

## *The Hebrew University of Jerusalem*

### *Syllabus*

### *Public History. Re/Constructions of the Past in Munich and Jerusalem - 39843*

*Last update 09-08-2020*

*HU Credits:* 2

*Degree/Cycle:* 2nd degree (Master)

*Responsible Department:* History

*Academic year:* 0

*Semester:* 1st Semester

*Teaching Languages:* English

*Campus:* Mt. Scopus

*Course/Module Coordinator:* Lina Nikou (and Kim Wünschmann - LMU Munich)

*Coordinator Email:* [lina.nikou@mail.huji.ac.il](mailto:lina.nikou@mail.huji.ac.il)

*Coordinator Office Hours:*

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Teaching Staff:

Dr. Lina Nikou

Course/Module description:

*How is history communicated to a broader public? Who is involved in the production of historical knowledge? Which kinds of narratives are voiced and heard? How do different cultural and political contexts shape the representation of past events in museums, memorials, films, documentaries, comics, soundscapes, podcasts, guided history tours and the urban space? And what role does witnessing play for public memories? This course explores different forms of representations of the past in two cities bursting with history: Jerusalem and Munich.*

*The course offers a unique opportunity for students from The Hebrew University of Jerusalem and from Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München (LMU Munich) to work together and learn about the interdisciplinary methods and aims of public history.*

Course/Module aims:

*We will read and discuss the relevant texts from an up-and-coming academic field that researches various forms of re/constructions of 'the past' in the public arena as 'history'. Students are encouraged to work in international teams to explore concrete case studies of public history in both cities. Participants will thus not only be trained as public historians but also develop intercultural competences through peer learning. Furthermore, students will broaden their digital skillsets as we will make use of online platforms and tools and meet in virtual classrooms.*

*Students will be trained in the reflexive practice of 'doing history' and learn about similarities and differences in the historicization of past events in the public realm of both Jerusalem and Munich. The course will thus increase awareness of the particularities of one's own as well as other cultures. At the same time, we will critically assess the potential and the challenges of public history as a means to produce local and national historical consciousness, which is globally orientated.*

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

- reflexive understanding of public history and its cultural as well as political implications
- analyzing a topic of their own choosing and applying the tools and insights provided in class
- self-reflexivity as researchers
- learning to write (and edit) different sorts of texts and learning to differentiate text forms required for different contexts and audiences
- working together and discussing in intercultural contexts

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Attendance requirements(%):

*Regular attendance required (at least 10 out of 12 sessions)*

*Teaching arrangement and method of instruction: - Introduction into the respective topics and systematic overview by course coordinators*

- Group work in international teams*
- Peer-learning and peer-teaching*
- Presentation of the case studies in class*
- Discussions in class*

Course/Module Content:

*Preliminary course plan*

- 1. Introduction: What is public history?*
- 2. Manifestations of public history in Jerusalem*
- 3. Manifestations of public history in Munich (joint class)*
- 4. Guided tours in the respective cities*
- 5. Public history and self-reflection (joint class)*
- 6. Multi-perspectivity: places and narratives (joint class)*
- 7. Historians in the field: interviewing as method (joint class)*
- 8. Writing public history: Who is the audience? Who is the author? And how to edit a text? (joint class)*
- 9. Group work on individual projects*
- 10. Group work on individual projects*
- 10. Digital public history (joint class)*
- 11. Presentations of the group work (joint class)*
- 12. Presentation of the group work and final session (joint class)*

Required Reading:

*Basic literature*

*David Dean (ed.), A Companion to Public History (Hoboken, NJ 2018).*

*Thomas Cauvin, Public History: A Textbook of Practice (New York, London, 2016).*

*Public History Weekly - The International Blogjournal, <https://public-history-weekly.degruyter.com>*

Additional Reading Material:

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Course/Module evaluation:

End of year written/oral examination 0 %  
Presentation 0 %  
Participation in Tutorials 0 %  
Project work 30 %  
Assignments 0 %  
Reports 30 %  
Research project 40 %  
Quizzes 0 %  
Other 0 %

Additional information:

*A good command of the English language and a readiness to engage in project-orientated team-work – also outside the regular seminar hours – is required.*

*The joint classes with the students from Munich will be taught online via Zoom or in a conference room on campus! Therefore, web-connected devices, ideally laptops, are needed to engage in learning and communication – please contact us in advance if this might be a challenge for you.*

*An excursion within Jerusalem will be part of the course – if health regulations will permit it!*