

HISTORY 891: Historiography of Modern Eastern Europe

Professor Kathryn Ciancia

Spring 2016

Office Hours: Office Hours: Thursdays, 1:30-3:30pm, or by appointment

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Seminar: Tuesdays, Humanities 5257, 3:30-5:25pm

Course Description

This class has three aims: to introduce graduate students to the complex and turbulent modern history of Eastern Europe, to critically explore the ways in which this dynamic field emerged over time and continues to develop today, and to train graduate students in core verbal, written, and reading skills. We will read a series of texts that open up exciting debates on key questions of East European historiography: Why does “Eastern Europe” exist as a field of study? How can East European history be effectively integrated into European history more broadly? What can it reveal to scholars who have primarily focused on the western part of the continent? What specific contributions has East European history made in the fields of nationalism and national indifference, urban history, gender studies, and the history of mass violence and genocide? We will focus on topics that have led to often controversial arguments, including the treatment of national minorities under empires and nation-states, the Holocaust as an East European event, and society and politics under Communism. Throughout, we will be sensitive to how people in the region have dealt with their own histories and how memory and history have often come into conflict. Students will be assessed by their participation in the seminar discussions, their critical written and oral reviews of the class materials, and a final piece of work in which they evaluate the current state of the field.

Methods of Assessment

- **Short (300-word) summary of reading (5% of total grade):** For Week 4 (*The Devil's Chain*)
- **Short summary and evaluation of readings (10% of total grade):** For week 6, write a 300-word summary of the book (*Kidnapped Souls*) and a 300-word evaluation of its approach.
- **Book Review #1 (15% of total grade):** There will be one short book review assignment due in Week 9. For this assignment, you will review *Sarajevo, 1941-1945*. The essay should be between 1100 and 1200 words (the latter is the maximum word count for single book reviews in the *American Historical Review*). We will discuss the details of the assignment in class.
- **Book Review #2 (30% of total grade):** You will write a review of the state of the field in which you bring multiple texts into dialogue with one another AND bring in texts in your field of expertise. For MA students, the word range

- is 3,500-3,700 (Focus on TWO class texts). For PhD students, it is 4,500-4,700 (Focus on THREE class texts). The assignment is due in Week 15.
- **Discussion participation (40% of total grade):** I will assess your participation in three ways (see the more detailed criteria at the end of this syllabus):
 - a) **Class participation.** You should be prepared for lively and engaged discussion. 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.
 - b) **Discussion leading.** In addition to participating every week, each student will lead discussion for the first half of one seminar on TWO OCCASIONS. Take a look at the syllabus to consider the weeks in which you would like to lead discussion. You will post your 3 discussion questions under the appropriate heading at our Learn@UW website by 3:30pm on Sunday (i.e. 48 hours before the beginning of the class that you are assigned to lead).
 - c) **Quick responses:** Each week, everyone should check the questions on Learn@UW, and post a response (around 200 words) to one of the questions by 3:30pm on Monday (i.e. 24 hours before the beginning of class). All students should have read all of their classmates' responses prior to the beginning of class.

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 reader for this class can be purchased from the Letters and Science Copy Center in the Social Science Building (see below for more information). Please note that a copy of the course reader will also be available on reserve at College Library.

Located at:

Sewell Hall, Room 6120
1180 Observatory Drive
Madison, WI 53706
262-5396

Email:

copycenter@ls.wisc.edu

Weekly class schedule

Part I: Approaching “Eastern Europe”

Week 1 (01/19): Class Introductions

No assigned readings

Week 2 (01/26): Geographical and Philosophical Designations

Readings:

