

**Charles University, Faculty of Arts
East and Central European Studies**

Summer 2016

**Shaping Central Europe
The historical forces which defined Central European History**

CUFA HIST 205

Instructor: Dr. Gaëlle Vassogne, PhD
Email: vassogneg@yahoo.fr
Office hours: by appointment
Classes: Mon, 12:00 – 2:45, Tue, Thu 3:00 – 5:45, J2 (Jindřišská 27, Prague 1)

Course Description

The course will focus on the history of Central Europe through the study of the major phenomena that shaped it. The main themes studied in the course will be the impact of the Habsburg dynasty on the region's politics and culture, the rise of nationalism in the 19th century and its consequences for post-WWI Central Europe. We will then analyze the impact of World War II on the region, the disappearance of Central Europe as a political and cultural entity under Communist rule and its rebirth at the end of the 20th century. We will also explore the significance for the region of its specific Jewish history. Each theme will be illustrated by a field trip and/or a documentary.

Course Goals and Student Learning Objectives

The aim of the course is to achieve an understanding of the history of the different national and cultural entities that now constitute the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary, Poland and also Germany and a comprehension of their complex interaction. At the end of the course, students will possess a solid knowledge of the factors which shaped Central European history and the impact of this history on today's Europe. Moreover, this class will provide a new perspective on Prague and the Czech Republic, wider than the often limited approach which concentrates on the Cold War.

Assignments and Grading Policy

Class participation/attendance: 20%
Presentation: 30%
2 short quizzes: 10% each
1 paper (5-10 pages long): 30%

Each student will chose the topic of his/her paper with the help of the instructor and use the lectures, the readings (and eventually other material) as a basis for his/her research.
Format of the paper: Times New Roman 12, spacing 1.5, margins 2.5 cm.
Grades based on letters A through F will be given. ECES does not provide courses with pass/fail grades. The final paper or reading summaries are a required component of the course. Failure to submit them according to the deadline will result in a grade F for the entire course.

Reading

A course reader will be available online at the ECES program website.

Attendance

Regular and punctual class attendance is mandatory for all students. Absence of 180 minutes is allowed. Three or more absences (90 minutes each) lower the grade automatically (A to A-, A to B+ in case of 4 absences etc.). Students must attend at least 70 % of the course. If a student attends less than 70 % of the class meetings, he or she will receive the final grade 'F' on their transcript.

Presentation Policy: Missing the presentation will result in an F (when applicable). If the student wants to switch the date, he/she must find someone to do it and both students must confirm the change in e-mails to the professor at least 10 days in advance. If the student is sick and has a medical note, then the professor must agree with the student on how the work will be made up for.

Final Test or Paper Policy: Completing the final test or paper is required. Failure to submit the final test or paper according to the deadline will result in a letter grade F for the entire course.

For further details, please see the Attendance Policy at the ECES website under “Academic Policies and Procedures”: <http://eces.ff.cuni.cz/>.

Student Responsibility and Code of Conduct

Standards of study and conduct in the ECES Program are set and maintained. You are subject to the general standards and requirements of Charles University in regard to attendance, examinations, and conduct, as well as to specific requirements of the program. The student is expected to assume the initiative in completing all requirements at the time specified.

It is the responsibility of the student to be informed concerning all regulations and procedures required. In no case will a regulation be waived or an exception granted because a student pleads ignorance of the regulation or asserts that he/she was not informed by an advisor or other authority.

Charles University expects all students to adhere to the highest standards of ethics and academic integrity. Students certify that all work (whether an examination, research paper, research project, form of creative expression, or any other academic undertaking) submitted for evaluation, presentation, or publication meets these standards.

All forms of academic fraud are strictly prohibited. An automatic grade of F will result for the entire course if a student is found guilty of academic misconduct. These include, but are not limited to:

- Plagiarism
- Cheating
- Falsification
- Violation of professional ethics
- Misrepresentation or research data

Weekly Schedule

WEEK 1: THE HABSBURGS, THE MOST POWERFUL FAMILY IN CENTRAL EUROPE

Day 1 (Monday, June 20): The creation of a Central European Empire

Introduction: What is Central Europe?

The origins of the Habsburg dynasty

Maximilian I's marriage policy

The Battle of Mohács and its consequences

A double threat: Reformation and the Ottoman Empire

The Thirty Years War

Readings

Jacques Rupnik: In Search of Central Europe.

Michael G. Roskin: Caught Between Empires.

Lonnie R. Johnson: The Bulwarks of Christendom.

Chambers, Grew et al.: Reformations in religion (1500-1570).

Day 2 (Tuesday, June 21): Maintaining the Power

Enlightened absolutism

The rivalry with France, from Louis XIV to Napoleon

The fight for Germany: the Habsburgs and the rise of Prussian power

The multinational structure of the Empire: integration, domination or autonomy

Readings

Piotr S. Wandycz: The Seventeenth-Century Crisis.

Frank E. Manuel: Empire of the Hapsburgs and Prussia, The State as a Machine.

