

## **HISTORY 223: Eastern Europe since 1900: War, Revolution, Society**

Professor Kathryn Ciancia

Office Hours: Wednesdays, Mosse 4124, 1:30-3:30pm

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Lectures & Discussion, Monday, Wednesday, Friday, 12:05-12:55pm

Mosse Humanities Building 1221



### **Course Description**

This class introduces students to the dramatic history of twentieth-century Eastern Europe, a place where imperialism, Nazism, Communism, genocide, democracy, and capitalism all left their mark. The course revolves around three important and interrelated themes, all of which allow us to place Eastern Europe within a broader European context. The first focuses on the causes, nature, and consequences of war in the region, from World War One to the bloody collapse of Yugoslavia in the 1990s, and the ways in which people experienced ethnic cleansing, genocide, and violence. The second theme is that of revolution. We'll debate the social and political revolutions that occurred at the end of World War One, during and after World War Two, and at the end of the Cold War, as preexisting societies collapsed and new ones were created. Finally, we'll focus on the role that society played in this drama. In addition to exploring important political, economic, and cultural changes, we'll discover how ordinary people—including workers, peasants, women, and children—experienced attempts to change the region and its people. The class will conclude with an exploration of how East Europeans continue to wrestle with the ghosts of their past today and how the transition to a post-Communist system poses challenges across the region.

## **Methods of Assessment**

### **1. Discussion participation (30% of total grade):**

Every Friday during lecture time (with a few exceptions) we will discuss the themes of the week's lectures and assigned readings. I will assess your participation in two ways:

- a) **Posted responses (around 100 words each) to readings.** You will post your responses on the weekly forum at the Learn@UW site by 6pm the day before each discussion. The responses will not be graded but they will form the basis for our discussion and will be considered when I decide upon your participation grade. Your response should discuss what struck you most about the reading(s) and should pose at least one question that you would like to discuss in class. You are encouraged to build on the ideas of your classmates.
- b) **Class participation.** You should be prepared for lively and engaged discussion, including any small group work that we do during lecture time. Remember that quality is better than quantity and that listening carefully to the thoughts of your classmates before responding is an important skill to develop.

**2. Short papers (40% of total grade—20% each):** There will be two short written assignments, one due in week 5, one due in week 10. The questions and guidelines will be distributed separately.

**3. Final take-home exam (30% of total grade):** I will distribute a range of questions, all of which will ask you to make an argument by bringing together the class materials as a whole. Due at 10am on Tuesday, December 17.

## **Class Objectives**

By the end of the class, students should be able to:

- ❖ Reflect on their own responses to the readings;
- ❖ Provide an overall synthesis of the key themes of modern East European history, as experienced through lectures, class discussions, and readings;
- ❖ Create historical questions that lead to effective and engaging class discussions;
- ❖ Understand and communicate the basic arguments put forward by the various authors of the assigned sources, as well as discuss and critique those arguments;
- ❖ Identify how primary sources (in a range of different forms) can help us to answer particular historical questions, as well as the ways in which their usefulness is limited;
- ❖ Present their ideas clearly in both written and oral form.

## **Assigned Readings**

All readings are marked with a symbol to help you to locate them:

**UB/R:** For purchase and on reserve in College Library

**CR:** Course Reader

**L@UW:** Uploaded document or link provided at our Learn@UW site

The course readers for this class can be purchased from the Copy Center in Mosse Building. The following books are available for purchase/on reserve:

1. R.J. Crampton, *Eastern Europe in the Twentieth Century—And After* (New York: Routledge, 1997). ISBN-13: 978-0415164238 (2<sup>nd</sup> edition)\*
2. Heda Kovaly, *Under a Cruel Star: A Life in Prague, 1941-1968* (New York: Holmes and Meier, 1997). ISBN-13: 978-0841913776
3. Slavenka Drakulic, *How We Survived Communism and Even Laughed* (New York: Harper Perennial, 1993). ISBN-13: 978-0060975401 (reprint edition)
4. Timothy Garton Ash, *The Magic Lantern: The Revolution of '89 Witnessed in Warsaw, Budapest, Berlin, and Prague* (New York: Vintage, 1993). ISBN-13: 978-0679740483

\*The textbook reading suggestions are for your own reference and will not be discussed directly in class. When multiple page ranges are included, the pages that are in **bold** cover the whole of Eastern Europe, while those that are not in bold cover specific countries.

