

NYU Prague

ANTH-UA9200P01, Roma in Central and Eastern Europe Fall 2018

Instructor Information

- Dr. Yasar Abu Ghosh
- Email: ayg2@nyu.edu
- Office hours: We 11.00-12.00am

Course Information

- ANTH-UA9200P01
- Roma in Central and Eastern Europe
- Mo 3-4:20pm, We 3-4:20pm
 - Dvorak - BB

Course Overview and Goals

The tumultuous fate of European Roma and Gypsy groups during the 20th century has seen their culture and very existence as a people challenged. Despite being subjected to intense assimilation policies and persecution, they regularly re-emerge with a remarkable revitalizing power. Who are then the Roma and Gypsies, what does it mean from their point of view? As a people without a state and the largest European minority they are the epitome of cultural diversity across borders and time. In this course, we will learn about the historical social adaptations of Roma and Gypsy groups in Europe and the United states and then we will focus on Central European Roma. The course will draw on the latest research on topics such as Romani European migration, memory building, political mobilization, survival strategies, segregation and racism, Romani women activism or youth movement. The course newly adopts a field-trip component that will complement the lecture and seminar sessions. We will visit a contested memory site of Nazi persecution and participate at a commemoration ritual; we will travel to a Roma ghetto and study the contours of spatial segregation and its politics; we will attend a performance of the “theater of the oppressed” and discuss with Roma actors how theatric language helps them express their aspirations etc. This course will challenge mono-causal explanations of Romani society and culture and will stimulate students to think about Roma in a critical holistic way that brings into consideration the societies they live in. Building on a diverse selection of empirical material, ranging from ethnographic, historical and sociological case studies to film and art, the course will present the Roma “as good to think with” about contemporary societies.

Upon Completion of this Course, students will be able to:

- Examine historical underpinnings of social marginalization in CEE.
- Develop a substantive knowledge on the history and anthropology of European Roma.
- Apply theoretical approaches to contemporary Roma issues in Europe.

Course Requirements

This must include number of pages of written work and time of oral presentations.

Presentations	10 %
Film review	10 %
Mid-term exam	30 %
Field-trip	10 %
Final paper	40 %

Failure to submit or fulfill any required course component results in failure of the class.

Class Participation

The course will evolve around a Monday lecture on a given topic and an ensuing Wednesday seminar in which students present assigned readings. As a way to familiarize with the on-going debates, controversies and stories surrounding Czech Roma we will at the beginning of every seminar discuss current events. This should help us escape the “scholarly fallacy” and be alert to on-the-ground tensions, stereotypes, political agendas etc. You may come up with your own articles you happen to come across; nonetheless we will be regularly consulting [Roma run information website](http://www.romea.cz/en/) www.romea.cz/en/ as our shared pool of information. You can focus on various kinds of information, cultural or political (or other). In addition, a **mandatory field trip to Ostrava** will be organized (TBC).

Assignment 1 – Final paper

The main component of your assessment is the **final paper**. This is a research paper based on required readings and your own desk research. After mid-term exam, you will have to start figuring out the topic of your paper. Oral presentations of your paper projects will take place on **March 21** where you will receive feedback from both the course instructor and students. On May 2 you will have to submit the first draft of your final paper (1500 words) and receive commentaries and further suggestions from the instructor within two days. The deadline for the final paper is May 16. The length of the final paper is 4000-4500 words.

Final Paper Assessment:

- Clear articulation of the main theses or argument
- Outline of your paper structure
- Clarity in presenting others’ work, selection & use of references
- Critique and/elaboration on other related literature
- Conclusion
- Outline compatibility (degree to which paper follows approved / suggested outline)
- Legibility

Assignment 2 - Presentation

The seminar session will proceed with a student presentation of assigned readings. As assigned reading should be considered those listed under “Reading” for Wednesday sessions. The syllabus contains also references to other texts used in the lectures. These are not mandatory but highly suggested to those interested in a given topic. Feel free to get creative about your presentation; however, you should at least present the readings’ main points (20minutes), provide discussion

questions for the class (2-3 questions), and organize and run the discussion (20 minutes). The dates of individual presentations will be decided on the first course session.

Assignment 3 – Mid-term exam

The exam is an in-class written essay on one of two topics outlined by course instructor in a handout distributed before the exam. The essay should prove your familiarity with theories and empirical examples discussed in class and in assigned literature.

Assignment 4 – Film review

I am providing a list of films that feature the topic of Roma/Gypsies in some way. They are both, feature and documentary films. We will address the question of representation of Roma/Gypsies throughout the class but there is also one class that takes the topic of “imagination of Roma/Gypsies” by others. Choose a selection of films from the list and write a film review with reference to politics of representation. The length of film review should be 1000 words at least.