Day 3 (Thursday, June 23): Habsburg Prague

Guided tour: How did the different Habsburg reigns shape the history and architecture of Prague?

WEEK 2: NATIONALISM AND ITS CONSEQUENCES: CENTRAL EUROPE FROM 1848 TO WORLD WAR II

Day 1 (Monday, June 27): Nationalism in the 19th century

What is nationalism?

The Revolution of 1848: causes and consequences

World War I and the dissolution of the Habsburg Empire

Self-determination and the redrawing of the European map

Readings

Benedict Anderson: Introduction.

Ernest Gellner: Definitions.

E. Garrison Walters: History, 1848-1914.

Woodrow Wilson: Fourteen Points.

Day 2 (Tuesday, June 28): Central Europe in the Interwar period

Political instability and the failure of democracy

The place of the new Central European countries in the concert of nations

The rise of fascism

World War II and the end of Central Europe

Presentations: Czechoslovakia, Poland, Hungary in the interwar period

Readings

Piotr S. Wandycz: The Difficult Independence (1918-1945).
Michael G. Roskin: East Europe and World War II (1939-1945).

Day 3 (Thursday, June 30): Alfons Mucha – The Slav Epic

A guided viewing of Mucha's masterpiece at the Prague National Gallery

WEEK 3: FROM ONE OPPRESSION TO THE NEXT – COMMUNISM IN CENTRAL EUROPE

Day 1 (Monday, July 4): What is Communism? Central Europe under Communism

Documentary: People's Century – Brave New World

Communist ideology

Allied Conferences and the redrawing of the European map

The disappearance of Central Europe

The Communist takeovers in Central Europe

Communism in Central Europe

Presentations: Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Poland, East Germany

Readings

Archie Brown: What do We Mean by a Communist System?
Michael G. Roskin: The Communist Takeovers
Piotr S. Wandycz: The Hard Road to Freedom (1945-1989)
Michael G. Roskin: The Gorbachev Factor.

Day 2 (Tuesday, July 5): The end of Communism

Documentary: "People's Century – People Power"

Civil society and dissent in Communist Central Europe

The fall of 1989

The rebirth of Central Europe and the European integration

Documentary: "Vaclav Havel – Prague, Castle"

Readings

Ernest Gellner: The Price of Velvet: Tomas Masaryk and Václav Havel.
Václav Havel: Politics and Conscience.
Archie Brown: Why Did Communism Last So Long?
Archie Brown: What caused the collapse of Communism?

Day 3 (Thursday, July 7): Swastika, Hammer, and Sickle

Tour of all the most important sites of Nazi and Communist oppression in Prague

WEEK 4: JEWISH HISTORY IN CENTRAL EUROPE

Day 1 (Monday, July 11): From the settlement to emancipation

Poland as a refuge

Messianism, Hasidism, and Haskalah

The failure of emancipation and the birth of Jewish politics

The different forms of Jewish nationalism

Documentary: "A Yiddish World Remembered"

Readings

Moses Mendelssohn: The Right to be Different.

Israel Bartal: Hasidim, Mitnagdim, and Maskilim.
Michael Brenner: The Early History of Political Zionism.
Theodor Herzl: A Solution to the Jewish Question.
Marsha L. Rozenblit: The Jews of Austria-Hungary on the Eve of WWI.

Day 2 (Tuesday, July 12): The road to the Holocaust and its Aftermath

Jewish life in Central Europe between the two world wars

Nazi Germany and the “Final Solution”

Jewish life in Central Europe after the Holocaust: from one antisemitism to another

Documentary: “People’s Century – Master race”

Readings

Ezra Mendelsohn Introduction.

Adolf Hitler Mein Kampf.

Protocols of the Wannsee Conference.

Yehuda Bauer Is the Holocaust Explicable?

Bernard Wasserstein East European Shadows (1853-1989).

Day 3 (Thursday, July 14): Jewish Prague

Guided tour of the Jewish Quarter

Reading list

Recommended readings

There is no required book for this class. The instructor will provide each student with recommended readings according to the subject of their presentation and research paper. However, recommended books for this class are:

Central Europe. Enemies, Neighbors, Friends by Lonnie R. Johnson (Oxford University Press, 1996)

The Price of Freedom: A History of East Central Europe from the Middle Ages to the Present by Piotr Wandycz, Routledge, 2001.

The Rebirth of East Europe by Michael G. Roskin, Pearson, 2001.

Required readings

The required readings are to be found in the reader, which will be available online at the ECES program website at the beginning of the semester. The following is a list of the reader's content. The instructor will provide the students with a list of reading questions which will serve as basis for class discussions.

