

**HANDBOOK**

**MA IN COMPARATIVE HISTORY  
FROM 1500 TO THE PRESENT TIME  
(TWO YEARS)**

Academic Year 2020-2021

Last reviewed: August, 2020

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Dear Students,

Welcome to your new university and to its History Department, which will be your academic home over the coming two years. This booklet has been compiled to assist you now, at the beginning of your studies, and to serve as a reference compendium until your graduation. For any further question, feel free to turn to your program coordinator and program director.

## 1. ABOUT THE TWO-YEAR MA PROGRAM

### ACCREDITATION

The two-year Master of Arts degree in Comparative History (formerly: Historical Studies) was introduced at CEU Budapest in 2008 as a joint initiative of the Department of Medieval Studies and the Department of History. It presently consists of two tracks, offered by the two departments, the first being "Late Antique, Medieval, and Renaissance Studies", and the second "Comparative History from 1500 to the Present Time". A number of introductory courses are co-taught by faculty of both departments.

During eleven years, the MA program was taught successfully in Budapest. In reaction to Hungarian legislation against CEU, the program was taught from 2019 in a bicampus mode in Vienna and Budapest. 2020-2021 will be the first year in which the program is taught entirely in Vienna.

The MA program is accredited both in the United States and in the European Union. The program is registered by the Board of Regents of the University of the State of New York (US) on behalf of the New York State Education Department. The 2008 registration of the degree program by the Hungarian Accreditation Committee made it also into a European-accredited degree. As CEU reinstalls its teaching activities in Vienna, the accreditation process by the independent board AQ Austria (Agentur für Qualitätssicherung und Akkreditierung Austria) has been completed in July 2020. For continuing students, the Hungarian accreditation will remain in place until graduation.

Besides the two-year MA, in which you are enrolled and which is described in this booklet, the Department of History offers a one-year MA Program and a PhD Program in Comparative History. Moreover, the Department co-hosts two Erasmus Mundus MA programs. HIPS (History in the Public Sphere) is a two-year MA degree coordinated by CEU in collaboration with partner universities in Tokyo, Lisbon, Florence, and Paris, while MATILDA (European Master's in Gender and Women's History) is co-offered with universities in Vienna, Sofia, Lyon, Padova, and Bochum.

### GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS

The Master's program in which you are enrolled is a program in **general history** shaped by the **regional settings** of CEU's previous home in Budapest and its new location in Vienna. While faculty expertise is strongest in the history of Central, Eastern and South Eastern Europe, the Romanov and Ottoman Empires, the Soviet Union and its successor states, as well as the Middle East, departmental teaching and research frequently transcends these geographical limits for a better understanding of European and, indeed, global historical processes.

The program is **interdisciplinary** and includes components of political and institutional, economic and social, as well as cultural and intellectual history. Among the approaches particularly well represented in the professional orientation of our faculty are historical anthropology, urban and environmental history, gender history, cross-cultural, global and transnational history, as well as the history of science, religion, political thought, communication, and visual culture. The program

encourages you to explore diverse scholarly approaches and methods with an awareness of their theoretical stakes and in a spirit of critical self-reflection.

Studying in a joint degree program of the History and Medieval Studies Departments will enable you to understand persistent themes of historiography in the light of their **long-term** development from Late Antiquity to the present. The joint work with faculty and students from Medieval Studies will be especially intense during the first two terms of your studies.

Your degree program is a **graduate** program, which means that you will be expected to develop familiarity with the necessary skills of independent research. In class, your teachers will generally presuppose that you already possess a rough overview of European history and a basic academic vocabulary allowing you to discuss its topics orally and in writing. If you feel insufficiently prepared for any class, ask the instructor for recommendations on independent readings.

Our Department emphasizes in all its degree programs a **comparative** perspective, thereby drawing a scholarly benefit from the diversity of research concerns inside CEU's international academic community. Earning a degree in Comparative History does not necessarily imply that you have to do research in more than one area of specialization. However, you should be open to engage with fields of scholarship that lie beyond the geographical, chronological, thematic and methodological parameters of your primary subject of research. In the choice of your classes, make sure to take advantage of the wide interdisciplinary scope of your faculty. Moreover, seminar discussions will expose you to the research of your peers working on other areas of historical research, many of whom have also been previously trained in disciplines other than history.

## 2. THE CEU HISTORY DEPARTMENT

The Department of History prides itself on a distinctly international faculty from over a dozen countries in three continents. The majority of its professors permanently reside in Vienna or Budapest and work at CEU full time or part time; others are affiliated to us as visiting professors, who teach here a term while maintaining a position at another prestigious research or educational institution elsewhere. For information on the faculty, see the Appendix of the present handbook and the more detailed pages on <http://history.ceu.edu/faculty>. The department is chaired by the Head of Department; additionally, its four degree programs have separate Program Directors.

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The departmental office takes care of most of the students' administrative concerns. Matters of university inscription, finance, health insurance, housing, and residence permits should be directed to the relevant offices of **Student Services**.

## **POLICY ON EQUALITY**

The History Department supports the CEU Policy on gender equality and all other university guidelines on equal opportunity. The Department takes all student concerns seriously and will take all steps according to CEU guidelines to remedy situations that are brought to its attention. Students with concerns about discrimination or harassment are invited to reach out to the responsible Program Director and/or to the Head of Department, depending on the gravity of the issue(s) that require attention or intervention. Students who prefer to voice grievances anonymously should ask their Student Representatives to discuss them with the departmental leadership or to present them to the faculty meeting. The Student Representatives can also accompany students to any meeting with Program Directors.

## STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES

Students are represented at the level of the degree program, the Department, the University administration, the CEU Senate and the Student Dormitory.

