

SOCIETY – ENVIRONMENT – TECHNOLOGY

Course description form

2012/2013

Course title: History of Civilization and Science

Course language: ENGLISH

Course type : Faculty-led Lecture

Year of study, semester: Year 2-4, Winter Semester

Name of co-ordinator(s): Prof dr hab. Krzysztof Zamorski

Collective points : 10 points;

Type of course: Lecture

Number of hours: 8 meetings 2 hrs each

Assessment methods and pass requirements: Attendance and occasional take – home assignments

Course supervisor : Prof dr hab Krzysztof Zamorski

Number of hours: 8 sessions, 2 hours each during the spring semester

Method of evaluation: Attendance and occasional take – home assignments

Condition to receive credits: Student must participate in each session. In the case of a missed class, students will be asked to arrange an individual conversation with the Professor on the missed topic.

Additional information about method and condition of credits:



There is no means to receive credit without participation in the lecture, or an appropriate substitution.

Prerequisites:

Must be a Ph.D student in the SET program

Objectives of the course / expected learning outcomes:

The main objective of the course is to allow Ph.D. students in the SET program at the Jagiellonian University during the academic year 20011/12 to recognize and utilize a set of the important approaches within civilization studies that have been realized in history throughout the 20th century. Through this course students will be able to attain some skills regarding the possible means of utilizing a multidisciplinary approach to studying human civilization from both a theoretical as well as a practical point of view.

Teaching methods:

This will be a series of lectures supported by a selection of important texts related to the relevant topic. In addition, the lecturer hopes to have approx. 20 minutes of discussion with students during each meeting.

Full description of the course / course contents

In the beginning of our century history, as a discipline, tried to define its' position among other fields of study within a large and growing area of the Humanities. A deep criticism of past post - modern theory pointed to the idea that history had come to the end of the era in which a single, overarching theory explained the past. The critics of these modern conceptions also underlined a need that future theoretical construction should take under consideration the impact of individual cultural and social preconditions of the particular subject – thus, it appeared to be a favorable time for micro - level history. In practice, however, the field of history still demonstrates an existing interest among many historians to pursue a study of those fields discovered at a time before the post - modern 'revolution'. This is especially in the case of macro - level theories based on more sophisticated methods in economic history including those which had been opened to the natural sciences. There is a growing interest in giving new possibilities for historical work, such as including the impact of economic history and historical demography, to look at past events from an anthropological perspective or within historical sociology. There has also been a strong and growing interest to take under



consideration those past cultural preconditions of human behavior which open up new and large potential for developing bio –history.

This course proposes to allow Ph.D students involved in the SET program to incorporate into their study an objective presentation both of some selected theories regarding the history of human civilization, as well as some interesting concepts for multidisciplinary approaches for study. These ideas in history rose mostly through the 20th century and played an important role towards our understanding of the past.

We shall start with a general overview of these tendencies in contemporary historiography. The same general character should be acknowledged in the main theories of human civilization as created with respect to the changes in human culture; especially so in large part to the ideas of Oswald Spengler and Arnold Toynbee. It is my expressed hope that in the following years of your studies in the SET program the specialists from disciplines other than history will give you a more detailed approach to a large range of theories regarding human civilization which exists in the Humanities – such as the ideas of Huntington, Koneczny, or Halecki.

This task is based in the conviction that history is in its former, modern paradigm. History as a social science has brought numerous, necessary achievements within the fields of multidisciplinary approaches in the study of human civilization. To prove this conception we will discuss in a detailed way the theory of centers and peripheries as originally presented by the famous French historian Fernand Braudel as well as the American sociologist Immanuel Wallerstein. We will also have the opportunity to discuss different approaches to the social history of civilization as presented by the French *Annales* school as well as the famous British Cambridge Group for Population Studies. Moving over to a historical study on climate as it was proposed by Emmanuel Le Roy Ladurie we will discuss at length two great demographic theories: the theories of the first and the second demographic transition. I want to finish our course by deliberating the methods used by historians in their research in historical demography. You will have an opportunity to observe to what extent and by which method historians are able to create and explain sustainable data describing the human ages of marriage, human fertility, and so forth. This data played a substantial role in discussed in earlier lectures and debates of the French and British schools on the changing social concept of childhood, the role of later - age marriages regarding shortages of fertility and their meaning towards the accumulation of capital or in the dynamics of population growth in traditional societies.

The course consist on eight sessions which last 2 hours apiece. The lecture will be supported by texts connected to the relevant topic. The reading for each lecture will be assigned at the previous lecture, and will consist of approx. 50 pages. Strong discussion during a classes is encouraged, and forms a core portion of your grade for the course; each session will have at least 20 minutes of pure discussion as well as any opportunity during the lecture as it occurs.