1. Larry Wolff, *Inventing Eastern Europe: The Map of Civilization on the Mind of the Enlightenment* (Stanford: Stanford University Press, 1994), 1-16. **CR**
2. Tony Judt, “The Rediscovery of Central Europe,” *Daedalus* 119, no. 1 (1990): 23-54. **CR**
3. Milan Kundera, “The Tragedy of Central Europe,” in *From Stalinism to Pluralism: A Documentary History of Eastern Europe since 1945*, edited by Gale Stokes (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1996), 217-223. **CR**
4. Maria Todorova, *Imagining the Balkans* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2009), 3-20. **CR**
5. Robert Kaplan, *Balkan Ghosts: A Journey Through History* (New York: Vintage Books, 1994), xv-xxvii.
6. Timothy Snyder and Norman Naimark, “The ‘State of the Field.’ Report on the Stanford-Yale Workshop, September 17 and 18, 2010,” *East European Politics and Societies* 25, no. 4 (2011): 759-762. **CR**

Week 3 (02/02): Narrating Eastern Europe

Reading:

1. Marci Shore, *The Taste of Ashes: The Afterlife of Totalitarianism in Eastern Europe* (New York: Crown, 2013) **UB/R**

OPTIONAL EVENT THIS WEEK:

CREECA talk: “Václav Havel and the Problem of Political Theater”

Kieran Williams, Drake University

When: Thursday, February 4, 4pm

Where: 206 Ingraham Hall

Part II: Negotiating identities: Lives Under Empire

Week 4 (02/09): Nationalism and Gender

Readings:

1. Keely Stauter-Halsted, *The Devil's Chain: Prostitution and Social Control in Partitioned Poland* (Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 2015). **UB/R**
2. Mary Neuberger, "The *Kričma*, the *Kafene*, and the Orient Express: Tobacco, Alcohol, and the Gender of Sacred and Secular Restraint in Bulgaria, 1856-1939," *Aspasia: International Yearbook of Central, Eastern, and Southeastern European Women's and Gender History* 5 (2011): 70-91. **CR**

DUE IN CLASS: 300-word SUMMARY of *The Devil's Chain*

Week 5 (02/16): Individuals in the Habsburg Empire and Beyond

Reading:

1. Timothy Snyder, *The Red Prince: The Secret Lives of a Habsburg Archduke* (New York: Basic Books, 2008) **UB/R**

Week 6 (02/23): National Indifference in the Czech Lands

Readings:

1. Tara Zahra, *Kidnapped Souls: National Indifference and the Battle for Children in the Bohemian Lands, 1900-1948* (Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 2011) **UB/R**
2. Rogers Brubaker, *Ethnicity without Groups* (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2004), 7-27. **CR**

DUE IN CLASS: a 300-word SUMMARY of the book (*Kidnapped Souls*) and a 300-word EVALUATION of its approach.

Part III: Politics in a New Key? Violence and the State

Week 7 (03/01): WWI, Germany, and the Occupation of “The East”

Readings:

1. Jesse Kaufmann, *Elusive Alliance: The German Occupation of Poland in World War I* (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2015) **UB/R**
2. Vejas Gabriel Liulevicius, *War Land on the Eastern Front: Culture, National Identity and German Occupation in World War I* (Cambridge and New York: Cambridge University Press, 2005), 1-11, 151-175. **CR**

Week 8 (03/08): Interwar Ideologies—Secular and Religious

Readings:

1. Maria Bucur, *Eugenics and Modernization in Interwar Romania* (Pittsburgh: University of Pittsburgh Press, 2010) **UB/R**
2. Paul Hannebrink, “Christianity and National Reconstruction in Interwar Hungary,” in Brian Porter and Bruce Berglund, eds., *Christianity in Eastern Europe* (Budapest and New York: Central European University Press, 2010), 61-84. **CR**

Week 9 (03/15): World War II (Part I): A Local World War

Reading:

1. Emily Greble, *Sarajevo, 1941–1945: Muslims, Christians, and Jews in Hitler's Europe* (Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 2011) **UB/R**

DUE IN CLASS: BOOK REVIEW #1

****SPRING BREAK****

Week 10 (03/29): World War II (Part II): Jan Gross v. Timothy Snyder

Readings:

