

VŠE

Summer Course 2012

Course: History of Central Europe

Course Code: HI 3400

Each course is worth 4 US/7 ECTS semester credits (for a total of 8 US/14 ECTS credits)

45 direct contact hours (includes class lectures, mandatory site visits and direct instruction)

Instructor: PhDr. Kateřina Průšová

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Catalog Description

Central Europe is an elusive concept that has been subjected to frequent changes. Its history is closely tied with the development of the other parts of Europe. We will consider how it relates to Western and Eastern Europe. Rather than simply narrating Central European History in the usual chronological fashion, the course will focus on important concepts, ideas and phenomena that formed the area. The course will thus deal with such issues as nationalism and self-determination, medieval Christianity and state-building, reformation and counter-reformation, modernisation and political ideologies.

Course Prerequisites

None

University of Economics Grading Scale

A	90 %	–	100 %
B	75 %	–	89 %
C	60 %	–	74 %
D/F	0 %	–	59 %

Course Purpose

The main purpose of this course is to provide the Central European History since circa AD 900 with a proper context and to help students understand the most important factors, trends and developments that have been influencing the lives of Central Europeans and the changing designs of their states and governments. This may ultimately lead to a stimulating debate on whether there is actually any tangible ground for carving up a region called "Central Europe" and contrasting it to both Western and Eastern Europe.

Content of the Course

July 8, THU : **1.** Where is the heart of Europe? Changing political definition of the Central European region and its geographical and geological determination, Central Europe as a meeting

point of diverse language groups.

July 9, FRI: **2.** Feudalism and the spread of Christianity. Frankish Empire and Great Moravia. Otonians and the birth of the Holy Roman Empire.

July 12, MON: **3.** The Grand Colonisation of the 12th to 14th centuries and economical increase. Consequences of the conflicts of Papal and Imperial ambitions.

July 14, WED: **4.** The 19th century concept of "Golden Eras" and the 14th century reality.

July 15, THU: **5.** Prague Castle excursion – together with the Czech class

July 16, FRI: **6.** From the early reformation and failure of the first liberal concepts of statehood and European integration, through the reformation and penetration of humanism to the forced recatholicisation.

July 19, MON: **7.** Visit to the Communist Museum Central Europe after the 30 years war, enlightenment and racialism

July 20, TUE: **8.** Romanticism and birth of nationalism, the meaning of "nation" in the Central Europe and a path to the national states. Pan-Slavism and the Drang nach Osten. Origins of the modern society.

July 21, WED: **9.** The Wilsonian laboratory: Central Europe after the collapse of the Austro-Hungarian Empire

(Vienna trip)

July 26, MON: **10.** The 20th century political ideologies and changing views: East, West or Center? I.
Presentations

July 27, TUE: **11.** The 20th century political ideologies and changing views: East, West or Center? II.
Presentations
Take Home Exam

July 28, WED: **12.** Vítkov excursion + Army Museum Žižkov

July 29, THU: **13.** Central Europe in the contemporary politics. Havel and the Visegrad Group. EU and NATO.
Journals due, presentations

July 30, FRI: **14.** Take Home Exam due, presentations

Attendance Policy

In accordance with the policies of VSE, class attendance is mandatory. If a student is absent for more than 2 class sessions in a twelve week course, the final grade for the course will be lowered 5% for each additional absence.

Academic Honesty

VSE has a zero tolerance for plagiarism, cheating and other forms of academic dishonesty. Cheating on exams and quizzes will result in a failing grade for the course. Plagiarism, submitting written assignments that are not your own work, but work copied from, books, articles, internet without citations, papers of classmates and papers prepared by person(s) other than yourself may result in a failing grade for the course. The suspected work will be turned over to the Academic Program Director for evaluation and final decision. See the Student Honor Code for detailed policy.

Course Requirements

Learner is encouraged to think independently about problems and to develop this ability through the class discussions, his or her independent study including an integrative project and a journal reflecting his or her personal experience of the Central European area.

Participation: Participation extends beyond mere attendance. Expect your instructor to keep track of how often you contribute to class discussion.

Quizzes: Will take place at the beginning of every class on a previously assigned reading. Quizzes can not be made up if missed. Combined they make up 25% of the students grade.

Exams: Take home exams will be assigned. Each will have a specific due date and time. Late exams, unlike the quizzes can be made up, but at a lowered grade.

Projects:

Site Visits - All students must conduct 3 independent site visits with historical organizations/ companies/non-for-profits/etc. relevant to their chosen area of historical study. These visits may include meetings with key people in Prague who own or run museums, congresses, galleries or any other relevant and useful visit with people from the Czech community who can give knowledge and insight. Each student must fully document these interviews and submit a 6-10 page (double-spaced) synopsis and evaluation of each site visit which relates to chosen area of study. Site Visit Synopsis should provide a foundation for the student's Capstone project. This is an opportunity for the student to get real-world experience and knowledge from key players in their area of research.

