

**EAST-CENTRAL EUROPE AND THE BALKANS:
FROM EMPIRES TO NATION STATES
HIST 233 – SPRING 2018**

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Office Hours: UH 916, Mondays 11am-12pm, Tuesdays 2pm-3pm or by appt.

Class Time: T, Th 12:30-1:45, Lincoln Hall 120

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

For centuries, the lands of East-Central and Southeastern Europe were dominated by massive landed empires. By 1918, after the First World War, the empires collapsed and, in their shadows, were born fledgling nation-states. Providing a social, cultural, and political history of East-Central Europe and the Balkans, this course surveys the region's transition from imperial to national rule. Focusing on the 19th and 20th centuries, this class begins first by looking at the structures of imperial dominance in Eastern Europe. From there, we will focus on the First World War, the dissolution of empires and the rise of nation-states, the Second World War, and the eras of state socialism and post-socialism. Additional topics include nationalism and nation-building, the failure of interwar democracies, the reform and collapse of Communism, and the dissolution of Yugoslavia.

REQUIRED TEXTS:

Ivo Andric, *The Bridge on the Drina*

Slavenka Drakulic, *How We Survived Communism and Even Laughed*

Imre Kertész, *Fatelessness*

There is no textbook for this course, though you may want to consult the following:

Misha Glenny, *The Balkans: Nationalism, War, and the Great Powers, 1804-2011*

Lonnie R. Johnson, *Central Europe: Enemies, Neighbors, Friends*

Philip Longworth, *The Making of Eastern Europe: From Prehistory to Postcommunism*

Mark Mazower, *The Balkans: A Short History*

Joseph Rothschild and Nancy M. Wingfield, *Return to Diversity: A Political History of East Central Europe Since World War II*

Piotr Wandycz, *The Price of Freedom: A History of East Central Europe from the Middle Ages to the Present*

Additional readings will be posted on Blackboard and are marked in the course schedule below. Books are available for purchase in the UIC Bookstore, though they are all easily available from other vendors. Please complete readings prior to class and come prepared to discuss them. In addition to large class discussions, we will occasionally divide into small groups to analyze some readings more closely. Please also feel free to bring articles that you think are interesting to discuss in class.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND METHODS OF EVALUATION: Students will be evaluated on the quality of their performance on the following required assignments:

- Map and Reading Quizzes (15%) – see course schedule for quiz dates
- First Paper (25%) – **due February 13, 2018**
- Second Paper (25%) – **due March 20, 2018**
- Third Paper (25%) – **due April 26, 2018**
- Attendance and Participation (10%)

GRADES: Students' final grades will be rendered according to the following:

A = 90% – 100%

B = 80% – 89%

C = 70% – 79%

D = 60% – 69%

F = 0% – 59%

ADDITIONAL NOTES:

1. **Plagiarism:** Please make sure you understand the definition of plagiarism. Plagiarism will not be tolerated in this class. If you take words from any source, you must use quotation marks and acknowledge the sources with proper citations. Even when you use your own words, but have borrowed an idea from another source, you must reference it. Presenting someone else's work as your own can result in the disqualification of your work and a failing grade for this class. It can also result in suspension from the University. This is a very serious offense and should be treated that way. If you are ever unsure of whether you are at risk of plagiarizing, please ask. Students are required to produce original work for each assignment for this course. Reusing parts of papers written for this or other courses is considered self-plagiarism and will also result in the disqualification of that assignment.
2. **Blackboard and SafeAssign:** This course will require that students access Blackboard (uic.blackboard.com) to read additional readings. Please make sure that you have access to Blackboard from the beginning of the semester. If for some reason you do not, please write to the instructor immediately. All papers must be submitted electronically through SafeAssign via Blackboard before the beginning of the class on the due date **AND** turned in in hard copy in class.
3. **Late Papers:** Late papers drop one letter grade per day after the deadline. An A becomes a B, then a C, and so on. If you cannot complete the assignment on time and need an extension, please contact the instructor ahead of the due date.
4. **Quizzes:** Four quizzes will be administered in this class. The first is an in-class map quiz that serves to familiarize students with the geography and culture of the region. The remaining three will be based on previous lectures and readings.
5. **Cell Phones:** Please come to class on time with cell phones set to silent and stored away. Please refrain from texting or reading text messages during class. Such behavior is extremely disruptive for both you and those around you.

