

HI 260 – East Central Europe from the Eighteenth Century to the Present
Greenlaw 431
MWF 1:00-1:50

Prof. Chad Bryant
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This course follows the history of Eastern Europe from the eighteenth century to the present. Special emphasis will be given to Poland, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary, and the former Yugoslavia. The first third of the course discusses developments within the Habsburg monarchy, which, before its demise after World War I, stretched from present-day Poland to Bosnia and included twelve major nationalities. The second third examines the years from 1918 to 1945. The era began with the creation of “multinational nation-states.” It culminated with Soviet “liberation” from Nazi domination and the creation of nationally homogenous populations in East-Central Europe. The last third concentrates on the period of Communist rule in the region, which lasted until 1989. The course will conclude with a brief look at the Yugoslav wars and issues surrounding accession to the European Union.

Several questions will guide our survey of a region once called “Europe, but not Europe.” How do we explain the rise of nationalism and the many forms that it took in the region? How did industrializing societies and states attempt to organize—or sometimes even eliminate—ethnic, religious, and economic diversity? In what ways did Eastern Europeans adapt and react to liberal, socialist, nationalist, fascist, and communist ideologies imported from the outside? In other words, how did the forces of the modern world shape the region and its peoples? Was there a peculiarly “Eastern European” journey to the modern, industrialized world and, if so, how might we characterize that journey? What differentiates the “Eastern European” experience from that of the “West”? In what ways might the region’s history mirror our own?

Lectures will address these questions through an examination of general trends and individual case studies. Textbook readings will add background information necessary for understanding the lectures. They will also challenge the lectures by providing alternative interpretations of the region’s history. Other readings include a combination of secondary and primary sources such as manifestos, a novel, and a memoir. Many of our discussions will revolve around these reading assignments, which you should read with an historian’s eye for critical assessment and synthesis. I expect you to be active, both during the lectures and in recitation.

Recitation section times and locations:
Thursday 03:00-03:50 Saunders 104
Friday 10:00-10:50 Greenlaw 317
Friday 12:00-12:50 Greenlaw 318

You must register for a recitation section and only attend that section.

Required Texts

Sandor Marai, *The Rebels*

Mark Mazower, *Dark Continent: Europe's Twentieth Century*

Vladimir Macura, *The Mystifications of a Nation: "The Potato Bug" and Other Essays on Czech Culture*

These books will be available for purchase at the Ram's Head. The books will also be on reserve at the undergraduate library. The other readings will be available in the "course documents" folder on blackboard. We will post reading assignment questions in the "assignments" folder on blackboard.

The following textbooks will be placed on reserve for you to consult as the semester progresses:

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

Robert Paul Magosci, *Historical Atlas of Central Europe*

Garrison Walters, *The Other Europe: Eastern Europe to 1945*

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

Course Requirements and Percentage of Final Grade:

Midterm Exam #1: 15%

Midterm Exam #2: 15%

Final Exam: 25%

Paper Assignment: 25%

Class Participation and In-Class Assignments: 20%

Participation is a vital component in determining your final grade. You are required to complete each session's reading assignment and to come to class with ideas, insights, and/or questions for the group. The success of the class depends upon everyone arriving prepared, remaining open to other's ideas, and offering arguments based upon a thorough understanding of the assignments and lectures. All written assignments must be handed in at the beginning of class. Missing class—whether lecture or recitation—will hurt your participation grade. If absent, you are still responsible for that session's reading assignment and any quizzes, homework, or writing tasks that I assign that day. I reserve the right to quiz you about the readings assigned for lecture and recitation section. These quizzes will count toward your participation grade.

You will be required to write one 7-8 page paper which will address one of the main themes of the course. These papers will be due at the beginning of class on Monday, April 25. Late papers will result in a lower grade for that assignment. For each day that the paper is late, the paper's letter grade will be lowered by one-third of a grade. (For example, a "B+" will become a "B".) You will also be required to write two 1-2 page papers on *The Rebels* and "The Pianist," respectively. As with the longer, 7-8 page paper, these assignment questions will be posted on blackboard. Unlike the longer paper,

however, you must bring these two short papers to your recitation section. These papers will count toward your participation grade. I will give more details about these assignments as the semester progresses.

We will have two midterms and a final. While portions of each exam will ask you to repeat factual information, the bulk of each exam will consist of an essay in which you, drawing from the lectures and readings, will make an argument about an historical issue. There will also be a map quiz on Wednesday, January 19. We will post to the “assignments” folder on blackboard the two maps that you will be asked to study as well as the cities and countries that you should learn.

Plagiarism and other forms of cheating will not be tolerated. Remember that when writing, taking exams, or performing other assignments you are bound by the Honor Code. For details, see www.unc.edu/depts/honor/honor.html.

