples)
5.	Early Modern City (European examples)
6.	City of the 18 th century (European examples)
7.	19 th c City (European examples)
8.	Geographical location / city and countryside (European examples)
9.	Long term development - overlapping heritage (European examples)
10.	Cities and crises (fires, epidemics, wars) (European examples)
11.	Cities and economies (European examples)
12.	New planned towns (European examples)
13.	Social topography (European examples)
14.	City and the Church (European examples)
15.	Urban society (European examples)

Seminars

Week	Topic
1.	Introductory lecture
2.	Ancient cities (Croatian examples)
3.	Early Medieval City (Croatian examples)
4.	Late Medieval City (Croatian examples)
5.	Early Modern City (Croatian examples)
6.	City of the 18 th century (Croatian examples)
7.	19 th c City (Croatian examples)
8.	Geographical location / city and countryside (Croatian examples)
9.	Long term development - overlapping heritage (Croatian examples)
10.	Cities and crises (fires, epidemics, wars) (Croatian examples)
11.	Cities and economies (Croatian examples)
12.	New planned towns (Croatian examples)
13.	Social topography (Croatian examples)
14.	City and the Church (Croatian examples)
15.	Urban society (Croatian examples)