- Students of the History Department elect *program representatives*, for the PhD program, the One-year MA program, and each of the two cohorts of the Two-year MA program. They represent common concerns of students with the head of department and the program directors, as well as in the departmental meetings. Elections should be general, secret and self-organized by students during the first month of each academic year.
- The *CEU Student Union*, which brings together the student representatives of all departments and programs, provides student feedback and input to the University's Central Administration on academic and non-academic issues.
- This Union elects one *student representative to the Faculty Senate*. This student representative represents all CEU students and reports on issues of general student concern.
- A separate *Student Dormitory Council* is elected to provide student input and feedback to the central administration on student dormitory issues.

For further information regarding student representation, please turn to either the departmental staff, Student Services, or the Student Guesthouses.

## FORUMS OF COMMUNICATION

There are several forums where departmental information and materials are communicated. You should regularly consult the following:

- CEU's **mailing system** is the main channel of communication for all departmental information concerning assignments, grants, events, opening hours of the library, and so on. You should use your Microsoft Office 365 Outlook address for your correspondence with CEU faculty, fellow students, and ideally also with academic contacts outside CEU. It is in your interest and indeed your responsibility to read your e-mails at least daily. Faculty will endeavor to reply to your e-mail questions within 48 hours; if this should not be the case, it is not considered impolite to send a reminder.
- Your **personalized pigeonhole** outside the Departmental Office on the second floor of QS 51 will be used to transmit your paper mail, certificates, corrected drafts and other paper documents. Please check it regularly.
- The **departmental website** (<http://history.ceu.edu>) is the main source for information on program guidelines, course lists, faculty activities, and current events.
- The **facebook group** of the CEU History Department (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/37739447124>) is a medium for academic and social communication among students, alumni, and faculty. Members receive and share information on grants, scholarships, jobs, conferences, events, and all news of common interest.
- The **noticeboards** in the entrance hall and corridors of QS 51 contain the most updated information on upcoming public lectures and conferences at the Department.
- The **SITS** (Strategic Information Technology Services; [https://sits.ceu.edu/urd/sits.urd/run/siw\\_lgn](https://sits.ceu.edu/urd/sits.urd/run/siw_lgn)) processes and confidentially displays

information concerning your registration, enrolment and course data, including credits and grades.

- The **e-learning site** (<https://ceulearning.ceu.edu>) collects all course syllabi and readings in their last updated version. For help with the site, contact Gábor Ács, ext. 2999, email: [acs@ceu.edu](mailto:acs@ceu.edu).

The following media sites are further sources of useful **general information** on current CEU events.

- The CEU homepage (<http://www.ceu.edu>)
- The online journal *CEU Planet* (<http://www.ceu.hu/category/ceu-planet>)
- The student journal *CEU Weekly* (<http://ceuweekly.blogspot.com>)
- The facebook group *Student Life at CEU* (<https://www.facebook.com/CEUStudentLife>). The *CEU Podcast Library* (<https://podcasts.ceu.edu>), an open, categorised and subscribable hub for original research presented in an audio format. Content is produced by CEU faculty, students and staff.

If you have difficulties with your computer or with the printer, contact the Computer Help Desk: 327-2000 (from a university phone, simply dial 2000).

### 3. PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

#### ACADEMIC CALENDAR

In accordance with the official University schedule (see <https://www.ceu.edu/calendar>), the academic calendar of the Department of History is divided into a Pre-Session and Zero Week (2 weeks in September), the Fall Term (12 weeks from September to December), the Winter Term (12 weeks in January-March) and a Spring Term (10 weeks in April-June). The exact dates for the Academic Year 2020/2021 will be as follows:

Pre-Session (for first-year MA students) begins	7 September
Zero Week begins	21 September
Fall Term begins	28 September
Fall Term ends	18 December
Winter Term begins	11 January
Winter Term ends	2 April
Spring Term begins	6 April
Spring Term ends	18 June

#### **Studying at CEU during the Covid-19 Pandemic in 2020/21**

CEU will reopen its campus in Vienna on September 7, 2020, and is prepared to implement all the medical precautions that are required to counter the spread of the virus in Austrian educational institutions. Since many of our students will be subject to travel restrictions, quarantine regulations, or delayed visa procedures, CEU has decided to postpone the start of its Fall Term by one week to September 28. Since we cannot expect that this delay will allow all students to arrive in Vienna on time, the Department is preparing a video teaching program for those who cannot attend some or all of this term's class sessions in person. All mandatory courses and the near totality of the elective program will be accessible online. Given the global recruitment of CEU's student body, the University has decided to prioritize asynchronous remote teaching. Weekly class sessions will therefore be split into a video

lecture, which instructors will pre-record and upload to Panopto, and a discussion part, held successively in a classroom environment and on Zoom for remote attendants. We will provide you with details in September. If you expect to arrive in Vienna with delay, please keep us posted.

See also "Covid-19 Advice and Updates," <https://www.ceu.edu/covid-19>

The *Pre-Session and Zero Week* are designed to introduce you to the CEU environment. The program includes a welcome gathering and a party; general information sessions on the academic and administrative aspects of your studies; intensive classes in academic writing; introductory sessions on library resources within CEU; short presentations of the courses offered during the upcoming year, as well as guided tours of the archival and library resources elsewhere in Vienna.

The first year's *Fall Term* comprises mandatory courses in historical theories and methods, a class in Academic Writing, as well as a "Topical Survey" class on a universal historiographical theme, which you select from a set number of offerings ("mandatory elective" courses). All of these classes are integrated between the Departments of History and Medieval Studies. At the beginning of the term, incoming students will be invited for an individual meeting with the Head of Department and the MA program director, who will give advice in selecting appropriate classes from the elective program and in finding academic advisors among the CEU faculty.