Course Capstone - In preparation for the student's Course Capstone project, the student will conduct extensive data collection and analysis in their chosen area of study. The topic of your paper will be up to you with approval of myself. Together we will find a topic that will be worthy of supporting new knowledge and a topic that won't end in a dead end for you. This data collection must compare and contrast three countries and incorporate the materials covered in the History of Central Europe course. The Capstone project must demonstrate the student's knowledge of issues involved in the selected paper topic and integrate the site visit interviews into the body of the paper as further support of the topic selected. The Capstone will be between 12-15 pages, double spaced, with a complete bibliography.

Journal: Documenting everyday personal meeting with history, economy, politics, culture and thinking and its presentation in an interesting way. In a journal learner can collect information and ideas that will be used in the project.

General Requirements

- The University’s rules on academic integrity (e.g. cheating, plagiarism, submitting false information) will be strictly enforced. Please familiarize yourself with the STUDENT HONOR CODE.

Criteria for Determination of Final Grade, including Evaluation Methods

Activity	Percent	Description
Quizzes	25%	Objective based on weekly reading assignments
Take Home Exams	25%	Written exams based on lectures and readings
Project	25%	An integrative project and a paper on a selected topic. 12-15 pages
Journal	25%	Documenting everyday personal experience with history, economy, politics, culture and thinking.

Course Pack will be provided plus additional readings as I assign weekly including readings from the Central European Journal and The New Presence Journal by Dr. Jan Martin Stransky. Occasionally I will add or delete certain articles and you may need to access some electronic articles. Please do your best to have the articles read before class. I will assign you some readings PRIOR to your departure.

Week 1 Readings:

Assigned Readings:

George Schöpflin, “Introduction,” and “Central Europe: Definitions Old and New,” in George Schöpflin and Nancy Wood, eds., *In Search of Central Europe*. Totowa, NJ: Barnes and Noble, 1989, pp. 1-3, 7-29.

Maria Todorova, “Between Classification and Politics: The Balkans and the Myth of Central Europe,” in *Imagining the Balkans*. London: Oxford University Press, 1997, pp. 140-160.

Friedrich Naumann, *Central Europe*. With an introduction by W. J. Ashley. Translated by Christabel M. Meredith. London: P.S. King, 1917.

Ronald Grigor Suny, “The Empire Strikes Out: Imperial Russia, ‘National’ Identity,’ and

Theories of Empire,” in Ronald Suny and Terry Martin, eds., *A State of Nations. Empire and Nation-Making in the Age of Lenin and Stalin*. New York: Oxford University Press, 2001, pp. 23-66.

Suggested Readings:

Maria Todorova, “The Balkans: From Discovery to Invention,” *Slavic Review* 53 (1994) 2, pp. 453-482.

Larry Wolff, *Inventing Eastern Europe: The Map of Civilization on the Mind of the Enlightenment*. Stanford, Calif.: Stanford University Press, 1994, pp. 1-16.

László Kontler, “Introduction: Reflections on Symbolic Geography,” in “Central Europe: Ten Years After” (Thematic Issue), *European Review of History*, 6 (Spring 1999), 1, pp. 9-15.

Further Interesting Readings:

Braude, Benjamin, “Foundation myths of the millet system,” in Benjamin Braude and Bernard Lewis, eds., *Christians and Jews in the Ottoman Empire. The Functioning of a Plural Society*. New York and London: Holmes & Meier Publisher, 1982, Vol. 1, pp. 70-75.

Kemal H. Karpat, “Millets and Nationality: The Roots of the Incongruity of Nation and State in the Post-Ottoman Era,” in Braude and Lewis, *Christians and Jews in the Ottoman Empire*, Vol. 1, pp. 141-169.

Week 2 Readings

Assigned Readings:

Peter F. Sugar, “External and Domestic Roots of Eastern European Nationalism,” in Peter F. Sugar

and Ivo J. Lederer, eds., *Nationalism in Eastern Europe*. Seattle: University of Washington Press, 1969, pp. 3-54.

Gale Stokes, “The Social Origins of East European Politics,” in Daniel Chirot, (ed.) *The Origins of Backwardness in Eastern Europe: Economics and Politics from the Middle Ages Until the Early Twentieth Century*. Berkeley: University of California Press, 1989, pp. 210-251.

Suggested Readings:

Peter F. Sugar (ed.), *Eastern European Nationalism in the Twentieth Century*. Washington,

D.C.: American University Press, 1995.

Hugh Agnew, *The Czechs and the Lands of the Bohemian Crown*. This book is available in a printed version and you can also consult it on-line: <http://www.hoover.org/publications/books/2994881.html>

Robin Okin, "To World War and Collapse," in *The Habsburg Monarchy*, pp. 363-401.

