



Center for Urban History  
of East Central Europe

**Jewish History, Common Past and Heritage: Culture, Cities,  
Milieus**

**7<sup>th</sup> Summer School  
July 11 – August 5, 2016**

**PROF. TIMOTHY R. WHITE**

**SYLLABUS**

**“TEACHING WHILE TOURING: WALKING TOURS AND  
PUBLIC HISTORY”**

**LVIV 2016**

**Center for Urban History of East Central Europe**

“Jewish History, Common Past and Heritage:

Culture, Cities, Milieus”

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Prof. Timothy R. White  
Associate Professor of Urban History  
New Jersey City University  
[twhite@njcu.edu](mailto:twhite@njcu.edu)

Syllabus

**Summer School 2016**

**“Teaching While Touring: Walking Tours and Public History”**

**July 18-22, 2016**

**Center for Urban History, Lviv (Ukraine)**

**Overview**

From Lviv to New York City, walking tours are a unique form of teaching and public history, transcending the everyday interactions of the classroom. On an urban walking tour, students go to the city but the city also comes to them, often in unexpected ways. This course will provide students with a focused analysis of the walking tour as a tool for higher education and for public history. We will spend five days studying this subject, using short and powerful readings to provide common subjects of discussion. All readings will be supplied via the course reader. Each day that we gather, we will engage in interactive lectures, city walks to explore the art of the walking tour in action, and group discussions.

On our first day will focus on contingency, meaning the unexpected roadblocks, people, and conditions that can materialize as one endeavors to lead a tour. We will discuss manageable contingencies, which can be “teachable moments”, as well as those contingencies that need to be overcome or simply bypassed. Also on day one, students will consider logistical and methodological considerations for walking tours, such as group familiarity and visual perspectives when choosing tour stops, and content for each stop. Day two will open up an important discussion of subjectivity in walking tours, building upon the contingencies and logistics of the first two days. All teaching is impacted by the subjectivity of the instructor and students, of course, but usually within the confines of a private classroom. As public history events, however, walking tours invite the subjective responses and interactions of passersby, pedestrians, and local residents. We will discuss strategies for dealing with challenges, questions, and

interactions in many varieties. Building on this discussion, days three and four will feature walking tours for sites of loss, atrocity, or gentrification. The ways that a guide can deal with such sites depending greatly on whether they are truly site-specific to a precise location, such as the World Trade Center or the bebelplatz in Berlin. Last but not least, on day five we will discuss how a guide can best craft the narrative of her or his walking tour, using both logistical and theoretical considerations when deciding the order of tour stops.

### **About the Professor**

Dr. White was born and raised in the U.S., but not in New York City. Having grown up in suburban California, he found the walkable neighborhoods of New York fascinating when arrived in 1999. While completing his Ph.D. in Urban History at Columbia University, Dr. White trained to become a licensed NYC tour guide, and led over 500 tours for customers both domestic and international. Through his formal education and his tour guide experience, he has developed a passion for teaching through walking tours, and gained perspective on these tours as a special form of public engagement. Now located near NYC in Jersey City, NJ, Prof. White continues to lead dozens of walking tours for international visitor groups as well as his students.

### **Sessions**

*Reading for 7/18: "Reflections on the Walking Tour" by T.R. White*

*The Tour Guide, Ch.4, "Shticks of the Trade"*

**July 18, 2016**      Lecture 1: Expect the unexpected: walking tour contingencies

Lecture 2: Site familiarity, visual perspectives, and group engagement

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*Reading for 7/19: The Tour Guide, Ch.5, "Entertaining Identities"*

**July 19, 2016**      Lecture: Subjectivity on the sidewalk

City walk: Dormition church and Na Valahk Square

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*Reading for 7/20 and 7/21: Neil Smith, "New City, New Frontier: The*

*Lower East Side as Wild, Wild West"*

**July 20, 2016**      Lecture: touring sites of loss, atrocity, or gentrification

Case study: Lviv's medieval Jewish quarter

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**July 21, 2016**      Lecture: touring sites of gentrification

Case study: the Jewish Lower East Side of New York City

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*Reading for 7/22: The Tour Guide, Ch. 6, "Re-Keying the City"*

**July 22, 2016**      Lecture: Crafting narrative as a tour leader

Case Study: New York City's "Broadway" and Times Square

City walk: Vally Square and the Opera House