

HISTORY 891: Historiography of Modern Eastern Europe

Professor Kathryn Ciancia

Office Hours: Wednesdays, Mosse 4124, 1:30-3:30pm

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Seminar: Tuesdays, Humanities 5245, 4-6pm

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 and environmental 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 book review (25% of total grade):** There will be one short “book review” assignment due at the beginning of the week in which we discuss that text. You can choose to write on ONE of the books for weeks 4, 5, or 7.
- **Discussion participation (40% of total grade):** I will assess your participation in three ways:
 - 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 each week, each student will lead discussion for the first 30 minutes of one seminar. Take a look at the syllabus to consider in which week you would like to lead discussion. You will post your 3 discussion questions under the appropriate heading at our Learn@UW website by 6pm the day before class.

- c) **Quick responses:** Each week, everyone should check the questions on Learn@UW and post a quick response (no more than 200 words) to one of the questions by 2pm on Tuesday (i.e. two hours before class begins).
- **Final paper (35% of total grade):** You will write an assessment of the state of the field in which you bring multiple texts into dialogue with one another. We will discuss the format of this piece of work closer to the deadline.

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 Copy Center in Mosse Building.

Weekly class schedule

Week 1 (01/21): Class Introductions

No assigned readings

Week 2 (01/28): Eastern Europe, Central Europe, Europe....

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. **L@UW**
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. **CR**
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. **L@UW**

Week 3 (02/04): Modern Nationalism and the City

Readings:

1. Robert Nemes, *The Once and Future Budapest* (Dekalb, IL: Northern Illinois University Press, 2005) **UB/R**
2. Book review of Nemes (use Jstor to find reviews by Ritter, Okey, Gluck, and Molnar)

Week 4 (02/11): History through Commodities and Consumption

Readings:

1. Alison Fleig Frank, *Oil Empire: Visions of Prosperity in Austrian Galicia* (Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 2007) **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. **L@UW**

Week 5 (02/18): Shifting the Paradigm? National Indifference

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**

Week 6 (02/25): Poland as a Colonial Space?

Readings:

1. Wilson, Jeffrey K. "Environmental Chauvinism in the Prussian East: Forestry as a Civilizing Mission on the Ethnic Frontier, 1871–1914," *Central European History* 41 (2008): 27-70. **L@UW**
2. "From Manitoba to the Memel: Max Sering, Inner Colonization, and the German East," *Social History* 35, no. 4 (2010): 439-457. **L@UW**
3. Lenny Urena Valerio, "An Empire of Scientific Experts: Polish Physicians and the Medicalization of the German Borderlands, 1880–1914" in *Liberal Imperialism in Europe*, edited by Matthew Fitzpatrick (New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2012), 167-192. **CR**
4. Winson Chu et al., "A Sonderweg through Eastern Europe? The Varieties of German Rule in Poland during the Two World Wars," *German History* 31, no. 3 (2013): 318-344. **L@UW**

Week 7 (03/04): Identities in the Habsburg Empire and Beyond

Readings:

1. Timothy Snyder, *The Red Prince: The Secret Lives of a Habsburg Archduke* (New York: Basic Books, 2008) **UB/R**
2. Daniel Unowsky, "The Last Years of the Habsburg Monarchy," *The Historical Journal* 46, no. 2 (2003): 471-478. **L@UW**

Week 8 (03/11): Biopolitics and the State

Readings:

1. Maria Bucur, *Eugenics and Modernization in Interwar Romania* (Pittsburgh: University of Pittsburgh Press, 2010) **UB/R**
2. Marius Turda, "In Pursuit of Greater Hungary: Eugenic Ideas of Social and Biological Improvement, 1940–1941," *Journal of Modern History* 85, no. 3 (2013): 558-591. **L@UW**

Week 9 (03/25): Jews, Poles, and the Holocaust

Readings:

1. Jan Gross, *Neighbors: The Destruction of the Jewish Community in Jedwabne, Poland* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2001) **UB/R**
2. Wojciech Roszkowski, "After *Neighbors*: Seeking Universal Standards" and Norman Naimark, "The Nazis and 'The East,': Jedwabne's Circle of Hell," *Slavic Review* 61 no. 3 (2002): 460-465; 476-482. **L@UW**

Week 10 (04/01): Communist Takeovers and Postwar Migrations

Readings:

1. Gregor Thum, *Uprooted: How Breslau Became Wrocław during the Century of Expulsions* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2011). **UB/R**
2. Czesław Miłosz, *The Captive Mind* (New York: Knopf, 1953), vii-xiv, 82-110. **CR**

Week 11 (04/08): 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**
- 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 12 (04/15): Reassessing the End of Communism

Readings:

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

Week 13 (04/22): Repositioning Identities in the 1990s

Readings:

- Pamela Ballinger, *History in Exile: Memory and Identity at the Borders of the Balkans* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2002) **UB/R**
- Milica Bakic-Hayden, "Nesting Orientalisms: The Case of Former Yugoslavia," *Slavic Review* 54, no. 4 (1995): 917-931. **L@UW**

Week 14 (04/29): Memory in Post-Totalitarian Eastern Europe

Readings:

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

Week 15 (05/06): Conclusions

No assigned readings

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 lecture on the due date. Late papers will be penalized by a half-grade per day. A hard copy of the paper should be submitted in lecture AND an electronic copy should be uploaded into 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.

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

The University's Writing Center is a wonderful resource that allows you to work with a consultant to improve your written work. Take a look at their website (<http://www.writing.wisc.edu/index.html>) for more information.