



SUBJECT DATASHEET

The City as Encyclopedia - Introduction to Lens-based Documentarism

BMEGT43X005

I. SUBJECT DESCRIPTION

1. SUBJECT DATA

Subject name

The City as Encyclopedia - Introduction to Lens-based Documentarism

ID (subject code)

BMEGT43X005

Type of subject

class

Course types and lessons

<i>Type</i>	<i>Lessons</i>	<u>Type of assessment</u>
Lecture	0	term mark
Practice	6	<u>Number of credits</u>
Laboratory	0	8

Subject Coordinator

<i>Name</i>	<i>Position</i>	<i>Contact details</i>
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Dr. Gács Anna	associate professor	gacs.anna@gtk.bme.hu
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Educational organisational unit for the subject

Department of Sociology and Communication

Subject website

<https://edu.gtk.bme.hu>

Language of the subject

English - EN

Curricular role of the subject, recommended number of terms

Programme: **Communication and media studies Bachelor's Programme from 2021/22/Term 1**

Subject Role: **Elective**

Recommended semester: **0**

Programme: **MA in Communication and Media Studies**

Subject Role: **Elective**

Recommended semester: **0**

Direct prerequisites

Strong None

Weak None

Parallel None

Exclusion None

Validity of the Subject Description

Approved by the Faculty Board of Faculty of Economic and Social Sciences, Decree No: 580466/11/2025registration number. Valid from: 2025.06.25.

2. OBJECTIVES AND LEARNING OUTCOMES

Objectives

The course provides a hands-on introduction to documentarism, engaging with photography and film while immersing in the city through walks, exhibition visits, artist talks, and short- and long-term assignments. These activities foster new ways of seeing and visual storytelling that can enrich participants' existing creative practices.

Academic results

Knowledge

1. Solid knowledge of conceptualization for studying communication and media phenomena

Skills

1. Ability to recognize social and communication problems, and to choose appropriate solutions

Attitude

1. Avoidance of being biased, prejudicial

Independence and responsibility

1. Independence

Teaching methodology

Inspired by historical attempts to capture totality—such as atlases, encyclopedias, and typologies—each participant will define one or more aspects of the urban environment. The resulting personal projects will form an immersive, collective vision of the city, manifested as an exhibition.

Materials supporting learning

- ● Jorge Luis Borges – The Library of Babel
- ● Paul Auster – City of Glass
- ● Umberto Eco – The Infinity of Lists
- ● Italo Calvino – Invisible Cities
- ● Michel Foucault – The Order of Things: An Archaeology of the Human Sciences
- ● Aby Warburg – Mnemosyne Atlas
- ● Walter Benjamin – The Arcades Project
- ● Henri Lefebvre – The Production of Space
- ● Julian Barnes: The History of the World in 10 Chapters,
- ● Péter Esterházy: Introduction to Fiction
- ● Péter Nádas: Parallel Stories

II. SUBJECT REQUIREMENTS

TESTING AND ASSESSMENT OF LEARNING PERFORMANCE

General Rules

Mandatory participation, no more than 3 missed classes

Performance assessment methods

Assessment of class, group and independent work

Percentage of performance assessments, conducted during the study period, within the rating

- Activity: 30
- homework: 30
- final project: 40
- sum: 100

Percentage of exam elements within the rating

Conditions for obtaining a signature, validity of the signature

Participation

Issuing grades

Excellent	97
Very good	90-96
Good	80-89
Satisfactory	70-79
Pass	60-69
Fail	0-59

Retake and late completion

Retake and make-up test options are defined by the valid regulations of the University's Code on Education and Examination.

Coursework required for the completion of the subject

classwork	84
homeworks	156
sum	240

Approval and validity of subject requirements

Consulted with the Faculty Student Representative Committee, approved by the Vice Dean for Education, valid from: 02.06.2024.

III. COURSE CURRICULUM

THEMATIC UNITS AND FURTHER DETAILS

Topics covered during the term

This project-oriented course introduces participants to collaborative and experimental approaches to documentary photography and filmmaking through playful, immersive exercises. Together, attendees will create a collective encyclopedia of Budapest's urban landscape, culminating in a multimedia exhibition by the end of the semester.

- 1 1. Encyclopedism & Subjectivity: Our Starting Point
- 2 2. Play as a Method of Exploration
- 3 3. Modes of Storytelling
- 4 4. Typologies in Film & Fine Art
- 5 7. Technical Skills & Tools
- 6 8. Exhibition & Installation Basics
- 7 9. Exhibition Visits & Artist Talks

Additional lecturers

Approval and validity of subject requirements