

Russian and East European Studies 396

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

Survey of Central and Eastern Europe and the Enlarged European Union (4 credits)

Winter 2008

Lectures: Tuesdays and Thursdays 10-11:30, 1230 Undergraduate Science Building (USB)

Instructor:

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CREES, International Institute

Section Meetings: 396.002 Thursdays 3-4 PM, B108 MLB

396.003 Fridays 10-11 AM, B124 MLB

396.004 Fridays 11-12 PM, B131 MLB

Final Exam: Wednesday, April 23, 10:30-12:30 p.m.

Course Description

Eastern 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.

Central Europe may have a more positive connotation. Those in this region might claim not only geographical but also cultural significance in Europe's definition. It also has important political effect, defining who should be in, and who is on the margins of, European identification.

The European Union is, today, the central arbiter of what it means to be European. The prospects of joining that association of states has also shaped, powerfully, social, political, economic, and cultural change, since 1989.

The meaning of Europe, and the place of peoples and regions in that definition, has been central to the fate of the continent. But that has not always been the principal cultural dimension the continent's transformations.

When this course was invented, Eastern Europe was defined by the number of countries ruled by communist parties beyond the Soviet Union. That definition by domination was in turn built on a war of terrible destruction, which was itself made by capitalism's uneven economic development and racist and nationalist contests over superiority and sovereignty. And those conflicts were themselves made out of the demise of contiguous empires, which were themselves made up of a great diversity of peoples. In a word, this region, for which we struggle to find an appropriate name, has been wracked by radical change over the last couple centuries. To understand this region one comes to understand the alterity of human societies.

One comes to understand the creativity of humanity too. Alongside these radical social transformations came terrific intellectual innovations in music, theater, the plastic arts, literature, film and other creative expressions. To study this region one must engage the creative arts not only for their intrinsic power but also in order to understand the meanings of this region. And the plural is above all necessary.

Central and Eastern Europe is so varied that no single appellation or set of meanings 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. While diversity is, thus, the hallmark of this region, the enlargement of the European Union to include more of post-communist Europe signals an unprecedented measure of integration in this region. And with that development, we can explore a new series of questions at the end of the course.

It is impossible to survey all the regions and peoples of Central and Eastern Europe 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 Central and 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 21	20%
Final: April 23	30%
Paper due (4/1)	25% (the question you should answer will be given by 3/18)
Participation	25%
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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.

Paper: By the end of the term, you will be required to write 1 essay. This paper is about 10-12 pages, or 2500 -3000 words of text. In this 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

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: Tues & Thurs, 10-11:30am, 1230 USB

(with outside events listed in italics)

DATE	TOPIC
Thurs, Jan 3	East European meanings (MDK)
Tues, Jan 8	East European meanings (MDK) Readings: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Magosci, pp. 14 (read) 5-62 (skim)
Thurs, Jan 10	Empire (EH) Reading: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Fikret Adanir, "Ottoman and Habsburg Lands in Comparison," from <i>The Historical Practice of Diversity</i>, pp.54-86
Tues, Jan 15	Empire (Edin Hajdarpasic) Readings: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Magosci, pp. 63-64, 71-72, 83-89• Ellen Comisso, "Empires as Prisons of Nations versus Empires as Political Opportunity Structures," from <i>Empire to Nation: Historical Perspectives</i>, pp. 138-166
Thurs, Jan 17	"Russian Empire and Revolutions in Eastern Europe" (Ron Suny) Readings: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Magosci, pp. 73-82• 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
<i>Thurs, Jan 17, 4pm</i>	<i>EUC Annual Distinguished Lecture on Europe. "Europe: Heir to the Ages or Pregnant Widow." Neil Ascherson, journalist, public historian and author. Sponsored by the Center for European Studies-European Union Center</i>
Tues, Jan 22	"East European Peoples and Nations During and After Empire" (MDK) Readings: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Magosci, pp. 93-129;194-204; 208-24
Thurs, Jan 24	"Art and Everyday Life, or: Reading History in Aesthetics" (Ben Paloff) Readings: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Karel Teige, "Poetism" (1924)• Nikolai Zabolotskii et al., "The Oberiu Manifesto" (1927)• Notes on Socialist Realism (1930s)• Bruno Schulz, "The Mythologizing of Reality" (1936)
Tues, Jan 29	"East European Music" (Tim Cheek) Readings: TBA

