

# **Russian and East European Studies 396**

(cross listed as) History 333, Political Science 396, Slavic 396, Sociology 393

## **Survey of East Central Europe (4 credits)**

Winter 2007

**Lectures: Tuesdays and Thursdays 10-11:30, 1120 Weill Hall**

### **Instructor:**

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**Section Meetings: 396.002 Thursdays 3-4 PM, 377 Dennison**

**396.003 Fridays 1-2 PM, 2412 MLB**

**396.004 Fridays 11-12pm, B110 MLB**

**Final Exam:** Tuesday, April 24, 1:30-3:30

### **Course Description**

Eastern or East Central Europe is often understood by what it is not. *Eastern* Europe is not Western; Eastern *Europe* is not Russia or Asia. But saying what its “others” are does not allow us to understand more positively what the subject is.

What is Eastern, or East Central Europe? It is a geographical area? A place emerging from a common political system? A non-Russian Slavic region? An area of incredible ethnic diversity? An economically backward region of Europe if disproportionately rich in literature, music, and visual arts? A place of political, economic, and military convulsions? A site of despair and destruction? Of hope and emancipation? The new part of European Union?

Eastern Europe is all of these, and none of them. It has been imagined as all of these things, but the region itself is so varied that no single appellation does it justice. Poles, Hungarians, Czechs, Slovenes, Slovaks, and Croats emphasize east *central* Europe. These lands occupied by the Ottoman Empire – Albania, Bulgaria, Romania, Greece, Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia, and Bosnia-Herzegovina, and to some degree the rest of the former Yugoslavia, are often studied with the Balkan label. And of course we are well aware of how within each of these cases difference is emphasized to the point of political separation, as in the Czech and Slovak case, or the wars in the former Yugoslavia.

Given this variation, it is impossible to survey all the regions and peoples equally. Instead, in this survey we have tried to identify key historical developments and analytical issues which can provide a basis for your own subsequent engagement with this region, regardless of whether that engagement is found in the search for family roots, profitable investments, political work, or even the search to understand how crises of this region's magnitude could have happened at all. We shall emphasize the political and social convulsions of the region, from struggles for national emancipation to the horror of genocide, from the struggle for social rights to the end of communism and accession to the European Union. We shall engage Eastern Europe not only to understand it, but also to address questions with which the whole of humanity contends, from the conditions of freedom to the meaning of beauty to the possibilities of evil and extinction. While everywhere on our planet might be said to have this range, nowhere is it more obvious to observers from within and without, than in this place, one region for your focus in this coming semester.

### Course Requirements and Evaluation

Midterm: February 22	20%
Final: April 24	20%
1 <sup>st</sup> paper due (2/13)	20% (the question you should answer will be given by 1/23)
2 <sup>nd</sup> paper due (4/10)	20% (the question you should answer will be given by 3/22)
Participation	20%
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	100%

**Exams:** The mid-term and final will both be in-class exams based on readings, lectures, and discussions in sections. The format of the exams is based on some combination of true/false, multiple choice, short answer, and essay questions. Makeup examinations are given only in the most exceptional circumstances. If you are not able to take a scheduled exam, make plans to take it early.

**Papers:** Over the course of the term, you will be required to write 2 essays (due dates given above). Each paper is about 8-10 pages, or 2000-2500 words of text. In each essay, you will be asked to answer a general question we give you about 3 weeks before the paper is due. It may draw on films shown as part of the class or another East European film, a CREES lecture or other lecture related to the talk, or a book not include in the required reading for this course, but related to the subjects discussed, building on one of the lectures.

**Participation:** Participation in discussion sections is an integral part of the course. Discussions will cover materials in lecture as well as the assigned readings. It is essential that you not only attend section, but that you come prepared. Your section grade will be based on active participation, attendance, and completion of supplemental assignments that may be required for the discussion section.

**Preparations beyond reading:**

There are a few class meetings when we have either assigned no reading or reduced it to accommodate activities that will occur outside of regular class meetings. Film dates will be announced later in the term.