Below you can find the lecture plan as well as a general bibliography as related to each lecture.

Lectures

1. From macro- to micro-analysis: how history affects civilizational studies today
2. Cultural approaches to the concept of the history of civilization: Remarks on the ideas of Oswald Spengler and Arnold Toynbee regarding changes in human civilization.
3. Economic approaches - Fernand Braudel and Immanuel Wallerstein and their conceptions of centers and peripheries in human development.
4. Emmanuel Le Roy Ladurie: studies on the history of climate.
5. Social history approaches: the French School's theory of civilization and its' impact on understanding of civilizational changes within traditional societies.
6. Historical demography and social history approaches: The Cambridge School and its' ideas regarding European patterns in social and demographic changes in modern times.
7. Historical demography and social history approaches: Explaining the concept of two types of demographic transition of mankind; the theory of the first and the second demographic transition.
8. Historical demography and bio-history – how we can obtain this level of understanding? Examples of source analysis.

Short description of the course:

The course History of Civilization and Science will be presented in lecture form. This will be actualized through in eight sessions, 2 hours each in the spring semester of the academic year 2011/12 by Professor Krzysztof Zamorski. Within the course a set of selected multidisciplinary approaches, both theoretical as well as practical regarding research on history of human civilization will be discussed. This is 10 point course, and active student participation through the lectures will be strongly appreciated in terms of the final evaluation.

Recommended reading

Lecture 1

Donald R. Kelly, *Frontiers of History. Historical Inquiries in the Twentieth Century*, Yale University Press, 2006.

Georg Iggers, *A Global History of Modern Historiography*, Longman 2008.



Lecture 2

Arnold Joseph Toynbee, *A Study of History*, London 1976

Arnold Joseph Toynbee, *A Historians Approach to Religion*, Oxford University Press , 1957

William H. MacNeill, *Arnold J. Toynbee. A Life*, Oxford University Press, 1989

Oswald Spengler, *The Decline of the West* / an abridged edition by Helmut Werner ; English abridged edition prepared by Arthur Helps from the translation by Charles Francis Atkinson, New York, Knopf 1962.

John Farrenkopf *Prophet of Decline. Spengler on World History and Politics*, Luisiana State Univeristy Press, 2001.

Lecture 3

Fernand Braudel, *Capitalism and Material life, 1400 - 1800*, translated from the French by Miriam Kochan, Fontana, London , 1974.

Fernand Braudel, *History of Civilisations*, translated from French by Richard Mayne, Penquin Books, 1995.

Stuart Clark [ed.], *The Annales school : Critical Assessments*, Routledge, 1999.

Immanuel Wallerstein, *The Modern World-System : Capitalist Agriculture and the Origins of the European World-Economy in the Sixteenth Century*, New York, Academic Press 1974.

Immanuel Wallerstein, *Geopolitics and Geoculture : Essays on the Changing World-System*, Cambridge University Press, 1991.

Lecture 4

Emmanuel Le Roy Ladurie, *Times of Feast, Times of Famine: A History of Climate Since The Year 1000*, Farrar Straus & Giroux, 1989.

Emmanul Le Roy Ladurie, *The French Peasantry, 1450-1666*, translated by Alan Sheridan, Berkeley, University of California Press, c1987.

Lecture 5

Goubert Jean-Pierre, *The Conquest of Water: The Advent of Health in the Industrial Age*, translated by Andrew Wilson, Princeton University Press, 1989.

Family and society : Selections From The Annales, Economi , *Civilisations* , edited by Robert Forster and Orest Ranum ; translated by Elborg Forster and Patricia M. Ranum, The Johns Hopkins University Press, 1976.

, *Civilisations* edited by Robert Forster and Orest Ranum ; translated by Elborg Forster and Patricia M. Ranum, Baltimore, The Johns Hopkins University Press, 1975.

Lecture 6

Population and Economy: Population and History From the Traditional to the Modern World , edited by Robert I. Rotberg and Theodore K. Rabb , guest editors, Roger S. Schofield and E. Anthony Wrigley, contributors, Michael Anderson ... [et al.], Cambridge University Press, 1986

Wrigley Edward Antony, *The Population History of England, 1541-1871: A Reconstruction*, Cambridge University Press, 1989.

Wrigley Edward Anthony, *Poverty, Progress, and Population*, Cambridge University Press, 2004.



Lecture 7

Culture and Reproduction: An Anthropological Critique of Demographic Transition Theory, edited by W. Penn Handwerker, Westview Press, 1986.

Demographic Transition and its Consequences, Ronald D. Lee, David S. Reher, editors, New York, Population Council, 2011.

Lecture 8

D. E. C. Eversley, Peter Laslett and E. A. Wrigley, *An Introduction to English Historical Demography: From the Sixteenth to the Nineteenth century*, London 1966.