



The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Syllabus

Between the Imperial and the National: The Historical Region of Moravia - 39489

Last update 28-08-2024

HU Credits: 2

Degree/Cycle: 1st degree (Bachelor)

Responsible Department: History

Academic year: 0

Semester: 2nd Semester

Teaching Languages: Hebrew

Campus: Mt. Scopus

Course/Module Coordinator: Prof. Raz Chen-Morris, Dr. Semyon Goldin, Dr. Iris Nachum

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Coordinator Office Hours:

Teaching Staff:

Prof. Raz Chen-Morris,
Dr. Iris Nachum,
Dr. Semion Goldin

Course/Module description:

This course, which includes an excursion, provides an overview of the history of Moravia - a geographical region in the southeastern part of the contemporary Czech Republic - from the Middle Ages to the 21st century. The course presents Moravia as a case study of a Central European territory marked by numerous political vicissitudes and upheavals, both during the imperial regime and in the era of the nation-state.

Course/Module aims:

In light of the numerous political vicissitudes that Moravia experienced - shifts that can be described as oscillating between empire and nation-state - this course focuses on the following key questions: How did these transitions between imperial and national orders affect Moravian culture and society throughout history? How are these transitions reflected in the cities and sites we visit during the excursion? How do the artworks we encounter on our tour relate to these shifts between empire and nation-state? How did changing regimes and sovereignty impact local people, whether decision-makers, artists, or religious figures? Did the local population have any influence on these political changes and upheavals? Additional questions we will explore in the course include how these political changes affected the Jewish community and how the relationship between Czechs and Germans shaped a distinct Moravian identity. All these questions will focus on one crucial methodological issue: whether and how a "regional perspective" can serve as an alternative to the historiographical approach that examines the history of Central-Eastern Europe through the lens of "Empire" and "Nation"?

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

- describe major events in the history of Moravia,
- characterize Czech, German and Jewish historical narratives concerning Moravia,
- recognize religious (Protestants, Hussites), cultural (Baroque, Art Deco) and other heritages that shaped and still shape this region,
- analyze "imperial" and "national" sites of the region,
- explain "imperial" and "national" myths of Moravia in specific and of Central Europe in general.

Attendance requirements(%):

100

Teaching arrangement and method of instruction: Lectures, discussion and excursion

Course/Module Content:

Meeting 1: 24.4.2025, 12:30-14:00

Moravia from the 8th century to the 18th century

Meeting 2: 8.5.2025, 12:30-14:00

Moravia from the early 19th century to the end of the First World War

Meeting 3: 15.5.2025, 12:30-14:00

Preparatory meeting for the excursion to Moravia

Meeting 4: 22.5.2025, 12:30-14:00

Moravia from the end of the First World War to the end of the Second World War

Meeting 5, 29.5.2025, 12:30-14:00

Moravia from 1945 until today

June 1-June 8, 2025: Excursion to Moravia

Meeting 6: 12.6.2025, 12:30-14:00

Between the Imperial and the National: concluding discussion on Moravian history

Required Reading:

For the required reading material, see the course's Moodle site.

Additional Reading Material:

Grading Scheme:

Essay / Project / Final Assignment / Home Exam / Referat 100 %

Additional information:

Requirements:

- *students are required to submit a statement (up to half a page) explaining the reasons for their interest in the excursion. The statement must be sent by email until 30.9.2024 to iris.nachum@mail.huji.ac.il.*
- *attend five preparatory meetings and one concluding meeting,*
- *participate in the study trip,*
- *option 1: submit a paper (11-12 pages in English) after the study trip, or*
- *option 2: give a short presentation ("Referat") during the excursion and submit a seminar paper (25 pages).*