The *Winter Term* contains less mandatory requirements and will leave you more time for elective classes. At the same time, you have to start preparations for your own research, choosing academic advisers, attending the mandatory Thesis Planning Seminar and collecting material for the detailed Thesis Prospectus that you are expected to produce at the end of the first academic year.

The first year ends with the *Spring Session*, consisting of elective classes offered by distinguished visiting professors. In the framework of a Prospectus Workshop held in May, you will discuss with your peers the prospectus draft that you have composed with the help of your academic supervisor.

In June, you will submit the definitive version of your prospectus and defend it in front of a committee formed by your two academic advisers. Approval of the prospectus is a condition of continuing studies.

You should use the *summer break* to conduct substantial primary source research, as you will be expected to write and discuss a draft of your first research chapter during the Fall Term of your second year of studies. The university provides merit-based travel grants for thesis-related research purposes. You may apply for such a grant once during your MA studies: either you apply immediately after defending your prospectus in June in order to carry out funded research during the summer break; or you apply in February of the second year and travel in April, one month before the thesis deadline. Only students in the Advanced Certificate Programs (see below) may undertake two CEU-funded research trips.

In the *Fall Term of the second year*, you will continue to specialize in your field by taking elective seminars, besides advanced courses in historical methods and academic writing. The *Winter Term* and the *Spring Session* of the second year are almost fully devoted to thesis-related tasks, supported by taught workshops and tutorials. The thesis is a study of ca. 20,000 words based on original, primary source-based research. It should be submitted in June and defended in front of a committee formed by your two academic advisers and an external examiner.

## WORKLOAD AND GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

In order to graduate, you must have earned **60 US credit points**, which equal **120 credit points of the ECTS** (European Credit Transfer System), one US credit being counted as 2 ECTS. Out of these 60 US credit points, 51 are obtained through class work and **9 points** by a successfully defended thesis. Moreover, your grades must amount to a Grade Point Average (GPA) of at least 2.66 on a scale of 4.

One US course credit corresponds to one hour (50 minutes) of classroom attendance a week over a 12-week long academic term. The Department's courses are usually 2 or 4 credit courses (i.e., two or four hours a week for a term), with proportionate reading assignments, oral presentations, and written work. When you plan your term, you should assume that each of your classes will altogether demand about three times as many hours as the number of class contact hours.

## CURRICULUM STRUCTURE

The curriculum is organized in modules that run across the two academic years:

### 1. Historiography and Methods

Participants in this mandatory module lay the foundation and enhance their mastery of the theoretical and methodological tools necessary for pursuing their research topics, and their ability to locate their work within the traditions and more recent trends of scholarship. The courses offered in this module familiarize students with the various complementary and competing applications of comparison in historical studies and provide them with an overview of the development of historiography from antiquity to the present.

### 2. Thematic Surveys and Historical Debates

Courses offered in this module are designed to provide students with an overview of the most up-to-date themes and debates that have shaped modern approaches to the study of the past and the scholarship on specific regions, respectively.

### 3. Thesis

Under the guidance of their supervisor, students develop their skills in archival and other research, in organizing the material collected, in arranging it into coherent units, leading up to the thesis; students acquire the skill of monitoring and evaluating their own progress, identifying strengths and weaknesses, and agendas for the next period. Students learn to distill research questions and hypotheses into a clear, concise, consistent and convincing statement about the feasibility of research projects, and to understand and present their research topic in broader contexts. Candidates sharpen their ability to present a complex problem and research findings to a professional audience, to demonstrate that the research was conducted and analyzed using appropriate theories and methods, and to respond to comments, questions and critiques from experts in the field.

### 4. Academic Writing

The aim of this module is to help students develop as writers within the English-speaking academic community by raising awareness of, practicing, and reflecting upon the conventions of written texts. More specifically it addresses the type of writing found in the department and deals with issues students need to complete graduate level work in English. The module enhances the skills related to critique and research-based writing and develops revising and editing skills.

### 5. Topical Courses in Comparative History

Students expand the empirical foundations of their research by taking relevant elective courses on a wide variety of themes, methodologies, and regions. These courses allow students to pursue their

own interests and enables them to deepen their knowledge of particular subjects that may be specifically useful for their thesis or project, or, alternately, are opportunities to explore new horizons and to experiment with completely unfamiliar topics. Students with a specific regional or linguistic interest may take the courses necessary to be competent in pertinent historiographic traditions. As such, this module is crucial in developing student competencies in their core interest area as well as in the broader frame of scholarly inquiry in the field of history.

## 6. Languages and Interdisciplinary Studies

Students have the opportunity to take courses offered by other units and Departments across CEU to pursue broad interdisciplinary training and develop their language skills. Students can earn a maximum of 8 US credits in languages courses offered by the Source Language Teaching Group (SLTG) or the Center of Academic Writing (CAW). Credits earned in this module will count towards the credit requirements in the module 5, "Topical Courses in Comparative History".

CEU promotes interdisciplinarity and cross-unit collaboration. Therefore, throughout the course of their degree, students can choose to earn another 8 elective credits from CEU units outside the History Department To learn about courses offered at other departments and about the resources in language teaching, please visit <https://courses.ceu.edu/search/course>. Please note that all courses in Ottoman History offered by the Medieval Studies Department and all courses in Jewish Studies offered by the Nationalism Studies Program count towards the History elective credit requirements, but do not fall under the extra 4 credits arrangement.