Week 1 – The Habsburgs (until 1848)

Jacques Rupnik	In Search of Central Europe - In: <i>The Other Europe</i> . Weidenfeld and Nicolson, London, 1989, p. 3-23.
Michael G. Roskin	Caught Between Empires - In: <i>The Rebirth of East Europe</i> . Prentice Hall, Upper Saddle River, 2001, p. 7-25.
Lonnie R. Johnson	The Bulwarks of Christendom – In: <i>Central Europe. Enemies, Neighbors, Friends</i> . Oxford University Press, New York, 1996, p. 64-84.
Chambers, Grew et al.	Reformations in religion (1500-1570) – In: <i>The Western Experience</i> , volume 2. McGraw Hill, 1991, p. 537-567.
Piotr S. Wandycz	The Seventeenth-Century Crisis – In: <i>The Price of Freedom</i> . Routledge, London and New York, 2001, p. 77-104.
Frank E. Manuel	Empire of the Hapsburgs – In: <i>The Age of Reason</i> . Cornell University Press, Ithaca, 1951, p. 86-98.
Frank E. Manuel	Prussia, The State as a Machine – In: <i>The Age of Reason</i> . Cornell University Press, Ithaca, 1951, p. 99-105.

Week 2 – Nationalism and Its Consequences (1848 – 1945)

Benedict Anderson	Introduction – In: <i>Imagined Communities</i> . Verso, London and New York, 1991, p. 1-7.
Ernest Gellner	Definitions – In: <i>Nations and Nationalism</i> . Blackwell, Oxford, 1983, p.1-7
E. Garrison Walters	History, 1848-1914 – In: <i>The Other Europe. Eastern Europe to 1945</i> . Syracuse University Press, Syracuse, 1988, p. 47-109.
Woodrow Wilson	Fourteen Points – In: Grenville and Wasserstein, <i>The Major International treaties of the Twentieth Century</i> , volume 1, Routledge, London and New York, 2001, p. 98-100
Piotr S. Wandycz	The Difficult Independence (1918-1945) – In: <i>The Price of Freedom</i> . Routledge, London and New York, 2001, p. 201-235.
Michael G. Roskin	East Europe and World War II (1939-1945) – In: <i>The Rebirth of East Europe</i> . Prentice Hall, Upper Saddle River, 2001, p. 47-63.

Week 3 – Communism in Central Europe

- Archie Brown What do We Mean by a Communist System? – In: *The Rise and Fall of Communism*. Vintage Books, London, 2010, p. 101-114.
- Michael G. Roskin The Communist Takeovers - In: *The Rebirth of East Europe*. Prentice Hall, Upper Saddle River, 2001, p. 64-79.
- Piotr S. Wandycz The Hard Road to Freedom (1945-1989) – In: *The Price of Freedom*. Routledge, London and New York, 2001, p. 236-273.
- Ernest Gellner The Price of Velvet: Tomas Masaryk and Václav Havel – In: *Encounters with Nationalism*, Blackwell, Oxford, 1995, p. 114-129.
- Václav Havel Politics and Conscience – In: *Living in Truth*. Faber and Faber, London and Boston, 1986, p. 136-157.
- Michael G. Roskin The Gorbachev Factor – In: *The Rebirth of East Europe*. Prentice Hall, Upper Saddle River, 2001, p. 120-141.
- Archie Brown Why Did Communism Last So Long? – In: *The Rise and Fall of Communism*. Vintage Books, London, 2010, p. 574-586 and What caused the collapse of Communism? In: *The Rise and Fall of Communism*. Vintage Books, London, 2010, p. 587-602

Week 4 – Jewish History in Central Europe

- Moses Mendelssohn The Right to be Different – In: Mendes-Flohr and Reinhartz, *The Jews in the Modern World*. Oxford University Press, New York, 1995, p. 68-69.
- Israel Bartal Hasidim, Mitnagdim, and Maskilim – In: *The Jews of Eastern Europe 1772-1881*. University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, 2005, p. 47-57.
- Michael Brenner The Early History of Political Zionism. In: *Zionism. A Brief History*. Princeton, Markus Wiener Publishers, 2006, p. 3-22.
- Theodor Herzl A Solution to the Jewish Question – In: Mendes-Flohr and Reinhartz, *The Jews in the Modern World*. Oxford University Press, New York, 1995, p. 533-538.
- Marsha L. Rozenblit The Jews of Austria-Hungary on the Eve of WWI – In: *Reconstructing a National Identity. The Jews of Habsburg Austria during World War I*. Oxford University Press, 2001, p. 14-38.
- Ezra Mendelsohn Introduction – In: *Jews of East Central Europe between the World Wars*. Indiana University Press, Bloomington, 1982, p. 1-8.
- Adolf Hitler Mein Kampf – In: Mendes-Flohr and Reinhartz, *The Jews in the Modern World*. Oxford University Press, New York, 1995, p. 637-639.
- Protocols of the Wannsee Conference – In: Mendes-Flohr and Reinhartz, *The Jews in the Modern World*. Oxford University Press, New York, 1995, p. 662-665.
- Yehuda Bauer Is the Holocaust Explicable – In: *Rethinking the Holocaust*. Yale University Press, New Haven and London, 2001, p. 14-38.
- Bernard Wasserstein East European Shadows (1853-1989) - In: *Vanishing Diaspora. The Jews in Europe since 1945*. Penguin, London, 1997, p. 206-226.