**Grades:** the final grades are distributed on the following basis:

A, B, C, D+: X7-0.00

A, B, C, D: X3-X6.999

A, B, C, D-: X0.00-X2.999

F: Below 60

*Disputes about grades are considered, but only after a written grievance is submitted explaining the injustice of the evaluation; this must be submitted within two lectures of the return of graded work. Oral complains are not heard.*

**Required Texts:**

Historical Atlas of Central Europe

Paul Robert Magosci

U of Washington Press, 2002

East Central Europe in the Modern World: The Politics of Borderlands from Pre- to Postcommunism.

Andrew Janos

Stanford University Press, 2000.

Cultural Formations of Postcommunism

Michael D. Kennedy

University of Minnesota Press, 2002

Other texts are available on CTools.

REES 396 – WINTER 2007 LECTURE DATES  
Course time and location: 10-11:30am, 2002 MLB

(with outside events listed in italics)

<b>DATE</b>	<b>TOPIC</b>
Thurs, Jan 4	East European meanings ( <b>MDK</b> )
Tues, Jan 9	East European meanings ( <b>MDK</b> ) Readings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Janos, pp. 1-53; Magosci, pp. 14 (read) 5-62 (skim)</li></ul>
Thurs, Jan 11	“Russian Empire and Revolutions in Eastern Europe” ( <b>Ronald Suny</b> ) Reading: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Geoff Eley, "Remapping the Nation: War, Revolutionary Upheaval and State Formation in Eastern. Europe, 1914-1923," in Peter J. Potichnyj and Howard Aster (eds.), <i>Ukrainian-Jewish Relations in Historical Perspective</i> (Edmonton, 1988), 205-246.</li></ul>
Tues, Jan 16	“The Ottoman Empire and Southeast Europe” ( <b>Muge Gocek</b> ) Readings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Magosci, pp. 63-64, 71-72, 83-89</li><li>• Caroline Finkel, <i>Osman's Dream</i>, Chapter 5, “Possessor of Kingdoms of the World”.</li></ul>
Thurs, Jan 18	“The Habsburg Empire and ‘Central Europe’” ( <b>Laura Hilburn</b> ) Readings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Magosci - 73-82</li><li>• Roth, Joseph. "The Bust of the Emperor." In <i>The Collected Shorter Fiction of Joseph Roth</i>, trans. Michael Hofmann. London: Granta Books, 2001: 235-258.</li><li>• Kundera, Milan. "The Tragedy of Central Europe." In <i>From Stalinism to Pluralism: A Documentary History of Eastern Europe since 1945</i>, ed. Gale Stokes. New York: Oxford University Press, 1996: 216-223.</li></ul>
<i>Mon, Jan 22, 4–6 pm</i>	<i>Establishing Truth and Responsibility in Post-Conflict Societies.</i> * <b>Nataša Kandić</b> , founder and executive director, Humanitarian Law Center, Belgrade.
Tues, Jan 23	“East European Peoples and Nations During and After Empire” ( <b>MDK</b> ) Readings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Janos, pp. 54-201</li><li>• Magosci, pp. 93-129;194-204; 208-24.</li></ul>
Thurs, Jan 25	“East European Music” ( <b>Tim Cheek</b> )
Tues, Jan 30	“Polish Literature: Witkacy” ( <b>Bogdana Carpenter</b> ) Reading:

- Stanislaw Ignacy Witkiewicz, *The Shoemakers*

Thurs, Feb 1

"Nations at War, Nations in Occupation" (**Laura Hilburn**)

Readings:

- Magocsi – 104-106, 177-184
- Luza, Radomir. "The Communist Party of Czechoslovakia and the Czech Resistance, 1939-1945." *Slavic Review* 28 4 (Dec. 1969), pp. 561-576.
- Bryant, Chad. "The Language of Resistance? Czech Jokes and Joke-telling under Nazi Occupation, 1943-1945." *Journal of Contemporary History* 41 1: 133-151.
- Feinberg, Melissa. "Dumplings and Domesticity: Women, Collaboration, and Resistance in the Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia." In *Gender and War in Twentieth-Century Eastern Europe*, eds. Nancy M. Wingfield and Maria Bucur. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 2006.
- Janos – 201-17.