**Table 1: Module Completion Requirements**

Modules	Courses	Status	US credit points	Term
1. Historiography and Methods	Historiography I: Topics in History and Theory (Lecture)	Mandatory	2	1.F
	Interdisciplinary Methods of Comparative History	Mandatory	2	1.F
2. Thematic Surveys and Historical Debates	Topical Survey (choose one out of the following three: I: Gender History; II: Urban History; III: Empires)	Mandatory elective	2	1.F
	Historiography II: Grand Debates (choose one out of the following three: Central European History; Mediterranean History; Russian and Eurasian History)	Mandatory elective	2	1.W
3. Thesis	Thesis Planning Seminar	Mandatory	2	1.W
	Prospectus Workshop	Mandatory	2	1.S
	Thesis Seminar 1: Research Chapter	Mandatory	1	2.F
	Thesis Seminar 2: Framework Chapter	Mandatory	1	2.W
	Thesis workshop	Mandatory	1	2.S

	Thesis Writing Tutorial (1 or 2)	Mandatory elective	1	2.S
	Thesis (max. 22.000 words)	Mandatory	7	2.S
	Thesis defense	Mandatory	2	2.S
4. Academic Writing	Academic Writing	Mandatory	2	1.F
	Academic Writing	Mandatory	1	2.W
5. Topical Courses in Comparative History	32 CEU credits of elective classes from the course list on <a href="https://history.ceu.edu/course-schedule">https://history.ceu.edu/course-schedule</a> . Half of these, at most, may be earned from the Optional Module 6, namely 8 credits from language courses and 8 from other departments.	Elective	32	1-2

**Table 2: Overview of credit requirements per term**

You should make sure not to take too many elective classes at the beginning of your studies, when you will be busy with mandatory and mandatory elective classes, or at the end, when you will be writing your thesis. The following chart may help you spread out your workload evenly. In the column "credits from elective classes," the overall credit number given here reflects the minimum necessary for graduation, while the distribution of the elective credits among the terms is our recommendation. You are free to distribute your elective credits differently, and/or take additional electives within a reasonable range.

Term	credits from mandatory/mandatory elective classes	credits from elective classes	total
First Year, Fall	8	6	14
First Year, Winter	4	10	14
First Year, Spring	2	-	2
<b>First Year Total</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>30</b>
Second Year, Fall	1	8	9
Second Year, Winter	2	8	10
Second Year, Spring	11	-	11
<b>Second Year Total</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>60</b>

#### ADVANCED CERTIFICATES AND SPECIALIZATION

In addition to the regular MA degree in History, you can earn a certificate in one of the US-accredited Advanced Certificates or in the Jewish Studies Specialization, if your research falls into the respective subject area. CEU Advanced Certificates are cross-departmental teaching units, which in addition to their curricular activities organize special lecture series, conferences, excursions, and social events. Interested students should register for these specializations before the end of Zero

Week, but may still do so after they have enrolled in the Department's MA programs. For the requirements of each specialization, please consult the relevant websites.

The Department of History currently offers the following specializations:

- The *Advanced Certificate in Eastern Mediterranean Studies* belongs to the activities of CEMS, the Center of Eastern Mediterranean Studies (head: Professor Brett Wilson; coordinator: Sona Grigoryan; <https://cems.ceu.edu>). By cutting through traditional chronological, geographic and disciplinary boundaries, the *Specialization in Eastern Mediterranean Studies* presents students with a unique opportunity to explore how various classical traditions were appropriated by and adjusted to the realities of medieval and early modern polities in the Eastern Mediterranean. This Specialization provides a framework for a comparative approach to (as well as in-depth focus on) the history, religion and culture of the Later Roman and Byzantine Empires, the Arab Caliphate and the Ottoman Empire in all their diversity.
- The *Specialization in Jewish Studies* is offered by the CEU Jewish Studies Project (head: Professor András Kovács; coordinator: Lilla Kukor; <http://jewishstudies.ceu.edu>). Since 2001, this specialization program has enabled students in History, Medieval Studies and Nationalism Studies to follow a teaching program in Jewish history and culture from the Middle Ages to the present, with a focus on modern Central and Eastern Europe. The program entails classes on anti-Semitism, the Holocaust, Jewish cultural heritage, contemporary Jewry, and the state of Israel. In the event of sufficient student demand, Hebrew and Yiddish language classes are arranged. The Specialization offers its students a number of special fellowships and grants, as well as an extra-curricular program of lectures, conferences, and excursions.
- The *Advanced Certificate in Political Thought* (head: Professor Matthias Riedl; <https://pasts.ceu.edu/political-thought>) engages in the comparative study of political thought from a variety of perspectives, both within and outside the Western canon. Special attention is given to the historicity of diverse political traditions but also to recurring themes and questions. Learning to recognize political thought, both past and present, as being time- and place-specific will equip you, regardless of your major field of study, with additional analytical and methodological skills grounded in the appreciation of the contextual and intertextual aspects of diverse intellectual traditions.
- The *Advanced Certificate in Religious Studies*, run by the Center for Religious Studies (head: Professor Jean-Louis Fabiani; coordinator: Esther Holbrook; <https://religion.ceu.edu>), is available in the Departments of History and Medieval Studies. It provides students with a solid methodological and theoretical foundation for competently addressing religious phenomena from an analytical and interdisciplinary perspective. The specialization provides an introduction to the concepts and methods in the study of religion, as well as to a wide range of religious phenomena from Late Antiquity to the present, with an emphasis on the historical and comparative study of monotheistic religions.
- The *Advanced Certificate in Archives and Evidentiary Practices* (head: Csaba Szilagyi; <https://history.ceu.edu/specialization-archives-and-evidentiary-practices>) was initiated by the Vera and Donald Blinken Open Society Archives (OSA) and organized jointly with the Department of Legal Studies and the Department of History. The aim of the program is to provide students with theoretical grounding and practical skills in working and pursuing research in a contemporary and innovative archive. Students can explore the basic historical, legal, political and societal aspects of archives in a permanently changing technological environment, from recordkeeping through documentary evidence to justice and memory-

making, as well as new archival storage and research tools. During a series of seminars, hands-on workshops, discussions and practical archival activities, students will be able to make full use of the unique collections and facilities of OSA. The knowledge and skills acquired during this specialization will open up for students additional avenues of pursuing a career not only in their chosen field but also in archives, libraries, and museums or in the multidisciplinary arena of the digital humanities.