Please do not hesitate to come to either of us with questions, concerns, or requests for help. Professor Bryant will hold office hours in Hamilton 468 on Mondays from 2:00-4:00. Zsolt Nagy will hold office hours from 2:30-4:00 on Wednesdays in Hamilton 463. You can also email us to schedule an appointment. Other sources of assistance are the Writing Center (www.unc.edu/depts/wcweb/); Learning Disabilities Services (www.unc.edu/depts/acadserv/lds.html); Counseling and Wellness Services (<http://caps.unc.edu/>); and, of course, each other.

Class Schedule

The following syllabus—along with our contact information and the course requirements—can also be found in your blackboard.unc.edu folders. Assignments, announcements, and other information relating to the course will appear on blackboard as the semester progresses. Although we are eager to answer questions, you alone are responsible for knowing the information listed here and on the blackboard site.

WEEK 1

Jan. 10: Introducing the course

Jan. 12: Enlightened Absolutism and Joseph II’s Empire
Johnson, *Central Europe*, 98-100, 112-117

Jan. 13 and 14: Recitations

WEEK 2

Jan. 17: Martin King Day – no class

Jan. 19: The Napoleonic Wars, Conservatism, and Metternich’s Empire
Reading: Johnson, *Central Europe*, 118-120

Map quiz

Jan. 21: The Rising Challenges: Nationalism, Liberalism, and Liberal Nationalism
Reading: Johnson, *Central Europe*, 124-134

No recitations this week

WEEK 3

Jan. 24: Challenging the Order of Things: 1848 in Prague

Reading: Johnson, *Central Europe*, 143-151

Jan. 26: Challenging the Order of Things: 1848 in Budapest

Jan. 27 and 28 recitation sections

Readings: František Palacký, “Letter to the Provisional German National Assembly, 1848” and Lajos Kossuth, “Hungarian Declaration of Independence”

WEEK 4

Jan. 31: Habsburg Politics in a New Key

Reading: Walters, “The Habsburg Empire, 1848-1914,” 58-75

Feb. 2: Polish Nationalisms without a Poland

Reading: Johnson, *Central Europe*, 120-124

Feb. 3 and 4: Recitations

Readings: Pieter Judson, “Schoolhouse Fortresses” and David Crowley, “Castles, Cabarets, and Cartoons: Claims on Polishness in Krakow around 1905”

WEEK 5

Feb. 7: Budapest at the Turn of the Century

Feb. 9: The Turn to Violence in Southeastern Europe

Feb. 11: Review for the midterm

No recitation sections this week

WEEK 6

Feb. 14: Midterm exam

Feb 16: World War I

Reading: Palmer, Colton, and Kramer, “The First World War,” 657-679

Feb 18: The Establishment of Interwar Eastern European States

Readings: Mazower, *Dark Continent*, 41-75; begin reading Marai’s *The Rebels*

No recitation sections this week

WEEK 7

Feb. 21: Interwar Hungary

Reading: Johnson, *Central Europe*, 180-186

Feb. 23: Interwar Poland

Reading: Johnson, *Central Europe*, 173-180

Feb. 24 and 25 Recitations

Reading: Marai, *The Rebels*

WEEK 8

Feb. 28: Interwar Yugoslavia

March 2: Interwar Czechoslovakia

March 4: The Origins of World War II

March 7-9: Spring Break – no class

WEEK 9

March 14: Ethnic Cleansing and the Holocaust

Reading: Mazower, *Dark Continent*, 138-181

March 16: Ethnic Cleansing and the Holocaust, part II

Evening film showing: “The Pianist”

March 17 and 18: Recitations

Discussions of “The Pianist”

WEEK 10

March 21: Collaboration and Resistance: The Case of Yugoslavia

March 23: Post-war Expulsions and Retribution

Reading: Mazower, *Dark Continent*, 212-225, 229-237

March 25: Midterm review

No recitations this week

WEEK 11

March 28: Midterm exam

March 30: The Origins of the Cold War

April 1: The Iron Curtain Falls
No recitations this week

WEEK 12

April 4: Stalinism in East-Central Europe
Reading: Mazower, *Dark Continent*, 250-285

April 6: Yugoslavia and Titoism

April 8: Revolts and Repression: Poland, Hungary, and Czechoslovakia

WEEK 13

April 11: “Normalization” and the Rise of Dissent
Reading: Mazower, *Dark Continent*, 361-380

April 13: The Fall of Communism in East-Central Europe
Reading: Mazower, *Dark Continent*, 380-394

April 14 and 15: Recitations

Reading: Selections from Vladimír Macura, *The Mystifications of a Nation* and Slavenka Drakulić, *How We Survived Communism and Even Laughed*

WEEK 14

April 18: The Fall of Yugoslavia

April 20: Post-Communist Eastern Europe and the EU
Reading: Mazower, *Dark Continent*, ix-xv, 361-403

April 22 – No class – University holiday

WEEK 15

April 25: Review for final exam
7-8 page paper due

Final exam: Friday, May 6 at 12:00 PM in our regular classroom