### **Streaming digital films**

The three films for the class can be accessed at the Digital Language Lab. Streaming works at the following campus facilities: Van Hise Info Lab (rm. 464), Van Hise Learning Lab (rm. 259), Memorial Library InfoLab, Student Activity Center, and College Library 3rd floor. In the campus infolabs, use Safari or Chrome as the browser.

Here's how you can watch them:

1. Go to Learning Support Services digital language lab webpage:  
<http://lss.wisc.edu/node/917>
2. You will be prompted for a login: **hs223** password: **nRisxQ**

### **Weekly class schedule**

#### **Week 1**

Lecture 1 (W, 09/04): Introduction to the Class: Why Eastern Europe?

Lecture 2 (F, 09/06): Eastern Europe: Histories, Lands, and Peoples

*No assigned readings*

#### **Week 2**

Lecture 1 (M, 09/09): Empires on the Eve of War

Lecture 2 (W, 09/11): World War One in the East

Lecture 3 (F, 09/13): Discussion

Readings:

1. S. Ansky, *The Enemy at His Pleasure: A Journey Through the Pale of Settlement During World War I* (New York: Metropolitan Books, 2002), pp. ix-xvii, pp. 3-47; pp. 63-82. **CR**

Textbook: pp. 1-27.

**Week 3**

Lecture 1 (M, 09/16): From Empires to Nation-States

Lecture 2 (W, 09/18): Democracy in Trouble: The 1920s

Lecture 3 (F, 09/20): Discussion

Readings:

1. *The Question of Bessarabia* (Paris, 1919), pp. 3-5, pp. 9-15. **CR**
2. George Lukács, "The Injustices of the Treaty of Trianon," in *Justice for Hungary: Review and Criticism of the Effect of the Treaty of Trianon* (London: Longmans, Green, 1928), pp. 125-187. **CR**
3. British Pathe (silent) footage: "Governor Horthy" (1922); "Pilsudski: Europe's New Mussolini" (1926); "Albania Now a Kingdom" (1928); "King Boris" (1929); "King Carol" (1930). **L@UW**

Textbook: **pp. 31-38**; pp. 39-51; pp. 57-70; pp. 78-88; pp. 107-113; pp. 119-125; pp. 130-139.

**Week 4**

Lecture 1 (M, 09/23) : Being Modern in Eastern Europe

Lecture 2 (W, 09/25): Eastern Europe and the Wider World

Lecture 3 (F, 09/27): Discussion

Readings:

1. Czeslaw Milosz, *Native Realm: A Search for Self-Definition* (Garden City, N.Y.: Doubleday, 1968), pp. 1-35; pp. 46-68; pp. 91-107. **CR**
2. Corneliu Codreanu, "A Few Remarks on Democracy," in Stephen Fischer-Galati, ed., *Man, State, and Society in East European History* (New York: Praeger, 1970), pp. 327-330. **CR**

Textbook: pp. 51-56; pp. 70-77; pp. 88-94; pp. 113-118; pp. 126-129, pp. 139-143, **pp. 152-176.**

### **Week 5**

Lecture 1 (M, 09/30): War and Occupation, 1939-1941

Lecture 2 (W, 10/02): The Holocaust as an East European Event

Lecture 3 (F, 10/04): Discussion

#### Readings:

1. Jan T. Gross, "Annals of War," *The New Yorker*, March 12, 2001, pp. 64 -71. **CR**
2. Movie: In Darkness (Agnieszka Holland, 2011) **L@UW**

Textbook: pp. 179-190.

\*Milosz assignment due in class and dropbox\*

### **Week 6**

Lecture 1 (M, 10/07): The Local Civil War in Yugoslavia

Lecture 2 (W, 10/09): War's End in the East

Lecture 3 (F, 10/11): Discussion

#### Readings:

1. Milovan Djilas, *Wartime* (New York: Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 1977), pp. 91-172. **CR**

Textbook: pp. 190-209.