## **COURSE WORK**

### **Class Attendance**

Regular attendance is mandatory in all classes. A student who misses more than two units (two 100-minute sessions) in any 2 or 4 credit class without a verified reason beyond the student's control must submit an 8-10 page paper assigned by the professor, which as a rule covers the material in the class missed. The paper is due no later than 3 weeks after the missed class.

### **Course papers and drafts**

Seminar papers and drafts of prospectuses and research chapters that are submitted for class discussion should be sent to the class instructor(s) through CEU's email system in doc/docx, rtf, pdf or of format, using typography that is easily readable, indicating page numbers and the size of the paper given in the number of words. When submitting a seminar paper or assignment by e-mail, please make sure that its receipt is confirmed. The Department does not recognize undelivered email as an excuse for non-submission of written work.

### **Course Grading**

Grading of written and oral MA course work covers:

- content literacy: familiarity with the "state of the art" scholarship in the field, capacity of placing geographically circumscribed knowledge into a broader transnational/regional framework; understanding and critical evaluation of key concepts and theoretical approaches.
- academic skills: formulating and discussing questions, adducing relevant secondary literature and, possibly, primary sources, choosing and adapting appropriate analytical strategies and techniques, reflecting on one's own practices and principles in conducting research.
- style: expressing thoughts in adequate academic English, using historical terms purposefully, developing a fluent historical narration and argument.
- the use of a proper academic style sheet (citations, references, bibliographies)

CEU Credit and Grading System: please search for the latest **Student Records Manual** at the page: <https://documents.ceu.edu/document-type/guidelines-regulations-etc>

### **Auditing Courses**

You may attend courses beyond the minimum graduation requirement, the results of which will appear on your transcripts of records and be counted for the GPA. However, the credits will not count towards your degree. If you want to attend a class without earning a letter grade or credit, you can register as an audit student. You will be exempted from writing a term paper; any further exemption from the written, oral or attendance requirements of the class must be clarified in advance with the course instructor. The course will appear on your official transcript with the symbol AUD if attendance was regular, or W if the attendance was unsatisfactory. No credit is earned, nor is the GPA affected.

### **Course Evaluation**

At the end of each semester, you will be offered the opportunity to evaluate your courses and teachers anonymously through CoursEval, the Central European University's online system.

## **ACADEMIC ADVISORS**

Shortly after your arrival at CEU, you will have a conversation with the Head of Department and the Director of your MA Program about your study and research plans. They will suggest suitable members of the resident or visiting faculty who will be able to help you with your project during the first year of your studies.

The task of the academic **supervisor** is to help you define and refine your thesis topic, to introduce you to relevant publications and methodological approaches in the selected field, and finally, to correct and discuss the drafts of your prospectus and thesis chapters with you. The supervisor will also recommend you in your further academic career. The **second reader** will chair the prospectus and thesis defenses and take part in the grading. It is in your interest to involve the second reader in the planning and preparation of your thesis; and that you should at least discuss with her/him the final drafts of the prospectus and thesis before you submit them.

In the course of your second term, you will have to finalise your selection and name your supervisor and a second reader, who will be your principal academic advisors. You will have to contact your prospective advisors, obtain their agreement and report it to your program coordinator before the end of the Winter Term. If you have not determined your supervisor and/or second reader by the end of March 2021, the Department will ex officio appoint appropriate faculty members.

From then on, only in exceptional cases may supervisors be changed (such as change of topic or unavailability of a faculty member) and only with the joint permission of the program director and department head.

## **The MA THESIS**

At the end of your second year, you are required to submit a thesis of 18,000—22,000 words in length, based on original and primary source-based research. It should develop the topic described in your application, which may be refined and developed during your MA studies. Any change of topic needs the approval of the Supervisor and Program Director. The full digital texts of many recent theses defended at the Department can be found through the CEU Library online catalog. For details, see the MA Thesis Guidelines, distributed as an appendix to the present Handbook.

## **ACADEMIC HONESTY**

The offense of academic misconduct includes plagiarizing, that is, using the ideas or words of another without specifying their source appropriately.

Additionally, you may not submit an assignment or part of an assignment for credit in more than one course, nor reuse assignments that were presented in an academic framework outside CEU, unless approved by both course instructors. However, course papers may be incorporated into the MA thesis.

Acts of academic misconduct will result in serious consequences such as a failing grade for the assignment, the course or even removal from the program. For further information, please refer to the university's Code of Ethics, <http://documents.ceu.hu/documents/p-1009-1v1402-0>.

## CONTINUING STUDIES

The Department encourages its best MA graduates to continue their scholarly work in a **PhD program** at CEU or other universities. The Department offers competitive PhD fellowships for three years, with the possibility of extension for a fourth year. Students in the 2-year MA program may apply in January of their second year; the decision on applications will be made after their thesis defense. For more information, see <https://history.ceu.edu/DoctoralPrograms>.

## 4. LIFE AT THE DEPARTMENT

Your studies will test and improve your ability to process a vast amount of information and knowledge, using English as your working language. Moreover, you will need to develop a productive openness towards different lifestyles, mindsets, attitudes, customs and opinions. We hope that the time you spend at CEU will not only contribute to your professional development, but also expose you to stimulating experiences of collegiality and friendship, as well as deepen your commitment to the values of a tolerant and multi-cultural society.

