

Cities and Citizens in European History

Study programme	YUFE Joint Bachelor in Urban Sustainability Studies
Academic year	2026/2027
Curriculum component	First year
Year and semester	1st year, semester 1
Course type	Compulsory
ECTS credits	6
Contact hours (L+S+E)	30 + 30 + 0
Language of instruction	English

Contact

Course coordinator

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Prerequisites

No requirements.

Course objectives

The aim of the course is to showcase the diversity of historical urban crises and responses, and the ways in which history can contribute to contemporary debates on cities and sustainability.

Learning outcomes

- Describe urbanisation processes, in the long-term, with examples of European cities. Have an understanding of key topics such as inequality, migration, citizenship, transport, consumption, urban governance,
- and environment in European history. Have an understanding of urban development in relation to other socio-spatial dimensions such as countryside, state, and
- overseas territories. Able to critically relate current issues like migration, environmental crisis, and territorial integration, to the history of cities and citizens in Europe.
- Able to compare urban development between different cities and regions.

Course content

- Cities and Citizens in European history is an introduction to urban history, focusing on urbanisation processes and urban life in Europe. The course defines
- cities broadly and considers cities in interaction with each other, their hinterland, and their specific environmental context. After an introductory session on
- urbanisation in the long run, the lectures focus on three central clusters (citizens, citizenship, and sustainability), each dealing with an urban historical crisis
- and a response.

- Main topics:
- Introduction: What is Urban History?

Teaching and learning methods

lectures and seminars and workshops.

Assessment and grading

The evaluation will be done by UAntwerp and consists of: • Written, closed-book exam containing questions relating to concepts, theories, and insights based on the lectures and the literature (80%). • Individual assignment: take a photograph from the home-city (potentially during the city walk) and write a short text (1-2 A4s) relating it to one or more lecture themes (10%). • During the mini-conference, pitch the picture in a short presentation (pass/fail principle, 10%).

Grading scale

Grade	Percentage
5 (A)	90-100%
4 (B)	75-89.9%
3 (C)	60-74.9%
2 (D)	50-59.9%
1 (F)	0-49.9%