

Central and Eastern Europe in the 20th Century

EUH 3564
Class number: 23986

Instructor: Dumitru Bogdan

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Office hours: T, R, 13-14, or by appointment. Keene-Flint Hall, Room 209.

The class meets Tuesday Period 4 and Thursday Periods 4-5, in Matherly Hall, Room 0006.

Central and Eastern Europe has been one of the most diverse regions of the European continent in terms of ethnic groups, religions, cultures, and political and ideological orientations. With an emphasis on political, social, and cultural issues, this course will examine how its tortuous history and five different political regimes have channeled and shaped the historical evolution of this part of the continent over the last century. Central and Eastern Europe is thus an ideal site for students who want to understand both the obstacles and opportunities that such a diverse region and complex history provide for the development of democratic and inclusive polities and cultures.

Goals

This course has four primary goals. First, it will provide a thorough analysis of nationalism and the system of nation-states in Central and Eastern Europe, focusing on their formation and evolution over the last century, and the renewed challenge of nationalism in present-day Eastern Europe. Second, it will discuss in-depth the traumatic experiences and events suffered by the peoples of Eastern Europe during the twentieth century as a result of the policies undertaken by fascist and communist regimes. Third, this course will examine Central and Eastern European history within a wider international and geopolitical context emphasizing the fundamental cultural and political influence that the West has had upon its historical evolution. Fourth, this class will develop students' critical thinking and creativity through their direct engagement and analysis of various types of historical sources.

Course requirements

Attendance is mandatory.

Class participation - 20 % of the final grade. Students are expected to read the assigned materials and raise thoughtful questions from the assigned readings on lecture days. Moreover they are expected to participate actively in Thursday discussion sections.

2 essays (5-6 pages) - 40%. Students must write two essays (5-6 pp) in response to

questions that will be circulated in advance. Each essay will be worth 20% of the final grade.

Midterm exam - 20%. The midterm exam is on 17 October. Room TBA. It cannot be made up save for extreme circumstances. The exam will be made up of identification questions and essays.

Final exam - 20%. The final exam is on 12 December. Room TBA. It cannot be made up save for extreme circumstances. The exam will be made up of identification questions and essays.

Grade scale

A = 93-100; A- = 90-92

B+ = 87-89; B = 83-86; B- = 80-82

C+ = 77-79; C = 73-76; C- = 70-72

D+ = 67-69; D = 63-66; D- = 60-62

Below 60 – Fails

Academic writing requires that you make your arguments in a clear and precise manner and use appropriate evidence to support them. Thus, writing assignments will be graded on the basis of argument, proper use of evidence, and style. Late assignments will not be accepted. Please apprise the instructor of adverse circumstance that affect your ability to attend class or complete assignments. Official documentation is required to excuse an absence and to schedule make-up assignments. Written work must be presented in hard-copy.

Attendance

Attendance is mandatory. You are permitted three unmotivated absences during the semester. Every absence thereafter will affect your evaluation and grade. Absences will be excused if students provide proper documentation.

Students with disabilities

Students with disabilities requesting accommodations should first register with the Disability Resource Center (352-392-8565, www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/) by providing appropriate documentation. Once registered, students will receive an accommodation letter which must be presented to the instructor when requesting accommodation. Students with disabilities should follow this procedure as early as possible in the semester.

Students in this class are participating in the pilot evaluation of the new course evaluation system called GatorEvals. The new evaluation system is designed to be more informative to instructors so that teaching effectiveness is enhanced and to be more seamlessly linked to UF's CANVAS

learning management system. Students can complete their evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via <https://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/> . Please note your other classes this semester may be evaluated in the current GatorRater online evaluation system at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu> . Thank you for serving as a partner in this important effort.

Required books:

R. J. Crampton, *Eastern Europe in the Twentieth Century*, second edition, 1997.

Andrew Janos, *East Central Europe in the Modern World*, 2000.

Jan Gross, *Neighbors*: Princeton University Press, 2001.

Ivo Andric, *The Bridge on the Drina*, Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1977.

Additional readings will be made available on “Canvas” as the semester progresses. These are indicated in the course schedule (below) with asterisks.

Course Schedule (it is subject to change at any time at the discretion of the instructor)

Week 1

Tu., Aug. 20: Introduction

Th., Aug. 22: I: “Inventing” Eastern Europe

II: Discussion: Imagining Eastern Europe

*Reading: *Larry Wolff, *Inventing Eastern Europe. The Map of Civilization on the Mind of the Enlightenment**

Week 2

Tu., Aug. 27: The Habsburg Monarchy and its peoples

*Reading: R. J. Crampton, *Eastern Europe in the Twentieth Century*, pp. 1-26.*

Th., Aug. 29: I: World War I

*Reading: *Péter Hanák, *Vox Populi: Intercepted Letters in the First World War* (34 pp.)*

II: Discussion

*Reading: Ivo Andrić, *The Bridge on the Drina**

Week 3

Tu., Sept. 3: The Revolutions of 1918

Reading: Crampton, pp. 31-33; 78-84; 95-97;

**”The Fourteen Points”*

Th., Sept. 5: I: The Consolidation of New Nation-States

Reading: Janos, pp. 99-124.