Tues, Feb 6

"East European Revolution and Socialism" (**MDK**)

Readings:

- Magocsi, pp. 130-131; 140-44; 147-56; 205-07;
- Janos, pp. 218-328

Tue, Feb 6, 4pm

Lecture by **Murat Belge**, translator, literary critic, civil rights activist, and professor, *Bilgi University, Istanbul*. Sponsored by the *Armenian Studies Program and Center for Middle Eastern and North African Studies*.

Weds, Feb 7, 7pm

Film. *Loves of a Blonde*. *Angell Hall Auditorium A*.

Thurs, Feb 8

"Everyday Life" (film 2/7 - *Loves of a Blonde*) (**Herb Eagle**)

Tues, Feb 13

"The Yugoslav Alternative" (Donna Parmelee)

Readings:

- Janos, pp. 269-81;
- Sabrina Ramet, "Yugoslavia".

Feb 13, 4pm

Lecture. "Navigating Jewish Heritage in Poland: From Academia to Public Culture." **Erica Lehrer**, Ph.D. U-M 2005, and **Hannah Smotrich**, assistant professor of Art and Design, U-M. Location: TBD. Co-sponsored with the *Museum Studies Program and the Jean and Samuel Frankel Center for Judaic Studies*. [www.rackham.umich.edu/Programs/humanities.arts/musstud.html](http://www.rackham.umich.edu/Programs/humanities.arts/musstud.html) for program details.

Feb 14, 4pm

Lecture. "The Politics of Energy: The Caspian and the Caucasus." *Ambassador Richard Miles*, former U.S. ambassador to Azerbaijan, Bulgaria and Georgia.

Thurs, Feb 15

"Socialism's End" (**MDK**)

Readings:

- Chapter 1, Kennedy, 2002.
- Janos, 329-405.

- Fri, Feb 16, Noon **Comparative Religion Speaker Series.** “Clashing Civilizations or Regulated Religious Economies: Explaining Cross-National Religious Persecution.” **Rodger Finke**, professor of sociology and religious studies, Penn State University. This lecture is part of the EUC funded interdisciplinary research project “Religion and Politics in Europe.” Sponsored by the European Union Center and Department of Political Science. Eldersveld Room in Haven Hall (fifth floor).
- Tues, Feb 20 “East European Meanings” (MDK)
- Thurs, Feb 22 Mid-term
- Winter Recess (Feb. 24-Mar 2)**
- Tues, Mar 6 Transition Culture (MDK)  
Readings:
  - Chapters 2-5, Kennedy, 2002
- Tue, Mar 6, 7:30 pm through Fri, Apr 14 **Chopin Project.** A multi-concert series of Chopin’s complete works and a symposium. Arthur Green, professor of piano performance, U-M School of Music, and: STUDENTS. Sponsored by School of Music and CREES. All Britton Recital Hall
- Wed, Mar 7, Noon Lecture. “The Politics of Awareness: On the Difficulties of Making Domestic Violence Visible in Poland.” Thomas Chivens, U-M anthropology.
- Thurs, Mar 8 “East European Economic Changes” (Jan Svejnar)  
\* Readings TBA
- Tues, Mar 13 “East European Gender Politics” (Magdalena Zaborowska)  
Readings:
  - Zaborowska, Forrester, and Gapova, Preface and Introduction, *Over the Wall/After the Fall* (Indiana UP 2004)
  - Zaborowska, "The Best View Is from the Top," in *Framing the Polish Home* ed. Bozena Shallcross (Ohio UP, 2002).
- Wed, Mar 14, 4pm Lecture. “Redefining the European Union: Why It Matters to the US.” **Joschka Fischer**, German Foreign Minister and Vice Chancellor (1998–2005). Michigan Union Ballroom. Sponsored by the Center for European Studies-European Union Center, Office of the Dean, College of Literature, Science and Arts, Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures, Department of Political Science, and International Institute.
- Wed, Mar 14, 7pm Vukovar-The Final Cut. A documentary directed by Janko Baljak, with screenplay by Drago Hedl (103 min., 2006). Produced by the independent media company B92 and winner of the 2006 Sarajevo Film Festival’s Human Rights Award, 2006. Angell Hall Auditorium A.

