

Syllabus

Towards the Modern City: People, Spatiality and Social Change, 1850–2000 7.5 Credits

Code: HI1CITY

Finalized by: Institutionsstyrelsen vid Historiska institutionen, 2026-06-09

Valid from: Spring semester 2027 (2027-01-18)

Level within study regulation: Third cycle

Course modules Towards the Modern City, 7.5 Credits

1. Entry requirements

To be eligible, applicants must be admitted to third-cycle education at Stockholm University, or to an equivalent programme at another higher education institution.

2. Learning outcomes

On completion of the course, the doctoral student will be able to:

- account for and summarise the development of European cities from 1850 to 2000, including key institutional, social, and infrastructural processes of change, and their significance for the emergence of the modern city.
- discuss and compare key theoretical perspectives and their methodological approaches in relation to the emergence of the modern city, both as a built structure and as a lived environment.
- critically discuss and independently carry out analyses of urban development processes, drawing on relevant theoretical perspectives and historical models addressed in the course.

3. Content

The course examines how European cities and urban environments changed between 1850 and 2000. Its point of departure is the emergence of the modern city as both a built structure and a lived environment. The course provides doctoral students with key perspectives on change over time, knowledge of cities as actors in the development of welfare, and analytical tools for comparative study in a European context. The course relates to contemporary issues concerning segregation, economic inequality, and environmental sustainability.

Language of instruction: Swedish or English.

4. Mandatory exams

Attendance is compulsory and constitutes a course requirement.

5. Forms of examination

The course is assessed through active participation in seminars, as well as oral and written assignments.

The course applies a two-grade marking scale: Pass (G) and Fail (U). A Pass grade is awarded when the intended learning outcomes have been achieved; otherwise, a Fail grade is awarded.

6. Form of instruction

Teaching consists of campus-based seminars and excursions. The seminars combine lectures, seminar discussions, and presentations by participants.