II: Discussion – World War I and its Consequences
*Reading: *John Horne (ed.), A Companion to World War I*

Week 4

Tu., Sept 10: Hungary and Romania during the interwar period
Reading: Crampton, pp. 84-94; 107-118.

Th., Sept. 12: I: The Czechoslovak Republic
Reading: Crampton, pp. 57-77.

II: Discussion – Nationalism and Inter-Communal Relations
*Reading: *Tara Zahra, Kidnapped Souls*

Week 5

Tu., Sept. 17: Poland and the Baltic States
Reading: Crampton, pp. 41-56; 97-103.

Th., Sept. 19: I: The Balkan States
Reading: Crampton: 119-129; 133-143; 144-151.

II: Discussion – Minorities and Minority Identity-Building Narratives

*Reading: *Ahmet Ersoy et. all. (ed.), Discourses of Collective Identity in Central And South East Europe (1770-1945) - Modernism, ch.V.*

First Essay Due on Thursday, Sept. 19, 10 am.

Week 6

Tu., Sept. 24: Ideological Currents in the Interwar Period
Reading: Janos, pp. 125-151.

Th., Sept. 26: I: The Jewish “Question” in Eastern Europe

*Reading: *Ezra Mendelsohn, The Jews of East Central Europe Between the World Wars*

II: Discussion – Fascism

*Reading: *Balasz Trencsenyi et. all. (eds.), Discourses of Collective Identity in Central and South East Europe (1770-1945) - Antimodernism, ch. V. Janos, pp. 166-201.*

Week 7

Tu., Oct. 1: The Second World War
Reading: Crampton, pp. 179-210

Th., Oct. 3: I: The Holocaust in Eastern Europe

*Reading: *Randolph L. Braham, Essays and Documents*

II: Discussion

Reading: Jan Gross, Neighbors (entire book)

Week 8

Tu., Oct. 8: The Establishment of Communist Regimes

Reading: Crampton, pp. 211-239.

*Margolius Kovály, *Under A Cruel Star*

Th., Oct. 10: I: The Stalinist Model

Reading: Janos, pp. 218-228.

II: *Discussion* – *Richard Wurmbrand, *Tortured for Christ*

Week 9

Tu., Oct. 15: A “New Course”? Eastern Europe between 1953 and 1956, Part I

Reading: Crampton, pp. 275-303.

Th., Oct. 17: I: A “New Course”? Eastern Europe between 1956 and 1968, Part II

Reading: Crampton, pp. 307-325.

II *Discussion:* *Czesław Miłosz, *The Captive Mind*

Midterm exam on Thursday, Oct. 17.

Week 10

Tu., Oct. 22: The Prague Spring

Reading: Janos, pp. 314-320.

Crampton, pp. 326-341.

*Margolius Kovály, *Under A Cruel Star*, pp. 178-192.

Th., Oct. 24: I Everyday Life in Socialism

Reading: Crampton, pp. 240-254.

*Milovan Djilas, *The New Class*, Excerpts

II *Discussion:* *Daniela Koleva (ed.), *Negotiating Normality. Everyday Life in Socialist Institutions*

Week 11

Tu., Oct. 29: The Crisis of Communism

Reading: Janos, pp. 329 – 339.

Th., Oct. 31: I: Charter 77 and KOR

Reading: *Charter 77

II: *Discussion:* *Václav Havel, “The Power of the Powerless”

Week 12

Tu., Nov. 5: Solidarity

Reading: Crampton, 367-376.

* The Gdańsk Agreement

Th., Nov. 7: I: Eastern Europe between 1980 and 1989

Reading: Crampton, 379-389.

II: *Discussion:* Dynastic Communism in Romania

Reading: Vladimir Tismaneanu, *Stalinism For All Seasons. A Political History of Romanian Communism*, Excerpts (UF Library – open access)

Week 13

Tu., Nov. 12: The Revolutions of 1989

Reading: Gale Stokes, *The Walls Came Tumbling Down*, ch. 5 (UF Library – open access)

Th., Nov. 14: I: The Disintegration of Yugoslavia

Reading: Gale Stokes, *The Walls Came Tumbling Down*, ch. 6 (UF Library – open access)

II *Discussion* - *László Tőkés, *With God, for the People*

Second Essay Due on Thursday, Nov. 14, 10 am.

Week 14

Tu., Nov. 19: The Communist Legacy

Reading: Janos, pp. 344-360.

Th., Nov. 21: I: The Post-Communist Order

Reading: Janos, pp. 361-385.

II: *Discussion:* *András Sajó, “Universal Rights, Missionaries, Converts, and ‘Local Savages’

Week 15

Tu., Nov. 26: Prospects of Democracy and Development in Central and Europe

Reading: Janos, pp. 407-418.

Th., Nov. 28: Holiday

Week 16

Tu., Dec. 3: Conclusion

Final exam on Thursday, December 12.