Students who are active on their phones **will** be called out in class. Continued use of your phone will result in being counted as absent for the day.

6. **Use of Technology:** The use of computers to take notes during lecture is permitted **ONLY** if students have the self-discipline to stay off websites and messaging applications. Again, this is distracting to those around you. Please do not abuse this privilege. Students who are found surfing the internet during class will not be able to use their laptops in the future. Those who wish to record lectures must receive permission to do so from the instructor first. This refers only to audio recordings; video recordings are not allowed.
7. **Common Courtesy:** Students are expected to respect, though certainly not always agree with, others' ideas, interpretations, and comments. Healthy and respectful debate is expected and encouraged. Students are also expected to respect the diversity of their classmates. Everyone is encouraged to help create and sustain a healthy, safe, and productive learning environment. Students who regularly come in late, leave to take phone calls, chat with their neighbors during lecture, and are otherwise disrespectful will have their participation grade severely diminished.
8. **Attendance and Participation:** Regular attendance and thoughtful participation are crucial if students want to perform well in this class. Attendance will be taken at the beginning of each class meeting. Students are allowed a maximum of **TWO** unexcused absences before their grade is negatively affected. An absence will only be excused if proper documentation is provided. Please communicate with the instructor ahead of time if you will be absent. Students are responsible for any work and announcements that they may miss during their absence.
9. **E-mailing the Instructor:** Please make sure that your e-mails to the instructor are written carefully and completely with a greeting, message, and signature that identifies yourself. You should use this as an opportunity to building your professional communication skills.
10. **Office Hours:** The instructor is available to meet with students during office hours. Please feel free to stop by. If you cannot attend the scheduled office hours, students can also ask to make an appointment to meet. Office hours are an excellent time to discuss paper drafts, your performance in the class, or to clarify any additional questions you may have. Students who want to go over drafts of their papers must meet with the instructor in person; paper drafts will not be reviewed over e-mail.
11. **Students with Disabilities:** The University of Illinois at Chicago is committed to maintaining a barrier-free environment so that students with disabilities can fully access programs, courses, services, and activities at UIC. Students with disabilities who require accommodations for access to and/or participation in this course are welcome, but must be registered with the Disability Resource Center (DRC). You may contact DRC at 312-413-2183 (v) or 773-649-4535 (VP/Relay) and consult the following: <http://drc.uic.edu/guide-to-accommodations>.

SCHEDULE OF TOPICS AND ASSIGNMENTS:

This course outline is tentative and subject to change during the semester. Students are responsible for all changes announced in class.

- Week 1 – Reading:** Larry Wolff, *Inventing Eastern Europe*, 1-16; Bram Stoker, *Dracula*, 1-11; Milan Kundera, “The Tragedy of Central Europe,” *New York Review of Books* vol. 31, 7 (1984): 33-38, (Blackboard); Ivo Andric, *The Bridge on the Drina*, 13-27
- January 16** Course Introduction
January 18 What’s in a Name?: Placing and Peopling Eastern Europe;
Map Quiz Practice Guide Distributed
- Week 2 – Reading:** Donald Quataert, *The Ottoman Empire, 1700-1922*, excerpts (Blackboard); Continue *The Bridge on the Drina*
- January 23** The Early Slavs and Their Medieval Heritage
January 25 The Expansion of Empires: Ottoman Rule in the Balkans, 14th-19th Centuries, Part I, **Map Quiz.**
- Week 3 – Reading:** Continue *The Bridge on the Drina*
- January 30** The Expansion of Empires: Ottoman Rule in the Balkans, 14th to 19th Centuries, Part II
February 1 The Expansion of Empires: The Habsburg Empire in Bohemia, Hungary, and the Balkans
- Week 4 – Reading:** Finish *The Bridge on the Drina*
- February 6** **Discussion of Ivo Andric, *The Bridge on the Drina*; Paper #1 Prompts Distributed**
February 8 The Rise of Nationalism in Eastern Europe and its Impact on Imperial Rule
- Week 5 – Reading:** Robert Gerwarth, *The Vanquished: Why the First World War Failed to End*, 1-15; Jaroslav Hašek, *The Good Soldier Svejk*, 3-23 (Blackboard)
- February 13** State Formation in the Balkans: The Balkan Wars and the Coming of World War I, **PAPER #1 DUE ON SAFEASSIGN AND IN CLASS.**
February 15 World War I and the End of Imperial Rule in Eastern Europe