### **Week 7**

Lecture 1 (M, 10/14): Communist Takeovers: Political and Diplomatic Frameworks

Lecture 2 (W, 10/16): Communist Takeovers: The Role of Society

Lecture 3 (F, 10/18): Discussion

#### Readings:

1. Heda Kovaly, *Under a Cruel Star: A Life in Prague, 1941-1968*, pp. 5-74. **UB/R**
2. "Preface," and "Alpha, The Moralist," in Czeslaw Milosz, *The Captive Mind* (New York: Knopf, 1953), pp. vii-xiv, pp. 82-110. **CR**

Textbook: pp. 211-254.

## **Week 8**

Lecture 1 (M, 10/21): What was Stalinism?

Lecture 2 (W, 10/23): Making a New Man and a New Woman

Lecture 3 (F, 10/25): Discussion

### Readings:

1. Heda Kovaly, *Under a Cruel Star: A Life in Prague, 1941-1968*, pp. 75-163. **UB/R**
2. Eugen Loebel, *My Mind on Trial* (New York: Harcourt Brace Jovanovich, 1976), pp. 74-90, pp. 188-206. **CR**

Textbook: pp. 255-274.

## **Week 9**

Lecture 1 (M, 10/28): De-Stalinization and the Hungarian Revolution

Lecture 2 (W, 10/30): The Rise of Consumption

Lecture 3 (F, 11/01): Discussion

### Readings:

1. "Patriots Strike Ferocious Blows at Tyranny," *Life* magazine, November 12, 1956, pp. 34-43. **L@UW**
2. Imre Nagy, "Reform Communism," in Gale Stokes, ed., *From Stalinism to Pluralism* (New York: Oxford University Press, 1996), pp. 82-87. **CR**
3. Paul Lendvai, *One Day That Shook the Communist World: The 1956 Hungarian Uprising and Its Legacy* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2008), pp. 5-24, pp. 56-66, pp. 149-161, pp. 173-194. **CR**

Textbook: pp. 275-325.

## **Week 10**

Lecture 1 (M, 11/04): 1968 in Poland and Czechoslovakia

Lecture 2 (W, 11/06): Normalization: The 1970s

Lecture 3 (F, 11/08): Discussion

Readings:

1. Zdenek Mlynar, "Towards a Democratic Political Organization of Society," and Ludvik Vaculik, "Two Thousand Words," in Stokes, *From Stalinism to Pluralism*, pp. 122-130. **CR**
2. "Transcript of Leonid Brezhnev's Telephone Conversation with Alexander Dubcek, August 13, 1968" in Jaromir Navratil, ed., *The Prague Spring '68* (New York: CEU Press, 1998), pp. 345-357. **CR**
3. Movie: *The Firemen's Ball* (Milos Forman, 1967) **L@UW**

Textbook: pp. 326-341.

\*Assignment on Hungarian Revolution due in class and dropbox\*

**Week 11**

Lecture 1 (M, 11/11): Living in Truth: Dissidents in Czechoslovakia

Lecture 2 (W, 11/13): The Solidarity Revolution

Lecture 3 (F, 11/15): Discussion

Readings:

1. "Manifesto of Charter '77," and Vaclav Havel, "The Power of the Powerless," in Stokes, *From Stalinism to Pluralism*, pp. 163-174. **CR**
2. "Pope John Paul II speaks in Victory Square," "The Gdansk Agreement," "Solidarity's Program," "Jaruzelski Declares Martial Law," in Stokes, *From Stalinism to Pluralism*, pp. 200-215. **CR**
3. CBS News: The Pope's visit to Poland (1979). **L@UW**
4. Polish rock music and lyrics **L@UW**

Textbook: pp. 345-376.

**Week 12**

Lecture 1 (M, 11/18): Ordinary Lives in the 1980s

Lecture 2 (W, 11/20): Discussion

Reading:

I. Slavenka Drakulic, *How We Survived Communism and Even Laughed*. **UB/R**

Textbook: pp. 379-389.