- Thurs, Mar 15 “East European Political Patterns and the European Union” (**Anna Grzymala-Busse**)  
Readings: TBA
- Thurs, Mar 19, 4 pm *Lecture. “The Stranger and the External World: the Kosmos of Synagonism.” Nathalie Karagiannis (University of Sussex). Sponsored by the Modern Greek Program. Classical Studies Library, 2175 Angell Hall.*
- Tues, Mar 20 “Violence, Rights, and Everyday Insecurities after Socialism” (**Tom Chivens**)  
Readings: TBA
- Wed, Mar 21, Noon “Theories about the Roots of the Yugoslav Troubles.” **Sabrina Ramet**, professor of political science, Norwegian University of Science and Technology, Trondheim
- Wed, Mar 21, 7pm *Pretty Village, Pretty Flame. A feature film directed by Srđan Dragojević (128 min., 1996). Awarded prizes at several international film festivals (São Paulo, Stockholm, Thessaloniki, etc.) Angell Hall Auditorium A.*
- Thurs, Mar 22 “Wars of Yugoslav Succession” (MDK)  
Readings: Chapter 6, Kennedy, 2002.
- Thurs, March 22, 4pm *Conversations on Europe. “Models of Church-State Condominium: The Czech Republic, Poland, and Slovakia.” Sabrina Ramet, professor of political science, Norwegian University of Science and Technology, Trondheim. Co-sponsored with the Center for European Studies-European Union Center.*
- Tues, Mar 27 “Representing Wars of Yugoslav Succession” (**Herb Eagle**)
- Wed, Mar 28, Noon *Lecture. “Reporting on Culture and Politics from Russia, Georgia and the Caucasus.” Lawrence Sheets, NPR staff reporter/correspondent and former Moscow bureau chief.*
- Wed, Mar 28, 7pm *Before the Rain. A feature film directed by Milcho Manchevski (115 min., 1994). Nominated for the 1995 Academy Award for Best Foreign Language Film and awarded 12 prizes at international film festivals (Santa Monica, São Paulo, Stockholm, Venice, Warsaw, etc.) Angell Hall Auditorium A.*
- Thurs, Mar 29 “The Destruction of Place” (**Andrew Herscher**)  
Readings:
  - Andrew Herscher, “Counter-Heritage and Violence,” *Future Anterior*, 3:2, Winter 2006.
  - Andrew Herscher, “Urban Formations of Difference: Border and Cities in Post-1989 Europe,” *European Review*, 13:2, 2005.
- Fri, Mar 30, 7:30 pm *Copernicus Lecture. “Line of Return: Cultivating ‘the Borderland’ in Dialogue with Czesław Miłosz.” Krzysztof Czyżewski, social activist, poet, essayist, publisher, and founder of the Borderlands Foundation of Arts, Cultures, and Nation. Rackham Amphitheatre. Co-sponsored with the Nicolaus Copernicus Endowment; College of Literature, Science, and the Arts Citizenship Theme Year; and MFA Program in Creative Writing.*

- Tues, Apr 3                   “East European Cultural Politics” (**Genevieve Zubrzycki**)  
Readings:  
    • G. Zubrzycki, *The Crosses of Auschwitz*: 1-17, 23-33, 60-76, 77-86, chap 3 (98-140), 144-170, 171-183, 199-201, 202-215.
- Thurs, Apr 5                   “Politics of Polish Counterculture: 1980-2005” (**Piotr Westwalewicz**)  
Readings: TBA
- Tues, Apr 10                  The European Union and Eastern Europe (**MDK**)  
Readings: TBA
- Thurs, Apr 12                 The European Union and Eastern Europe (**MDK**)  
Readings: TBA
- Fri, Apr 13, 1:30 pm*        *Lecture. “What was Special about German Anti-Semitism?” **Peter G.J. Pulzer**, Gladstone Professor of Politics, Emeritus, All Souls College at Oxford University. Sponsored by the Department of Germanic Languages and Literatures, and Jewish Studies. German Department large Conference Room, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, MLB.*
- Tues, Apr 17                  Summary (MDK)  
Readings:  
    • Janos, pp. 408-18;  
    • Magosci, pp. 221-24
- Tue, Apr 17, Noon*         *Center for European Studies and European Union Center - End of semester luncheon: “50 Years of European Integration.”*
- Tues, Apr 24                 Final Exam – 1:30 to 3:30

**Exams April 19-26**