- Week 6 – Reading:** Philip Longworth, *The Making of Eastern Europe*, 95-125 (Blackboard); Begin Imre Kertész, *Fatelessness*
- February 20** The Versailles Peace Treaty and the Problems of State Formation, **Reading Quiz #1**
- February 22** The Problems of Democracy in Poland and Czechoslovakia; The Creation of Yugoslavia
- Week 7 – Reading:** Isaac Bashevis Singer, *A Day of Pleasure*, excerpts; Sholem Aleichem, “Chava,” in *Tevoe the Dairyman*, 69-82 (Blackboard); Continue *Fatelessness*
- February 27** Jewish Life in the Late 19th and Early 20th Centuries
- March 1** The Rise of the Nazis and the Turn to the Right; **Reading Quiz #2**
- Week 8 – Reading:** Chad Bryant, “The Language of Resistance? Czech Jokes and Joke-telling under Nazi Occupation, 1943-1945,” *Journal of Contemporary History* 41 (2006): 133-151 (Blackboard); Continue *Fatelessness*
- March 6** World War II: Occupation, Annexation, Resistance, and Collaboration
- March 8** World War II: The Holocaust
- Week 9 – Reading:** Finish *Fatelessness*
- March 13** **Discussion of Imre Kertész, *Fatelessness*; Paper #2 Prompts Distributed**
- March 15** Communism as Revolution; the Re-Invention of Eastern Europe and the Imposition of Stalinism
- Week 10 – Reading:** Begin Slavenka Drakulic, *How We Survived Communism and Even Laughed*
- March 20** Film Screening: “Interrogation;” **PAPER #2 DUE ON SAFEASSIGN AND IN CLASS**
- March 22** Finish “Interrogation” and Discuss

SPRING BREAK – NO CLASS

- Week 11 – Reading:** Continue *How We Survived Communism and Even Laughed*

April 3	Socialism with a Human Face: Reform and Interference in Hungary and Poland as of 1956
April 5	The Prague Spring. Film screening: "Oratorio for Prague"
Week 12 – Reading:	Patrick Hyder Patterson, "Risky Business: What Was Really Being Sold in the Department Stores of Socialist Eastern Europe?" 116-139; "K.O.R.'s Appeal to Society," and "Pope John Paul II Speaks on Victory Square in Warsaw," in Gale Stokes, <i>From Stalinism to Pluralism</i> , 194-215;" "Charter 77," (Blackboard); Continue <i>How We Survived Communism and Even Laughed</i>
April 10 April 12	Consumption and Modernity in Socialist Eastern Europe Charter 77 in Czechoslovakia; the election of Pope John Paul II, and the Rise of the Solidarity Movement, Reading Quiz #3
Week 13 – Reading:	Timothy Garton Ash, <i>The Magic Lantern: The Revolution of '89 Witnessed in Warsaw, Budapest, Berlin and Prague</i> , 25-60. (Blackboard); Finish <i>How We Survived Communism and Even Laughed</i>
April 17 April 19	The Revolutions of 1989 and the Fall of the Berlin Wall Discussion of Slavenka Drakulic, <i>How We Survived Communism and Even Laughed</i>, Paper #3 Prompts Distributed
Week 14 – Reading:	Marci Shore, "It was only a Small Revolution," in <i>The Taste of Ashes: The Afterlife of Totalitarianism in Eastern Europe</i> , 51-68 (Blackboard)
April 24	Democracy and its Discontents: Post-Socialism and Communist Nostalgia
April 26	The Disintegration of Yugoslavia and the Wars of Succession; PAPER #3 DUE ON SAFEASSIGN AND IN CLASS
Week 15 – Reading:	No reading
May 1 May 3	Film Screening: "We Are All Neighbors" European Integration and Skepticism; the New Turn to the Right in East-Central Europe