Lecture 3 (F, 11/22): In-class documentary screening

### **Week 13**

Lecture 1 (M, 11/25): The Revolutions of 1989

Lecture 2 (W, 11/27): Discussion

#### Reading:

1. Timothy Garton Ash, *The Magic Lantern: The Revolution of '89 Witnessed in Warsaw, Budapest, Berlin, and Prague*. **UB/R**

Textbook: pp. 391-415.

Lecture 3 (F, 11/29): NO LECTURE (THANKSGIVING BREAK)

### **Week 14**

Lecture 1 (M, 12/02): The End of Yugoslavia

Lecture 2 (W, 12/04): Post-Communist Transitions and Nostalgia

Lecture 3 (F, 12/06): Discussion

#### Readings:

1. Slobodan Milosevic's speech at Kosovo (April 1989). **L@UW**
2. Marci Shore, "It was only a Small Revolution," in *The Taste of Ashes: The Afterlife of Totalitarianism in Eastern Europe* (New York: Crown, 2013), pp. 51-68. **CR**
3. Film: Good Bye, Lenin! (Wolfgang Becker, 2003) **L@UW**

Textbook: pp. 419-421, pp. 429-458.

### **Week 15**

Lecture 1: Eastern Europe Today

Lecture 2: Class conclusions

Lecture 3: Discussion



Readings:

Links to the readings will be posted. **L@UW.**

\*Final take-home exam due at 10am on Tuesday, December 17\*

### **Class Policies and Further Resources**

My office hours are posted at the top of the syllabus. Please come by! These hours are set aside specifically for students, and I would be happy to discuss any aspect of the class with you.

There is no laptop use in lecture, cell phones should be silenced, and anything with a screen (included Ipads and other electronic devices) should be turned off. Come and speak with me if you are concerned about this policy.

You must ensure that you bring all the relevant readings to our class discussion.

We will begin lectures and discussions on time, so please make sure that you arrive a few minutes early. Persistent tardiness leads to a lower participation grade.

If you know that you are going to be absent from our discussion, it is your responsibility to inform me as soon as possible. If you miss lecture or discussion, you should obtain class notes and materials from another student.

Papers should be turned in on time to avoid a grade penalty. If there is a problem, it is important that you speak to me in plenty of time prior to the deadline. Papers are considered late if they come in after the beginning of lecture on the due date. Late papers will be penalized by a half-grade per day. A hard copy of the paper should be submitted in lecture AND an electronic copy should be uploaded into the dropbox at Learn@UW. Email submissions will not be accepted.

Academic honesty is important to me. There is information about what constitutes plagiarism here ([http://writing.wisc.edu/Handbook/QPA\\_plagiarism.html](http://writing.wisc.edu/Handbook/QPA_plagiarism.html)), but please come and speak with me during office hours if you have questions or concerns. Pleading ignorance about what constitutes plagiarism is not an acceptable excuse. You can read more about student codes of conduct here (<http://students.wisc.edu/saja/misconduct/UWSI4.html#points>)

Please note that access to the movie streaming system is restricted to students in this course. Students may not copy, share, distribute or otherwise allow or facilitate any

unauthorized access to the content or the passwords issued. Individuals who violate this provision will be subject to disciplinary action under the UW-Madison Academic and/or Non-Academic Misconduct Codes.

Disability guidelines for course accommodations may be found at the UW McBurney Disability Resource Center site: <http://www.mcburney.wisc.edu/>

All papers should conform to the specified page limit. They should be double-spaced, with good margins and consistent, accurate footnotes. The Chicago Manual of Style can be found online at [www.chicagomanualofstyle.org](http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org)

The University's Writing Center is a wonderful resource that allows you to work with a consultant to improve your written work. Since writing is a process, everyone—even the most experienced writers—can benefit from one of these individualized appointments.

Take a look at their website (<http://www.writing.wisc.edu/index.html>) for more information.

### **Email protocol**

If you have questions for Professor Ciancia, you should first read the information on this syllabus carefully to see if the answer you're looking for is included. If your question is not answered by the syllabus, please refer to the "Frequently Asked Questions" forum on our Learn@UW website. If you still cannot find an answer, you may ask the question in an email. Please be courteous and professional. If I think that the answer to your question would be helpful to other students, I will post both the question and the answer under the "FAQ" forum. Please allow 24 hours for an email response.