Syllabus

POVERTY AND CRIME IN EARLY MODERN EUROPE - 39063

Last update 19-02-2014

HU Credits: 2

Degree/Cycle: 1st degree (Bachelor)

Responsible Department: History

Academic year: 1

Semester: 2nd Semester

Teaching Languages: Hebrew

Campus: Mt. Scopus

Course/Module Coordinator: Aya Elyada

Coordinator Email: aya.elyada@mail.huji.ac.il

Coordinator Office Hours: Monday 12:00-13:00

Teaching Staff:
Dr. Aya Elyada
**Course/Module description:**

The course will focus on the history of the groups that lived on the margins of European society during the early modern period, including the poor, vagrants, criminals, and other outcasts. Attention will also be given to the attitude of established society toward these groups; to the latter’s representations in contemporary art and literature; to the attempts of the authorities to handle manifestations of poverty, crime, and social deviance; and to the question if and to what extent one can speak of a subculture or counterculture of crime and poverty in early modern Europe. The primary material, examples, and case studies will be taken from the history of England and Germany.

**Course/Module aims:**

The course seeks to introduce the students to the historical field of poverty and crime in early modern Europe, and to help them develop reading and working skills both with primary sources and with research literature in this field.

**Learning outcomes - On successful completion of this module, students should be able to:**

- Explain and assess the research methods and perspectives available for the historical study of crime and poverty in general, and with regard to the early modern period in particular
- Describe the theological and pragmatic motivations underlying early modern poor relief
- Assess the importance of gender as an analytical category for the historical study of poverty and crime
- Explain the unique context and characteristics of early modern Jewish criminality and the way it was perceived by the non-Jewish population
- Describe the various representations of poverty and crime in early modern high culture and popular culture, and assess their social and cultural role and significance

**Attendance requirements(%):**

80%

**Teaching arrangement and method of instruction:** A small portion of the course will be in the form of a frontal lecture. The lion’s share will comprise reading analyses of primary sources and secondary literature by the students, as well as discussions in class.
Course/Module Content:
1. Introduction
2-3. Poverty and vagrancy
4-5. Crime and gender
6-7. Crime and minority groups: the Jewish case
8-9. Language and criminality
10-12. Representations of poverty and crime in literature, art, and popular culture
13. Conclusion

Required Reading:
Richard J. Evans, "Introduction: The 'Dangerous Classes' in Germany from the Middle Ages to the Twentieth Century", in idem (ed.), The German Underworld: Deviants and Outcasts in German History, London 1988, 1-28 (esp. 1-12)


Carter Lindberg, "'There Should Be No Beggars Among Christians': Karlstadt, Luther, and the Origins of Protestant Poor Relief", Church History 46, 313-334


Ulinka Rublack, The Crimes of Women in Early Modern Germany, Oxford 1999, Ch. 4, 5
Uwe Danker, Bandits and the State: Robbers and the Authorities in the Holy Roman Empire in the Late Seventeenth and Early Eighteenth Centuries", in Richard J. Evans (ed.), The German Underworld: Deviants and Outcasts in German History, London 1988, 75-107
Aya Elyada, A Goy Who Speaks Yiddish: Christians and the Jewish Language in Early Modern Germany, Stanford, CA 2012, chapter 6: The Thieves' Jargon: Yiddish and Jewish Criminality
Lee Palmer Wandel, Always Among Us: Images of the Poor in Zwingli's Zurich, Cambridge 1990, Ch. 3
Anat Feinberg, "The Representation of the Poor in Elizabethan and Stuart Drama", Literature and History 12 (1986), 152-163
Additional Reading Material:
Robert Jtte, Poverty and Deviance in Early Modern Europe, Cambridge, UK 1994, Ch. 4, 7
Carter Lindberg, The European Reformations, Cambridge, MA 1996, Ch. 5
Aya Elyada, A Goy Who Speaks Yiddish: Christians and the Jewish Language in Early Modern Germany, Stanford, CA 2012, 48-64, 81-98, 118-121
Elizabeth Horodowich, Language and Statecraft in Early Modern Venice, Cambridge 2008, Ch. 2, 3
Peter Burke, The Historical Anthropology of Early Modern Italy, Cambridge 1987, Ch. 8
Hal Gladfelder, Criminality and Narrative in Eighteenth-Century England: Beyond the Law, Baltimore 2001
Claire Jowitt, The Culture of Piracy, 1580-1630: English Literature and Seaborne Crime, Farnham, UK 2010

Course/Module evaluation:
End of year written/oral examination 70 %
Presentation 0 %
Participation in Tutorials 20 %
Project work 0 %
Assignments 10 %
Reports 0 %
Research project 0 %
Quizzes 0 %
Other 0 %

Additional information: