Nationalism & Socialism in east central Europe
HIST 302 ~ MWF 9:30-10:20am ~ UNIV 201

It is a terrible mistake to be a small country in the middle of Europe. – István Deák

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Fall 2013 Office Hours: Monday 2-4pm, or by appointment

The lands between Germany and Russia have been a laboratory for political ideas in the 20th century and beyond. From the collapse of empires following World War One to the most recent expansion of the European Union, domestic and transnational forces have fostered political and social experimentation with nationalism and socialism, along with fascism, communism, populism and democracy. The catastrophic and transformative power of war on society is crucial to understanding the creation of both the interwar nation-state system based on the premise of national self-determination, and the post-World War Two communist regimes based on Soviet-style socialism. We will pay special attention to the weaknesses of the interwar and postwar regimes, strategies of survival, modernization, and dissent using a variety of primary and secondary sources, including novels, film and music.

Required Texts:
• Mark Mazower, Dark Continent: Europe’s twentieth century
• Gale Stokes, ed., From Stalinism to Pluralism: A Documentary History of Eastern Europe Since 1945, 2nd edition
• Arnošt Lustig, Dita Saxova
• Other readings and additional materials will be available on Blackboard
Course Objectives:
By the end of this course, you will have:

1) Gained a deeper understanding of the patterns and processes, ruptures and continuities which have shaped modern east central European society, culture, and politics;
2) Thought historically and critically about approaches to the study of east central European history, including the outcomes of ideological experimentation, and perspectives on how this region fits into a broader global context;
3) Used primary source evidence to analyze fundamental problems in modern east central European history in individual writing and group work;
4) Sharpened critical reading, thinking, writing, and discussion skills.

Attendance:
Attendance at all class sessions is mandatory. Arrive on time. An attendance sheet will be passed around to sign at the beginning of class. More than 4 absences will result in a grade penalty (1/2 of a letter grade) for each subsequent unexcused absence. Unexcused means undocumented by doctor's note, or other valid form of documentation. If there is an occasion where you must leave early, notify me before class starts and sit near an exit. Be courteous. Do not disrupt the professor or your fellow students. The use of electronic devices is not permitted during class time without my expressed permission.

Participation:
You are expected to come to class having completed the requirements for the session, ready to participate. This will be especially important on Fridays, when we have discussion. (15% of final grade)

Exams:
There will be a midterm and final exam, each covering material from one-half of the semester. The exams will consist of identification and essay questions. You will receive a study guide one week in advance of each exam. The exams are not cumulative. You will be allowed the opportunity to take one and only one make-up exam in the case of a documented emergency (midterm 20%, final 25% of final grade).

Map Test:
There will be a map test as we begin exploring the interwar period. You will label a map of east central Europe with the 1930 borders and answer several questions about changing borders. You will find a powerpoint file "20cECEmaps" on the blackboard site for this course (10% of final grade).

The Dita Saxova Project:
The class will be broken into five groups to discuss how the novel Dita Saxova deals with major postwar themes for young Jewish survivors in Prague like immigration, personal relationships, politics, etc. Each group will present one of the themes; each individual will present a topic within that group’s theme. You will write a 2-3 page paper on your topic. You will present in groups, but the paper is yours alone (10% of final grade).

Issues in east central European History Paper:
You will write a 5-7 page paper on a topic chosen from a list of suggestions distributed in class. Other ideas will also be possible. You will turn in a paragraph on your paper topic briefly discussing the issue and questions you will ask to investigate it on Monday, October 14th in class, when we will have a topic workshop. Papers are due Monday, December 2nd. Paper presentations will take place the last week of class. The papers must be typed using 12-point Times New Roman font, double-spaced, with a one-inch margin all around using proper footnote citations. You will find a citation guideline in the pdf file "citation guide" on the blackboard site for this course (20% of final grade).
Important Notes!

• Make use of my office hours and email communication. I will send important announcements to you via your Purdue account. I will announce any changes to the class or reading schedule. I do not respond to emails from Friday sundown through Saturday sundown.

• Cheating / Plagiarism: Plagiarism refers to the reproduction of another's words or ideas without proper attribution. Cheating, plagiarism, and other forms of academic dishonesty are serious offenses, and will result in a failing grade and notification of the Dean of Students Office. Don't do it.

• Course evaluations: During the 15th week of classes, you will receive an official email from evaluation administrators with a link to the evaluation site. You will have two weeks to complete the evaluation.

Disclaimer: In the event of a major campus emergency, the above requirements, deadlines and grading policies are subject to changes that may be required by a revised semester calendar. Any such changes in this course will be posted on Blackboard once the course resumes or can be obtained by contacting the professor via email.

Grading Policies:

• Written work for this course must be typed and adhere to the following format: double-spaced, one-inch margins, in 12-point font of common use (Times New Roman, Garamond), paginated, and proofread!

• Assignments are due at the beginning of class, no late papers will be accepted for full credit and will be penalized by 1/3 letter grade for every day late (A becomes A-). No email attachments.

