

HI 784 Readings in East European History

Howell 100

T 2:00-5:00

Prof. Chad Bryant
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Office Hours: M 2:00-4:00
and by appointment
Hamilton 468

In this seminar we will discuss some of the major questions, themes, and research agendas in the field of Eastern European history. This year I have made a special effort to assign readings with a variety of approaches to the writing of history. Our topics will include the rise of nationalism; urbanization; interwar diplomacy; World War II and the Holocaust in Eastern Europe; the Stalinism; the cultures of late Communism; and finally the collapse of Communist rule. We will also interrogate the label “Eastern Europe,” asking how the term came about and what European Union enlargement will mean for the region and our definitions of it. Participation in the seminar will provide a solid foundation for anyone planning to make Eastern Europe your first or second field of study.

Books for purchase

Mark Mazower, *The Balkans: A Short History*

Robert Donia, *Sarajevo: A Biography*

Timothy Snyder, *The Reconstruction of Nations: Poland, Ukraine, Lithuania, Belarus, 1569-1999* (available as an e-book through the UNC libraries)

Lonnie Johnson, *Central Europe: Enemies, Neighbors, Friends* (be sure to get the 2010 edition)

Alison Frank, *Oil Empire: Visions of Prosperity in Austrian Galicia*

Tara Zahra, *Kidnapped Souls: National Indifference and the Battle for Children in the Bohemian Lands, 1900-1948*

Carole Fink, *Defending the Rights of Others: The Great Powers, the Jews, and International Minority Protection, 1878-1938*

Czeslaw Milosz, *The Captive Mind*

Paulina Bren, *The Greengrocer and His TV: The Culture of Communism after the 1968 Prague Spring*

Valerie Bunce, *Subversive Institutions: The Design and Destruction of Socialism and the State*

All of these books will be available on reserve in the library. The other readings will be available in the “course documents” folder on blackboard. The following textbooks will also be on reserve for your consultation:

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 Expectations

The heart of the seminar is class discussion. The success of the meetings depends on everyone reading the week's assigned book and then arriving to class with ideas, insights, or questions for the group. I also hope that we can remain open to each other's opinions while offering arguments based upon a thorough understanding of the texts. Quality of thought is more importantly than quantity.

In addition to carefully completing the reading and actively participating in class discussion, you will be asked to complete the following assignments during the course of the semester:

- 1) Journal entries: Seven times during semester you will be asked to write a 150- to 200-word thought piece about a week's reading assignment. The purpose is to generate discussion, not to write a polished book review. Instead, choose one idea that might prove to be a starting point for conversation and carefully develop it. Please post your entry to the "discussion thread" folder to blackboard at least twenty-four hours before seminar begins in order to allow others to read your post. (Questions to keep in mind while completing the readings will begin the thread.)
- 2) Discussion facilitator: Once during the semester you will be asked summarize the journal entries for that week's readings as a means of beginning our discussion. During that class period I will look to you to help me lead the conversation. Also, I will ask you email me some ideas for discussion questions by noon on the Friday before seminar meets.
- 3) Article prize: Your task is to consult the last three years of the *Austrian History Yearbook* and award an article prize. In a 3-4 page paper, provide a congratulatory note that summarizes the article's argument and describe why it deserves the prize. The papers are due on March 1, at which point we spend half the seminar discussing our choices.
- 4) Historiographical essay: You will be asked to write a review essay on five to seven books of your choosing. The books may revolve around a theme discussed in class or on another theme or your choosing. The purpose is not just to summarize the books at hand but draw out common themes and discuss how different authors have approached similar questions and problems. The paper should be 15 to 17 pages in length and is due on the last day of class, April 26.

Grading

Your final grade will be calculated using the following percentages:

Class participation (including journal entries and class facilitator): 50%

Article prize: 15%

Historiographical essay: 35%

Additional background information:

Although the idea of “Eastern Europe” can be traced back to the eighteenth century, Anglo-American historians had until recently spent little time studying the region. The end of the Cold War led to a “re-discovery” of Eastern Europe among historians (and tourists) with one result has been an increasing number of textbooks about the region. If looking for more background information on the region, I would suggest consulting the following:

Ivan Berend, Central and Eastern Europe 1944-1993: Detour from the Periphery to the Periphery (Cambridge, Eng., 1996)

Ivan Berend, Decades of Crisis: Central and Eastern Europe before World War II (Berkeley, Los Angeles and London, 1998)

Ivan Berend, History Derailed: Central and Eastern Europe in the Long Nineteenth Century (Berkeley, Los Angeles and London, 2003)

R. J. Crampton, Eastern Europe in the Twentieth Century (London and New York, 1994)

Andrew C. Janos, East Central Europe in the Modern World: The Politics of the Borderlands from Pre- to Postcommunism (Stanford, 2000)

Mark Pittaway, Eastern Europe: States and Society, 1945-2000 (New York and Oxford, 2003)

Joseph Rothschild and Nancy M. Wingfield, Return to Diversity: A Political History of East Central Europe since WWII

Hugh Seton-Watson, Eastern Europe between the Wars, 1918-1941 (Hamden, Conn., 1962)

George Schöpflin, Politics in Eastern Europe (Oxford and Cambridge, Mass., 1993)

Geoffrey Swain and Nigel Swain, Eastern Europe since 1945 (New York, 2003)

E. Garrison Walters, The Other Europe: Eastern Europe to 1945 (Syracuse, 1998)

Piotr S. Wandyc, The Price of Freedom: A History of East Central Europe from the Middle Ages to the Present (London and New York, 1992)

On the GDR, which is rarely covered in these textbooks:

Mary Fulbrook, Anatomy of a Dictatorship: Inside the GDR 1949-1989 (Oxford, 1995)

Christoph Kleßmann, Die doppelte Staatsgründung: deutsche Geschichte, 1945-1955 (Bonn, 1991)

Specialists in the region should also become familiar with a number of journals that either specialize in or often include articles about our region. These journals include: Austrian History

Yearbook, East European Politics and Societies, Slavic Review, Central European History, Central Europe, East Central Europe, Nationalities Papers, Zeitschrift für Ostmitteleuropaforschung, Jahrbücher für Geschichte Osteuropas, Cold War Studies, and Problems of Post-Communism.