### RESIDENCY IN VIENNA

During the teaching periods in the Fall and Winter terms, you are expected to be “in residence,” that is, to stay in Vienna and attend classes, and take part in departmental activities. Permission to be absent from classes must be requested by e-mail from the MA Program Director or the Head of Department, via the MA program coordinator. Unauthorized absence may lead to disciplinary action, and possibly even expulsion from CEU.

For housing in Vienna please visit: <https://www.ceu.edu/prospective/accommodation>.

For assistance contact: David Baqais (Housing Assistant): ext. 3119 or by email: [apartment@ceu.edu](mailto:apartment@ceu.edu)

There is – unfortunately – no budget for holiday travel; those wishing to visit their families during the breaks between terms have to cover the costs themselves. If you intend to travel abroad, please keep your regular contacts at the department (supervisor, program director, coordinator, or student colleagues) informed of your whereabouts to avoid misunderstandings and unnecessary alarm.

## DEPARTMENTAL RESEARCH AND PUBLICATION ACTIVITY

### RESEARCH FACILITIES

Research and study facilities include CEU’s **libraries**, the **computer labs**, and access to **other research libraries** in Vienna.

### The CEU Library

From its foundation in 1991, CEU built up on its campus in Budapest a large research library, now comprising about 200,000 printed volumes, 200,000 ebooks, 50,000 ejournals, and 150+ databases in all fields of the humanities and social sciences. On moving its teaching to Vienna, CEU has opened in 2019 a second library site, where all of its electronic resources are available alongside 45,000 printed books, selected by a variety of criteria including imprint date, frequency of checkout, availability of online equivalents, and recommendations from faculty. Due to the limited space on the Vienna Campus, the remaining volumes will stay in Budapest, but all of them are readily available

on the Vienna Campus through regular book deliveries. Information about all library resources and services is available via the CEU Library website (<http://www.library.ceu.edu>).

### **Inter-campus loan from Budapest**

Documents can be delivered to the Vienna Campus from the following sites, which also remain operating as working environments for students who have the occasion to visit Budapest, for example during the Spring Term.

- **CEU Main Library** (1051 Budapest, Nador utca 15, +36-1-327-3099). Director: Diane Geraci. The library opened in 2016 on its new location, where it offers more than 400 seats, workspaces for solitary research as well as small group collaboration, a media production lab, and over 85 large screen computers. See <http://library.ceu.edu>.
- **CEU/ELTE Medieval Library** (1088 Budapest, Múzeum krt. 6–8, first floor, rooms 148-150). Director: Balázs Nagy. This library was established in an agreement between CEU and the Faculty of Humanities of Eötvös Loránd University (ELTE), merging the collections of both in Medieval Studies. It currently holds 24,000 volumes, which are catalogued in the CEU Library online catalog.
- The **Vera and Donald Blinken Open Society Archives** at CEU (OSA, H-1051 Budapest, Arany János u. 32, Tel. 327-3250 or 3260; [info@osaarchivum.org](mailto:info@osaarchivum.org); <http://www.osaarchivum.org>). Director: István Rév. This is an outstanding center for research and education, whose collections and activities relate to the period after the Second World War, mainly the Cold War, the history of the formerly communist countries, human rights, and war crimes.

### **Interlibrary Loan through CEU Library**

Books that are not available at any of the CEU libraries may be ordered by ILL (Interlibrary Loan). For guidelines on using this service, please see: <https://library.ceu.edu/using-the-library/interlibrary-loan/>

You may also make suggestions for books that the CEU Library might order within the limits of the acquisition budget. Please direct book requests to the members of the History Department Library Committee, Marsha Siefert ([siefertm@ceu.edu](mailto:siefertm@ceu.edu)) or Tolga Esmer ([tuesmer@ceu.edu](mailto:tuesmer@ceu.edu)).

### **Vienna Research Libraries outside CEU**

A number of important research libraries are located in Vienna. A useful catalogue tool is the Austrian Library Network Union Catalogue (*Katalog des Österreichischen Bibliothekenverbundes*; <https://search.obvsg.at>), but please note that this catalogue is not exhaustive, so that some collections, especially those belonging to the University of Vienna, need to be searched separately. You can find a comprehensive list of available online catalogues here: <https://www.obvsg.at/kataloge/verbundkataloge>.

The most relevant libraries for CEU students of History are the following:

- The **Austrian National Library** (*Österreichische Nationalbibliothek*, ÖNB; 1010 Vienna, Josefsplatz 1), located in the imperial castle in the center of Vienna, is the most prestigious historical book collection in the country. It requires an inscription combined with a fee of either 30 EUR for a yearly inscription or 3 EUR for a day pass. See <https://search.onb.ac.at>.
- The **Austrian State Archives** (*Österreichisches Staatsarchiv*; 1010 Vienna, Minoritenplatz 1) keep the documentary memory of the Habsburg monarchy and the Republic of Austria. See <https://www.statearchives.gv.at>.
- The **Vienna University Library** (*Universitätsbibliothek Wien*) is the biggest library in Austria. Of its 7 million books, 2.7 million are accessible in the main library (*Hauptbibliothek*) located in the historical building of the university (1010 Vienna, Universitätsring 1, 1st floor); the others are distributed by disciplines among the separate

research collections of 40 academic centers. Some of the latter, such as the Historical Studies Library, are also located in the main university building, others are housed in the former general hospital (*Altes AKH*) in the 9<sup>th</sup> city district or on various off-campus sites. These libraries are in general non-lending, open stack libraries; on-site consultation is possible without inscription (<https://bibliothek.univie.ac.at/en>). You can find a list of libraries with their addresses and opening hours here: <https://bibliothek.univie.ac.at/en/bibliotheken.html>.