• Keep all graded assignments until you have received your final grade. In this way, if there are grade discrepancies, you will have the original document in your possession for consideration of final grade adjustment.

• Remember: failure to complete any of the assignments may result in a failing grade for the course.

Week One: Into the Laboratory
M, 8/19: Marci Shore, The Taste of Ashes: The Afterlife of Totalitarianism in Eastern Europe, "Workers of the world unite!" pp. 6-14
  • "The Changing Map of Europe" – centropa clip


Week Two: Test of War
M, 8/26: Aviel Roshwald, "Straining the Imperial Molds, 1914-1918" from Ethnic Nationalism and the Fall of Empires (2001)

W, 8/28: Alon Rachamimov, "In Search of the 'Good and Loyal Prisoner': Austro-Hungarian Censorship and the POWs" from his POWs and the Great War (2002)


Week Three: End of Empires
M, 9/2: LABOR DAY – NO CLASS
W, 9/4: Aviel Roshwald, "Defining the Boundaries of the Nation, 1918-1923" from *Ethnic Nationalism and the Fall of Empires* (2001)

F, 9/6: ROSH HASHANAH – NO CLASS

*BUT:* complete this assignment to hand in at the beginning of class Monday: read *Dark Continent*, pp. 3-26 and discuss what the author explains as the "critique of parliamentarism"; why was liberal democracy in crisis? Do you agree that "fascism was the product of democratic decay"? 1 page, typed, 12pt. TNR

**Week Four:**

**Nations, States, Minorities**


• Bradley Abrams, "Eastern Europe Between the Wars: A Schema of Political Developments"

W, 9/11: MAP TEST

*Dark Continent*, pp. 41-68; and Roshwald, "Defining the Boundaries of the Nation, 1918-1923" pp. 165-170


**Week Five:**

**The Liberal Order's Collapse**

M, 9/16: *Dark Continent*, pp. 27-40


**Week Six:**

**The Nazi Order**

M, 9/23: *Dark Continent*, pp. 69-75, 138-158

W, 9/25: *Terezín: A Town Marked By Tragedy* documentary film

• Ludmila Chládková, *The Terezín Ghetto*

• Dita Saxova groups


**Week Seven:**

**Demographic Revolution**

M, 9/30: *Dark Continent*, pp. 158-181

• Timothy Snyder, "The Nazi Death Factories" *Bloodlands: Europe Between Hitler and Stalin* (2010)

W, 10/2: Peter Gatrell, "Trajectories of Population Displacement in the Aftermaths of Two World Wars"

• [www.centropa.org](http://www.centropa.org) clips

F, 10/4: MIDTERM EXAM
Week Eight: **Postwar**

M, 10/7: OCTOBER BREAK – NO CLASS


• *From Stalinism to Pluralism*, pp. 13-32

F, 10/11: DITA SAXOVA DISCUSSION

Week Nine: **Stalinism**

M, 10/14: PAPER TOPICS DUE – TOPIC WORKSHOP

*Dark Continent*, pp.245-249, 250-272

W, 10/16: *From Stalinism to Pluralism*, pp. 57-77


Week Ten: **Reform?**

M, 10/21: • *Dark Continent*, pp. 273-285


W, 10/23: *From Stalinism to Pluralism*, pp.122-134

F, 10/25: Leszek Kołakowski, "What is Socialism?"

Week Eleven: **Everyday Life**


Week Twelve: **Dissent**

M, 11/4: *Dark Continent*, pp. 361-376

• *From Stalinism to Pluralism*, pp. 175-199

W, 11/6: *From Stalinism to Pluralism*, pp. 200-215

• Timothy Garton Ash, "The Pope in Poland" from *The Uses of Adversity: Essays on the Fate of Central Europe* (1990)

• Marzena Sowa, *Marzi* – "Solidarity" pdf


**Grade scale**

100-98 = A+

97-93 = A

92-90 = A-

89-88 = B+

87-83 = B

82-80 = B-

79-78 = C+

77-73 = C

72-70 = C-

69-68 = D+

67-63 = D

62-60 = D-

59-0 = F
Week Thirteen:  **1989 - The Changes**  
M, 11/11: *Dark Continent*, pp. 376-389  
   
   • *From Stalinism to Pluralism*, pp. 242-253  
   

Week Fourteen:  **What Was Socialism and What Comes Next?**  
M, 11/18: *Dark Continent*, pp. 389-403  
   
W, 11/20: • Slavenka Drakulić, "The Trivial is Political" in *How We Survived Communism and Even Laughed* (1993)  
   
F, 11/22:  NO CLASS

Week Fifteen:  **Virtually Jewish**  
M, 11/25: Ruth Ellen Gruber "A Virtual Jewish World" CEU JSY II  
   • Aaron Hamburger, selections from "Exile" from *The View from Stalin's Head* (2004)  
   
W, 11/27; & F, 11/29: NO CLASS- THANKSGIVING BREAK

Week Sixteen:  **Paper Presentations & Course Wrap-Up**  
M, 12/2:  PAPERS DUE – presentations M, 12/2; W, 12/4; & F, 12/6

   **FINAL EXAM TBA**