HISTORY 891:
Historiography of Modern Eastern Europe

Professor Kathryn Ciancia
Spring 2016
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:

Week 3 (02/02): Narrating Eastern Europe

Reading:

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:

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

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

Reading:

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

Readings:

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:

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

Readings:
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:

DUE IN CLASS: BOOK REVIEW #1

**SPRING BREAK**

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

Readings:

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:

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

Readings:

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

Readings:

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

Readings:
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