1. Timothy Snyder, *Bloodlands: Europe between Hitler and Stalin* (New York: Basic Books, 2010) **UB/R**
2. Jan Gross, *Neighbors: The Destruction of the Jewish Community in Jedwabne, Poland* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2001) **UB/R**
3. Mark Mazower “Timothy Snyder’s *Bloodlands*,” *Contemporary European History* 21, no. 2 (2012): 117-123. **CR**

OPTIONAL EVENT THIS WEEK:

CREECA talk: “Youth, Transnational Imagination, and 1968 in Poland”

Malgorzata Fidelis, University of Illinois at Chicago

When: Thursday, March 31, 4pm

Where: 206 Ingraham Hall

Part IV: Communism and Its Aftermaths

Week 11 (04/05): Communist Takeovers: A Societal Perspective

Readings:

1. Gregor Thum, *How Breslau Became Wrocław during the Century of Expulsions* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2011). **UB/R**
2. Jan Gross, "Social Consequences of War: Preliminaries to the Study of Imposition of Communist Regimes in East Central Europe, *East European Politics & Societies*, March 1989; vol. 3, 2: pp. 198-214. **CR**
3. Czesław Miłosz, *The Captive Mind* (New York: Knopf, 1953), vii-xiv, 82-110. **CR**

Week 12 (04/12): The Everyday Culture of Communism

Readings:

1. Paulina Bren, *The Greengrocer and His TV: The Culture of Communism after the 1968 Prague Spring* (Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 2010) **UB/R**
2. Malgorzata Fidelis, "Are You a Modern Girl? Consumer Culture and Young Women in 1960s Poland," in *Gender Politics and Everyday Life in State Socialist Eastern and Central Europe*, edited by Shana Penn and Jill Massino (New York: Palgrave, 2009), 171-184. **CR**
3. Paulina Bren and Mary Neuberger, *Communism Unwrapped: Consumption in Cold War Eastern Europe* (New York and Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2012), 3-19. **CR**

Week 13 (04/19): Reassessing the End of Communism

Readings:

1. Padraic Kenney, *A Carnival of Revolution: Central Europe 1989* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2003) **UB/R**
2. Timothy Garton Ash, "Revolution: The Springtime of Two Nations," *New York Review of Books*, June 15, 1989 **CR**
3. Vladimir Tismaneanu, "The Revolutions of 1989: Causes, Meanings, Consequences" *Contemporary European History* 18, no. 3 (2009): 271-288. **CR**

Week 14 (04/26): Post-Communism: Anthropological Perspectives

Readings:

1. Pamela Ballinger, *History in Exile: Memory and Identity at the Borders of the Balkans* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2002) **UB/R**
2. Agnieszka Pasięka, "Neighbors: About the Multiculturalization of the Polish Past," *East European Politics & Societies* 28, no. 1 (2014): 225-251.

Week 15 (05/06): Conclusions

No new readings. Re-read (skim) the readings from Weeks 2 and 3.

DUE IN CLASS: BOOK REVIEW #2

Class Policies and Further Resources

Office Hours

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.

Class Etiquette

There is no laptop use in discussion, although you can bring a tablet/kindle if you need it to access the readings electronically. You must ensure that you bring the relevant readings to our discussion. Come and speak with me if you are concerned about this policy.

We will begin 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.

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 seminar on the due date. Late papers will be penalized by a half-grade per day. There is no need to print a copy of your paper. They should be uploaded as electronic copies only on the dropbox at Learn@UW. Email submissions will not be accepted.

Academic Honesty

There is information about what constitutes plagiarism here (http://writing.wisc.edu/Handbook/QPA_plagiarism.html), but please come and speak with me during office hours if you have questions or concerns.

Religious Observance Policy

Students must notify me within the first two weeks of class of the specific days or dates on which they request relief.

Disabilities

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

Please come and see me if you would like to talk further about disability issues.

Writing Resources and Guidelines

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