- The **Public Library** (*Hauptbücherei*; 1070 Wien, Urban Loritz-Platz 2a) is a general interest library comprising more than 400,000 media units. Unlike Vienna's academic libraries, it is also open on weekends.
- The **Vienna City Library** (*Wienbibliothek im Rathaus*), located in the historical Town Hall, entrance Felderstraße gate 4, staircase 6, 1<sup>st</sup> floor, is a scholarly library with a special focus on the history and culture of Vienna. See <https://www.wienbibliothek.at/english>.
- The **Institute for Human Sciences** (*Institut für die Wissenschaften vom Menschen*, IWM; 1090 Vienna, Spittelauer Lände 3), possesses a library of some 40,000 books in the areas of philosophy, history, sociology, political science, cultural and gender studies, including publications in Eastern European languages. See <https://www.iwm.at/the-institute/library>.
- The **Vienna Wiesenthal Institute for Holocaust Studies** (VWI; 1010 Vienna, Rabensteig 3) possesses a reference library consisting of about 14,000 volumes, which is accessible upon appointment. See <https://www.vwi.ac.at/index.php/en/documentation/library>.
- The **United Nations Library** contains material related to the work of the United Nations units based in Vienna, accessible upon appointment. See <https://www.unov.org/unov/en/library.html>.

## RESEARCH ACTIVITIES AT THE HISTORY DEPARTMENT

The faculty and doctoral students of the Department of History have an outstanding publishing record in their native tongues as well as the main European languages. Their research appears in peer-reviewed journals, volumes, or monographs published by leading academic publishers. The Department of History is an active initiator of ambitious research projects. It is a top priority for us to involve students in research from an early stage of their studies.

A regular discussion forum for students and faculty is the cycle of **Research Seminars**. At recurrent sessions during term time, a faculty member or an advanced doctoral candidate gives the departmental community an informal talk on her/his current research, which is followed by discussion.

**Guest lectures**, academic conferences, and workshops are held frequently, with the participation of distinguished international scholars.

The research environment of the History Department benefits from the various **research centers** of CEU, in particular the Center for Eastern Mediterranean Studies (<https://cems.ceu.edu>) and the Center for Religious Studies (<https://religion.ceu.edu>) A number of research initiatives created specific **focus areas and platforms** that speak directly to students' special research interests. These include:

- Early Modern Studies (<https://history.ceu.edu/early-modern-studies>)
- Contemporary History (<https://www.ceu.edu/chp>)
- Visual Studies (<https://vsp.ceu.edu>)
- Labor History (<https://history.ceu.edu/LaborHistory>)
- Russian, Ukrainian, and Eurasian History (<https://history.ceu.edu/russian-ukrainian-and-eurasian-history>)

The History Department's own research institute, "Pasts, Inc.: Center for Historical Studies" (<https://pasts.ceu.edu>), was established in 2002 in Budapest as a platform for international cooperation initiatives in training and research. "Pasts, Inc." has initiated, supported, and hosted a large variety of research, conference, educational, and training activities.

As a part of its various **publication** activities, through the creation of "Pasts, Inc." the History Department edits two international refereed journals:

- *East Central Europe/L'Europe du Centre Est. Eine wissenschaftliche Zeitschrift (ECE)* (<https://ece.ceu.edu>), published by Brill, Leiden.
- *European Review of History / Revue d'histoire européenne (ERH)* (<https://www.tandfonline.com/toc/ceh20/current>) has had an editorial office at the CEU Department of History since 2008, in addition to their central office at the University of Manchester, and another new one at the European University Institute in Florence.

"Pasts Inc." also edits three book series (<https://pasts.ceu.edu/book-series>):

- Founded in 2004, *Pasts Incorporated: CEU Studies in the Humanities* has published eleven volumes so far.
- *Central and Eastern Europe: Regional Perspectives in a Global Context* was founded in 2012;
- *Pasts, Inc. Studies and Working Papers* was launched in 2013 with the explicit aim of providing a platform for young researchers to publish specialized findings.

Cooperation with CEU's **Career Services**:

The [CEU Career Services Office \(CSO\)](#) supports students and alumni in defining their personal professional goals and definitions of future success and assists them in gaining information, skills, and experiences that enhance their personal development, employability, and success in their academic programs.

The CSO advises students and alumni on all aspects of the career development process including:

- Conducting self-assessment and career research;
- Adopting a realistic and long-term approach towards career development;
- Expanding and managing professional networks;
- Crafting effective application materials for jobs, internships, and further studies;
- Preparing for interviews and conducting salary negotiations.

There are many ways for students to engage with the office:

- Career education sessions
- Career events featuring employers and practitioners from various fields
- [Individual career advising](#)
- [Internship support and funding](#)
- career>next: the CEU-exclusive job and internship portal
- Online resources including the Career Knowledge Hub and the Careers Newsletter
- The [SPARK YOUR CAREER](#) career development certificate

Learn more about our work with [master's](#) and [doctoral](#) students.

## **SOCIAL EVENTS**

Apart from the pre-session excursion and the educational trip, which are both considered as part of the curriculum, the following social events create opportunities for all students (one- and two-year MA as well as PhD) and faculty to get acquainted in informal settings.

- a welcome party during the orientation period in September;
- a common walk in the Vienna forest at the start of the Fall Term;
- a Christmas Party in December;
- the graduation dinner after the MA thesis defenses in June;
- pub visits after the “Departmental Research Seminars”;
- receptions after most departmental lectures, allowing participants to socialize and continue the discussion in a more informal setting.
- all other events that you are welcome to organize.