- Thurs, Jan 31 “Peoplehood, Politics, and Destruction” (MDK)
Readings: TBA
- Thurs, Jan 31, 4pm *Conversations on Europe. “The Role of Greece in the Discovery of Modernity.”* **Maria Koundoura**, associate professor, Department of Writing, Literature and Publishing, Emerson College. Co-sponsored by Center for European Studies-European Union Center and the Modern Greek Program. Classical Studies Library, 2175 Angell Hall.
- Fri, Feb 1, 12pm “Title:TBA” **David Laitin**, James T. Watkins IV and Elise V. Watkins Professor of Political Science, Stanford University. Sponsored by the Department of Political Science. Eldersveld Room, Haven Hall (5th Floor).
- Tues, Feb 5 “Socialist Revolution and Soviet-type Liberation” (MDK)
Readings:
 - Magosci, pp. 130-131; 140-44; 147-56; 205-07
- Thurs, Feb 7 East European Socialism (MDK)
Readings:
 - Magosci, pp. 130-131; 140-44; 147-56; 205-07
 - Kennedy, 1991
- Thurs, Feb 7, 4pm “Europe: The Tragic Continent” **Jos De Mul**, professor of philosophy of man and culture, Faculty of Philosophy, Erasmus University Rotterdam; author of “The Tragedy of Finitude,” (Yale, 2004); and CES Winter 2008 Netherlands Visiting Professor. 1636 International Institute.
- Mon, Feb 11, 4pm “Divided Modernity: Polish Literature between Conservatism and Critique.” **Michal Pawel Markowski**, professor and chair, Department of International Polish Studies, Jagiellonian University. Sponsored by the Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures and CREES. 1636 International Institute.
- Tues, Feb 12 Yugoslav Socialism (EH)
Readings: TBA
- Thurs, Feb 14 “East European Socialism’s End” (MDK)
Readings:
 - Chapter 1, Kennedy, 2002.
- Thurs, Feb 14, 4pm “The Fat Doctor:Luther and Biography” **Lyndal Roper**, professor of early modern history, Balliol College, Oxford University. Sponsored by EIHS. 1014 Tisch Hall.
- Tues, Feb 19 “Review East European Meanings” (MDK)

- Wed, Feb 20, 12pm “Missionizing Eurasia: The Global Networks of Ukrainian Evangelicals”
Catherine Wanner, associate professor of history and religious studies,
Pennsylvania State University. Sponsor: Center for Russian and East European
Studies. 1636 International Institute.
- Thurs, Feb 21 Mid-term
- Winter Recess (Feb 23-Mar 2)**
- Mon, Mar 3, 7pm **Film**, “Camera Buff,” (103 min, 1979) **Krzysztof Kieslowski**, director, Polish with
English subtitles. Askwith Auditorium, Lorch Hall.
- Tues, Mar 4 Postcommunism: Part I (MDK)
Readings:
 - Chapters 2-3, Kennedy, 2002
- Wed, Mar 5, 12pm “Learning in a Soft Authoritarian Regime: What the Borat Episode Tells Us
about (the Real) Kazakhstan.” **Edward Schatz**, assistant professor, Department
of Political Science, University of Toronto. 1636 International Institute.
- Thurs, Mar 6 Postcommunism: Part II (MDK)
Readings:
 - Chapters 4-5, Kennedy, 2002
- Tues, Mar 11 “East European Cultural Politics” (**Genevieve Zubrzycki**)
Readings:
 - Genevieve Zubrzycki, *The Crosses of Auschwitz*: 1-17, 23-33, 60-76, 77-
86, chapter 3 (98-140), 144-170, 171-183, 199-201, 202-215.
- Wed, Mar 12, 4pm **Conversations on Europe**. “Title: TBA” **Miklos Sukosd**, associate professor,
Department of Political Science, and academic director, Center for Media and
Communication Studies, Central European University, Budapest. 1636
International Institute.
- Thurs, Mar 13 “Post-Socialist Security” (**Thom Chivens**)
Readings: TBA
- Tues, Mar 18 Postcommunism: Part III (MDK)
Readings: TBA
- Tues, Mar 18, 7pm **Film**, “Sex Slaves,” (60 min, 2005) **Ric Esther Bienstock**, writer, director and
producer. Venue: TBA
- Wed, Mar 19, 4pm “Sexual and Labor Trafficking in the Soviet Successor States: How the Former
USSR Became a Global Center of Illegal Migration.” **Louise Shelley**, professor,
George Mason School of Public Policy, George Mason University. 1636
International Institute.