(Some additional Topics Revolving around the Cultural Revolt and the Crisis of Liberalism in the 1900s)

Assigned Readings:

Carl E. Schorske, "Introduction," and "Politics and the Psyché: Schnitzler and Hofmannsthal," in *Fin-de-Siècle Vienna: Politics and Culture*, New York: Vintage Books, 1981, pp. 3-23.

John Neubauer, *The Fin-de-Siècle Culture of Adolescence*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1992.

Mikulás Teich and Roy Porter, eds., *Fin-de-Siècle and its Legacy*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1993.

Week 3 Readings:

Assigned Readings:

Roger Griffin, "The Abortive Fascist Movements in Inter-war Europe," in *The Nature of Fascism*, London: Pinter Publishers, 1991, pp. 116-145.

Roger Griffin, "Romania" and "Hungary" in *Fascism*, pp. 169-170, 219-226.

Constantin Iordachi, "Charisma, Religion, Ideology: Romania's Interwar Legion of the Archangel Michael," in John R. Lampe and Mark Mazower (eds.), *Ideologies and National Identities: The Case of Twentieth-Century Southeastern Europe*, Budapest, New York: CEU Press, 2004, p.19-53.

Emilio Gentile, "Fascism as Political Religion," *Journal of Contemporary History*, 25 (May-June 1990) 2/3, pp. 229-251.

R. J. Crampton, "The Inter-war Years: An Introductory Survey," and "Ideological Currents in the Inter-war Period," in *Eastern Europe in the Twentieth Century – And After*. New York: Routledge, 1997, pp. 31-38, 152-176.

Mark Almond, Jeremy Black, Felipe Fernandez-Armesto, Rosamund McKitterick, Chris Scarre, András Berezsnay, *The Times Atlas of European History*, London, 1994.

Paul Robert Magocsi, "Population Movements, 1944-1948," in *Historical Atlas of East Central Europe*. Seattle, London: University of Washington Press, 1993, pp. 164-168.

Dariusz Stola, "Forced Migrations in Central European History," *International Migration Review* 26 (Summer 1992) 2, 324-341.

Additional Interesting Readings:

Michael Marrus, R. *The Unwanted. European Refugees in the Twentieth Century*. New York and Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1985.

Raul Hilberg, *The Destruction of the European Jews*. 3 Vols. Chicago: Quadrangle Books, 1961. New York: Watts, 1973.

Daniel Jonah Goldhagen, *Hitler's Willing Executioners: Ordinary Germans and the Holocaust*. London: Little, Brown, 1996.

Week 4 You will be given the 12 issue of *The New Presence*. Please read all the articles related to culture and communism – we will hold one class session at the Communist Museum

Assigned Readings:

Jan Gross, "The Social Consequences of War: Preliminaries for the Study of the Imposition of Communist Regimes in East Central Europe," *East European Politics and Societies* 3 (1989), pp.198-214.

Czesław Miłosz, *The Captive Mind*. New York: Vintage, 1981.

Gale Stokes, Doc. 7: "Stalinists;" Doc. 9: "The expulsion of Yugoslavia;" Doc. 10-11: "The Purge Trials" in *From Stalinism to Pluralism. A Documentary History of Eastern Europe Since 1945*. 2nd ed. New York, Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1996, pp. 44-50, 58-77.

Denis P. Hupchick, Harold E. Cox, *A Concise Historical Atlas of Eastern Europe*, New York, 1996.

George Hodos, *Show Trials: Stalinist Purges in Eastern Europe, 1948-1954*. New York: Praeger, 1987.

Katherine Verdery, "What was socialism and why did it fall?," in *What Was Socialism, and What Comes Next?* Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1996, pp. 19-38.

Daniel Chirot, "What Happened in Eastern Europe in 1989?," in Vladimir Tismăneanu, ed., *The Revolutions of 1989*. London: Routledge, 1999, pp. 19-50.

Additional Interesting Readings:

Gale Stokes, Docs. 38-43, in *From Stalinism to Pluralism*, pp. 224-253.

Adam Michnik. *Letters from Prison and Other Essays*. Berkeley: UC Press, 1985. ix-98.

Cliff Lewis and Carroll Britch, "Light Out of Poland: Wajda's Man of Marble and Man of Iron,"

Valerie Bunce, "The Political Economy of Postsocialism," *Slavic Review*, 58 (Winter 1999) 4, pp.756-793.

Even More Interesting Readings:

Mitchell Orenstein, "Strategies for Transformation," in *Out of the Red: Building Capitalism and Democracy in Postcommunist Europe*. Ann Arbor, Michigan: University of Michigan Press, 2001, pp. 11-24.

Robert Bideleux, Ian Jeffries, *A History of Eastern Europe, Crisis and Change*, London, New York, 1998.

Peter Demetz, *Prague in Black and Gold*, New York, 1997.

Date Prepared and By Whom Prepared: PhDr. Kateřina Průšová, April 2011