## **APPENDIX: DEPARTMENTAL FACULTY, AY 2020-2021**

(subject to change, an updated faculty list is found at: <http://history.ceu.edu/faculty>)

### **A) RESIDENT FACULTY**

*Aziz Al-Azmeh*, University Professor (history of religions; Islamic history).

*Nadia Al-Bagdadi*, Professor, Director of the CEU Institute for Advanced Studies (Islamic and Middle Eastern Studies; 19<sup>th</sup> century intercultural transfers; history and culture of the late Ottoman Empire; comparative religion; history of printing and the book).

*Tolga U. Esmer*, Associate Professor, Director of the One-Year MA Program (Cultural and social history of the Ottoman Empire and its successor states; comparative empire; modern Islamic and Balkan history; frontier and borderland studies; anthropological history).

*Karl Hall*, Associate Professor (History of the modern physical sciences with a special emphasis on Russia and the Soviet Union; 19-20th century Russian and European cultural and intellectual history).

*Jan Hennings*, Associate Professor (Early modern history; Muscovy and imperial Russia; Europe and Russia; Russian-Ottoman relations; new diplomatic history). On leave in 2020/2021.

*Constantin Iordachi*, Professor, Director of Pasts, Inc.: Center for Historical Studies (Modern and contemporary social, legal and institutional history of South-Eastern and Central Europe; Fascism and Communism; comparative citizenship studies).

*Victor Karády*, Professor Emeritus (Historical sociology; history of education in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries; social history of modern European Jewry).

*László Kontler*, Professor, Director of the Doctoral Program (Early-modern European intellectual history; political thought; Enlightenment studies; knowledge production and inter-cultural transfers).

*Emese Lafferton*, Assistant Professor (History of science, medicine and technology; eugenics; racial thinking)

*Michael L. Miller*, Associate Professor, co-appointed at the Nationalism Studies Program (Nationality conflicts in the nineteenth century; religious, cultural and political development of Central European Jewry)

*István Rév*, Professor, Director of the Open Society Archives (Memory cultures; Communism and Fascism; aesthetics and the visual; exhibiting and archiving).

*Alfred J. Rieber*, University Research Professor (Russian and Soviet foreign policy; social history of imperial Russia: comparative history of Eurasia).

*Robyn Radway*, Assistant Professor (Habsburg Empire, History of Art). On leave in 2020/2021.

*Matthias Riedl*, Associate Professor, Head of Department, Director of the Advanced Certificate in Political Thought (History of religion and theology; history of political thought; Reformation and Renaissance studies).

*Charles Shaw*, Assistant Professor (Russian and Soviet history; Central Asia).

*Marsha Siefert*, Associate Professor (Communications and media history; Cold War culture and diplomacy; oral history and biography; cultural history, music and film)

*Balázs Trencsényi*, Professor, Director of the Erasmus Mundus MA program "History in the Public Sphere" (Intellectual history of Central and Southeastern Europe, early modern political thought, history of historiography, nationalism and patriotism).

*Carsten L. Wilke*, Professor, co-appointed at the Department of Medieval Studies, Director of the Two-Year MA Program (Comparative religious studies; Jewish studies; early modern Western Europe).

*Brett Wilson*, Associate Professor, co-appointed at the School of Public Policy, Director of the Center for Eastern Mediterranean Studies (Modern Turkey).

*Susan Zimmermann*, University Professor, co-appointed at the Department of Gender Studies (History of Central European women's movements; comparative internationalisms; histories and concepts of social change in a local-global perspective; comparative history of welfare policy).

## **B) VISITING FACULTY**

*Edit András*, Visiting Professor, Senior Member of the Institute of Art History, Centre for the Humanities of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences, Budapest (History of art, visual studies).

*Jeremy Braverman*, Visiting Lecturer, Media and Visual Education Specialist, CEU Library (Media and visual education, filmmaking).

*Julian Casanova*, Visiting Professor, Professor at the University of Zaragoza, Spain (Comparative history of dictatorships, civil wars and social movements).

*Maciej Janowski*, Visiting Professor, Professor at the Institute of History, Polish Academy of Sciences, Warsaw (Intellectual and social history of Poland and East-Central Europe).

*Ioana Macrea-Toma*, Visiting Lecturer, Associate Research Fellow at the Open Society Archives, Budapest (Cold War history, knowledge systems).

*Ulrich Meurer*, Visiting Lecturer, Lecturer at the Institute of Media and Cultural Studies, Heinrich Heine University Düsseldorf (Film and media philosophy, visual culture and political theory).

*Alexei Miller*, Recurrent Visiting Professor, Member of the Institute for Scientific Information, Russian Academy of Sciences, Moscow (Nationalism in Eastern and East-Central Europe in the 19th century; empires; comparative history of borderlands).

*Rasa Navickaitė*, Visiting Lecturer, co-appointed at the Department of Gender Studies (Gender studies, cultural history, postsocialism).

*Oksana Sarkisova*, Visiting Professor, Chair of Visual Theory and Practice, Research Fellow at the Open Society Archive at CEU (Cultural history, memory and representation, film history, amateur photography, and visual studies).

*Ostap Sereda*, Visiting Professor, Senior Researcher at I. Krypiakevych Institute of Ukrainian Studies, National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine (Nationalism and public sphere in 19th-century Eastern and Central Europe). On leave in 2020/2021.

*György E. Szőnyi*, Recurrent Visiting Professor, co-appointed at the Department of Medieval Studies, Professor at the University of Szeged (Intellectual and cultural history, religious heterodoxy, Western esotericism, semiotics and early modern history, English and Hungarian studies).

*Mate Nikola Tokić*, Visiting Professor, co-appointed at the Department of International Relations and the School of Public Policy (International politics in the twentieth-century; ethnic and nationalist mobilization; history of Yugoslavia).