Other important journals that regularly include articles on East European history are: Journal of Modern History, American Historical Review, Contemporary European History, and Journal of Contemporary History.

In addition to consulting the usual search engines (Jstor, Academic Search Elite, Lexis/Nexus, Google.com and the library's search engine), researchers might also benefit from consulting these two sites:

American Bibliography of Slavic and East European Studies
eresources.lib.unc.edu/cgi-bin/external_database_auth?A=P|F=Y|ID=11|URL=http://carousel.lis.uiuc.edu/~absees/search-table.html

EBSEES Online (European Bibliography of Slavic and East European Studies)
<http://eresources.lib.unc.edu/eid/>

Russian and East European Studies Virtual Library
<http://www.ucis.pitt.edu/reesweb>

An especially good source for anyone doing research on nationalism, minority rights, migration and/or ethnic cleansing is the website of the Open Society Institute.
www.osi.hu

Researchers looking for country profiles and reports on current events can turn to the following:

CIA Factbook
www.odci.gov/cia/publications/factbook

BBC World
news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/europe/default.stm

The Economist's country briefings
www.economist.com/countries/

Transitions online – articles written by journalists living and working in the region. Also available through the library's e-journal website
www.tol.cz

Another excellent resource is the website designed by the Center for Russian, Slavic, and East European Studies here at UNC. The site includes links to newspapers from our countries, non-governmental organizations, and other places of interest.

www.unc.edu/depts/slavic/resources/countries.htm

Plan for the course:

Jan. 11: Introductions and Review Essays

István Deák, “Did the Revolution Have to Fail?”

Larry Wolff, “Revising Eastern Europe: Memory and Nation in Recent Historiography”

Jan. 18: Eastern Europe?

Selections from Larry Wolff, *Inventing Eastern Europe*

Peter Bugge “Shatter Zones: The Creation and Re-creation of Europe’s East”

Ellen Comisso and Brad Gutierrez, “Eastern Europe or Central Europe? Exploring a Distinct Regional Identity”

Jan. 25: The Balkans

Mark Mazower, *The Balkans: A Short History*

Robert Donia, *Sarajevo: A Biography*

Feb. 1: Nationalism and the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth

Timothy Snyder, *The Reconstruction of Nations: Poland, Ukraine, Lithuania, Belarus, 1569-1999*

Andrzej Walicki, “The Three Traditions in Polish Patriotism”

Feb. 8: Central Europe and Early Nationalisms

Lonnie Johnson, *Central Europe: Enemies, Neighbors, Friends*, ix-151

R.J.W. Evans, “Nationality in East-Central Europe: Perception and Definition before 1848”

Wendy Bracewell, “Travels Through the Slav World”

Feb. 15: Nationalism, part II

Tara Zahra, *Kidnapped Souls: National Indifference and the Battle for Children in the Bohemian Lands, 1900-1948*

Brian Porter, “Beyond the Study of Nationalism”

Feb. 22: The Oil Fields of Galicia

Alison Frank, *Oil Empire: Visions of Prosperity in Austrian Galicia*

March 1: A Closer Look at Cities

Theodore R. Weeks, “Urban History in Eastern Europe,” *Kritika: Explorations in Russian and Eurasian History*, Vol. 10, no 4 (Fall 2009): 917-933

Selections from Gábor Gyáni, *Identity and the Urban Experience: Fin-de-siècle Budapest*

Selections from Markian Prokopovych, *Habsburg Lemberg: Architecture, Public Space, and Politics in the Galician Capital, 1772-1914*

March 8: No class – spring break

March 15: New States and Their Minorities

Carole Fink, *Defending the Rights of Others: The Great Powers, the Jews, and International Minority Protection, 1878-1938*

Selections from Holly Case, *Between States: The Transylvanian Question and the European Idea During World War II*

March 22: Nazi Rule in Eastern Europe

Eric Steinhart, “Creating Killers: The Nazification of the Black Sea Germans and the Holocaust in Southern Ukraine, 1941-1944”

John Connelly, “From Racial Theory to Racist Practice”

March 29: Stalinism

Czeslaw Milosz, *The Captive Mind*

Selections from Robert C. Tucker, *Stalinism: Essays in Historical Interpretation*

April 5: Normalization, or Stalinism with a Human Face

Paulina Bren, *The Greencrocer and His TV: The Culture of Communism after the 1968 Prague Spring*

Selections from Katherine Verdery, *What Was Socialism and What Comes Next*

April 12: The Fall of Communism

Valerie Bunce, *Subversive Institutions: The Design and Destruction of Socialism and the State*

Mark Beissinger, “Nationalism and the Collapse of Soviet Communism”

April 19: Eastern Europe and Europe

Holly Case, “Being European: East and West”

Selections from John Czaplicka, Nida Gelazis, and Blair A. Ruble, *Cities after the Fall of Communism: Reshaping Cultural Landscapes and European Identity*

April 25: Final Thoughts and the Final Paper