

The Politics and Poetics of Security: Post-Socialist States, Integration, and the Limits of Europe (ANTH 458/REES 405 Winter 2008)

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Class Times: M/W: 1-2:30

Location: Mason Hall 3347

Course Overview

After eighteen years dismantling centralized state structures, planned economies, and their attendant visions of democratized security in Eastern Europe, the range of cultural practices and modes of power organized around problems of security have not diminished. Instead, questions of security after the Cold War have taken on new significance, expanding to address realms of everyday life in ways that unsettle geographic and democratic imaginaries. These questions challenge the analytic purchase of local-global distinctions, and complicate understandings of emergent versus stable democratization, and call into question metaphors of decentralized power authority and governance. In recent years, the inclusion of post-socialist states in the European Union poses these questions of security in particularly instructive ways, whether for old members, recent arrivals, or those who find themselves beyond the edge of Europe's newly refashioned shores.

In light of ongoing European refashioning, this course approaches a series of recurring theoretical and topical questions through a range of case studies and materials that invite interdisciplinary reflection:

- Is security a Eurocentric or somehow distinctly "Western" concept?
- How do visions of security contribute to conflicting narratives of democracy, modernity, development, imperialism or sovereignty, through which "Eastern Europe" is historically constituted?
- Are particular conceptions of time and space, or ways of life, invoked, defended, or excluded in appeals to security?
- What sorts of objects, technologies, knowledge producing practices, political selves or collectivities, are conjured in relation to discursive forms of security?
- And what forms of critique may emerge to counter impoverished conceptions of political possibilities often left in security's wake?

Requirements:

Your grade will depend on your overall performance on each of the following:

- Attendance, reading, and participation are critical to do well in the course,
- Short Review (1 page) of one pertinent public lecture
- Two Brief (1-2 page) Reading Response papers
- Midterm essay (5-8 pages): Assigned Feb. 13, Due February 22
- Final Project (TBA) (10-15 pages): No Later than Scheduled Finals Day (April 22)

Required Texts (at Shaman Drum):

Holmes, Douglas 2000 Integral Europe: Fast-Capitalism, Multiculturalism, Neofascism. Princeton and Oxford: University of Princeton Press.

Shore, Cris 2000 Building Europe: The Cultural Politics of European Integration. London and New York: Routledge

Lem, Stanislaw 1973 Memoirs Found in a Bathtub. New York: A Harvest Book, Harcourt Brace and Company

Suggested Readings (see selections:

Glaeser, Andreas 2000 Divided In Unity: Identity, Germany and the Berlin Police. Chicago: University of Chicago.

Hansen, Lene 2006 Security as Practice: Discourse Analysis and the Bosnian War. New York: Routledge

Kennedy, Michael 2002 Cultural Forms of Postcommunism: Emancipation, Transition, Nation, and War. Minnesota: University of Minnesota Press

Lipshutz, Ronnie D. 1995 (ed.) On Security. New York: Columbia University Press

Rothschild, Joseph 1999 Return to Diversity: A Political History of East Central Europe Since WWII. Oxford: Oxford University Press

Weldes, Jutta et al. (eds). Cultures of Insecurity: States, Communities, and the Production of Danger. Minnesota: University of Minnesota Press.

Wolff, Larry 1994 Inventing Eastern Europe: The Map of Civilization on the Mind of the Enlightenment. Stanford: Stanford University Press.

Course Schedule:

I. Security and Ideology: Cold Wars, Endings and other Social Fictions

Week One (Jan. 7, 9): What are the political and the poetic?

Readings: (For Wed) Bauman, "In Search of Public Space"
Begin *Memoirs Found in a Bathtub*

Week Two (Jan. 14, 16): Cold Wars cont.

Readings: *Memoirs Found in a Bathtub*
Peter Sis selection
Bauman, "Ideology in the Postmodern World"

Week Three Jan 21, NO CLASS, MLK Symposia, 23)

Readings: (For Wednesday) Cultures of In/Security, selection
How We Survived Communism, selection

II. European Returns, Transitions, Falls: Double-Visions and Blurry Security

Week Four (Jan. 28, 30)

Readings: Milosz, "Captive Mind" selection
Verdery and Burawoy, Uncertain Transitions, selection
Borneman, "Grenzregime"

Week Five (Feb. 4, 6)

Readings: Glaeser, "Times Ajar"s
Asher/Szmagalska, On Designing Borders
Scott, Seeing Like a State, selection

III. Returning from Where, or When? "Eastern Europe" and the Modern Imagination

Week Six (Feb. 11, 13)

Readings: Wolff, Inventing Eastern Europe (selection)
Rothschild, Return to Diversity (selection)
Foucault, Security, Territory, Population (selection)

****February 13: Midterm Essay Topics Announced****

IV. Europa Mythica

Week Seven (Feb. 18, 20)

Reading: Constantinou, selection on poetics and security
Begin Building Europe
Perilous States, Visions of Security, (selection)

****Feb 22: Midterm Essay Due****

Week Eight: Feb. 25, 27: NO CLASS Winter Vacation

Week Nine (March 3, 5)

Readings: More Building Europe
Surveillance Society (selection)

V. "Cultural" Dilemmas of Security, Democracy, Human Rights and European Integration

Week Ten (March 10, 12)

Readings: Politics of Ethnicity, Yugoslavian Dissolutions (TBA)
Begin Integral Europe
Herscher, 'Language of Damage'

Week Eleven (March 17, 19)

Readings: Integral Europe

Politics of Accession: Brutalization of Everyday Life, Gender and Violence. (selections)
Kennedy, 'Cultural Forms' (selection)
Gal and Kligman, Gender Politics and Postcommunism, (selection)

Week Twelve (March 24, 26)

Readings: Integral Europe
Hansen: Discourse and Bosnian War
Politics of Accession, On Piracy and Privatization (selection)

VI. Rethinking Security: From the People to "The Social" to other Democratic Futures?

Week Thirteen (March 31, April 2)

Readings: Thinking the European Future, selections
Petryna, On Biological Citizenship after Chernobyl
Turkish Predicaments (selections)

Week Fourteen (April 7, 9)

Readings: Predicaments of 'emerging' democratic: Beck, "Reinventing the Political"
Politics and Aesthetics, Discourse (selections)
Neoliberal Accessions, Global Activisms selection

Week Fifteen (April 14): Final Day

Final Project Due on or before April 22nd.