- Thurs, Mar 20 “Wars of Yugoslav Succession” (**Bob Donia**)
Readings: TBA
- Thurs, Mar 20, 4pm “Sticks and Stones: The Limits of Verbal Violence” **Ian Buruma**, Henry R. Luce Professor of Human Rights and Journalism, Bard College. Sponsors: Eisenberg Institute of Historical Studies, Center for European Studies-European Union Center, Center for International and Comparative Studies, Institute for the Humanities, and Islamic Studies Initiative, Rackham Amphitheatre
- Fri, Mar 21, 9:30am **Research Workshop**. “Muslims in Europe” Sponsors: Islamic Studies Initiative, Center for International and Comparative Studies, and others
- Mon, Mar 24, 4pm “Cadi Justice: Islamic Law in Transition” **Cindy Skach**, associate professor of government and affiliated professor of international legal studies, Harvard University
Sponsor: Center for European Studies-European Union Center
- Tues, Mar 25 Film: TBA
- Wed, Mar 26, 10am “Accidental Imperialists?: Muslim Pilgrims and the Extension of Russian Power Abroad” **Elaine Kane**, lecturer in history, Princeton University
Sponsors: Center for Middle Eastern and North African Studies and Center for Russian and East European Studies
- Thurs, Mar 27 “Representing Wars of Yugoslav Succession in Film” (**Herb Eagle**)
- Thurs, Mar 27, 4pm “Feasting at the Pity Party: Violence and Nationalism in Post-Yugoslav Southeastern Europe.” **Robert J. Donia**, research associate, CREES, U-M. Sponsored by EIHS. 1014 Tisch Hall.
- Tues, Apr 1 “Cultural Politics of Polish Rock Music, 1960-2005” (**Piotr Westwalewicz**)
Readings: TBA
- Wed, Apr 2, 12pm “How Russia Really Works: Informal Practices in Politics and Business.” **Alena Ledeneva**, lecturer, Social Sciences Department, School of Slavonic and East European Studies, University College London. 1636 International Institute.
- Thurs, Apr 3 The European Union and Eastern Europe: Part I (**MDK**)
Readings: TBA
- Thurs, Apr 3, 12 “Ethnographies of Economic Transformation: The Shtetl between City and Countryside in Late Imperial Russia and the Interwar Soviet State.” **Deborah Yalen**, Frankel Institute Fellow. Sponsored by the Frankel Institute for Advanced Judaic Studies. Room 2022, 202 S. Thayer St.
- Mon, Apr 7, 7pm **Film**, “Louder than Bombs,”(92 min, 2001) **Przemyslaw Wojcieszek**, director, Polish with English subtitles. Askwith Auditorium, Lorch Hall.

- Tues, Apr 8 The European Union and Eastern Europe: Part II (**MDK**)
Readings: TBA
- Wed, Apr 9, 4pm *“A Swedish Theory of Love: Radical Individualism in the Land of Social Solidarity.” Lars Tragardh, professor and research project director, Institute for Social Research, Ersta Skondal University College, Stockholm. Venue TBA*
- Thurs, Apr 10 The European Union and Eastern Europe: Part III (**MDK**)
Readings: TBA
- Mon, Apr 14, 7pm **Film**, *“Savior’s Square,”*(105 min, 2006) **Krzystof Krauze and Joanna Kos-Krauze**, director, Polish with English subtitles. Askwith Auditorium, Lorch Hall.
- Tues, Apr 15 Summary (MDK)
Readings:
 - Kennedy, 2002 conclusion
 - Magosci, pp. 221-24
- Tue, Apr 16, Noon *Center for European Studies and European Union Center - End of semester luncheon: topic TBA*
- Wed, Apr 23 Final Exam – 10:30-12:30 p.m.

Exams April 17-24