Grading of Assignments

The grade for this course will be determined according to the following formula:

Assignments/Activities	% of Final Grade
Final paper	40
Mid-term exam	30
Film review	10
Presentation	10
Field-trip participation	10

Letter Grades

Letter grades for the entire course will be assigned as follows:

Letter Grade	Percent
A	97-100
A-	93-96
B+	91-92
B	87-90
B-	85-86
C+	83-84
C	79-82
C-	77-78
D+	75-76
D	72-74
D-	70-71
F	69 and less

Course Schedule

Topics and Assignments

Week/Date	Topic	Reading	Assignment Due
Session 1 Monday, September 3	Class overview, schedule of presentations, mid-term exam requirements, final paper requirements and topics	-	
Session 2 Wednesday, September 5	Why to study Roma/Gypsies? Overview of main shifts in the history of Romani studies	Willems, W. 1998. Ethnicity as a Death Trap. In <i>Gypsies and Other Itinerant Groups: A Socio-Historical Approach</i> (L. Lucassen, W. Willems, A. Cottaar eds.) Matras, Y. 2004. The Role of Language in Mystifying and De-Mystifying Gypsy Identity. In Saul, N. Tebbutt, S. Eds. <i>The Role of the Romanies</i> , pp. 53-78.	
Session 3 Monday, September 10	<i>The question of 'Indic roots' and the idea of diaspora in debates on Roma identity.</i>	J. Clifford. 1994. Diasporas. <i>Cultural Anthropology</i> 2: 302-338. R. Brubaker. 2005. The 'diaspora' diaspora. <i>Ethnic and Racial Studies</i> 28(1): 1-19.	
Session 4 Wednesday, September 12	<i>Unpacking the 'Indic origin' theory</i>	I. Hancock. 1987. <i>Pariah Syndrome: An Account of Gypsy Slavery and Persecution</i> , Introduction R. Brubaker. 2005. The 'diaspora' diaspora. <i>Ethnic and Racial Studies</i> 28(1): 1-19. P. Gay y Blasco. 2002. Gypsy/Roma Diasporas. A Comparative Perspective	
Session 5 Monday, September 17	<i>Comprehending Roma from the Rom point of view.</i>	Stewart, M. 2013. Roma and Gypsy Ethnicity as a Subject of Anthropological Inquiry. <i>Annual Review of Anthropology</i> . 415-432. Marushiakova, E. and V. Popov. 2013. 'Gypsy' groups in Eastern Europe: Ethnonyms vs. professionyms. <i>Romani Studies</i> 23(1): 61-82.	
Session 6 Wednesday, September 19	<i>Facets of Romanes</i>	Stewart, M. 1997. We are all brothers here, pp. 50-72. In <i>Time of the Gypsies</i> . Boulder, Oxford: Westview Press. (Optional: A Place of Their Own, pp. 27-49;)	
Session 7 Monday, September 24	<i>Roma in the wider society – strategies of disappearance and</i>	Barth, F. 1969. Introduction. In <i>Ethnic Groups and Boundaries. The Social Organization of Cultural</i>	

Week/Date	Topic	Reading	Assignment Due
	<i>passing among Roma groups</i>	<i>Difference</i> . Universitetsforlaget: Oslo.	
Session 8 Wednesday, September 26	<i>Performing Identity.</i>	Williams, P. 1982. The Invisibility of the Kalderash of Paris: Some aspects of the economic activity and settlement patterns of the Kalderash Rom of the Paris suburbs. <i>Urban Anthropology</i> 11(3-4): 315-344. Silverman, C. 1982. Everyday Drama: Impression Management of Urban Gypsies. <i>Urban Anthropology</i> 11(2): 377-398.	
Session 9 Monday, October 1	<i>Cultivating marginality</i>	Bourgois, P. 1995. Introduction. In <i>In Search of Respect</i> , pp. 1-18. S. Day et al. 2000. Consider the Lilies of the Field. In <i>Lilies of the Field</i> , pp. 1-24. Ladányi, J. and I. Szelényi. 2006. Introduction. In <i>Patterns of Exclusion: Constructing Gypsy Ethnicity and the Making of an Underclass in Transitional Societies of Europe</i> . East European Monographs: Boulder, CO.	
Session 10 Wednesday, October 3	<i>Economies of survival</i>	Gmelch, S. B. 1986. Groups that don't want: Gypsies and other artisan, trader, and entertainer minorities. <i>Annual Review of Anthropology</i> 15: 307-330. Kaprow, M. L. 1982. Resisting Respectability: Gypsies in Saragossa. <i>Urban Anthropology</i> 11(3-4): 399-431.	
Session 11 Monday, October 8	Field-trip evaluation		Field-trip to Ostrava, October 5-6
Session 12 Wednesday, October 10	<i>The 'gypsy question' during socialism: a comparative perspective</i>	Donert, C. 2010. Creating 'Citizens of Gypsy Origin'. Ethnicity, Planning and Population Control in Socialist Czechoslovakia. In Christiane Brenner and Martin Schulze Wessel (eds). <i>Zukunftsvorstellungen und staatliche Planung im Sozialismus: Die Tschechoslowakei im ostmitteleuropäischen Kontext</i> . Munich: Oldenbourg (pp. 89-114). Guy, W. 1998. Ways of Looking at Roma: The Case of	

Week/Date	Topic	Reading	Assignment Due
		Czechoslovakia (pp. 13-68, excerpts). In <i>Gypsies: An Interdisciplinary Reader</i> . New York: Garland, D. Tong (ed.).	
Fall Break October 13-21	Fall Break		
Session 13 Monday, October 22	<i>Roma self-organizing during socialism</i> – Guest lecture by Helena Sadílková		
Session 14 Wednesday, October 24	Mid-term exam		
Session 15 Monday, October 29	<i>Sterilization and Roma women empowerment</i> - Guest lecture by Gwendolyn Albert	Tomasovic, E. 2011. Robbed of Reproductive Justice: The Necessity of a Global Initiative to Provide Redress to Roma Women Coercively Sterilized in Eastern Europe. <i>Columbia Human Rights Law Review</i> 41: 765 -823.	
Session 16 Wednesday, October 31	<i>Gendered perspectives</i>	Kóczé, A. 2009. The Limits of Rights-based Discourse in Romani Women's Activism: The gender dimension in Romani politics. In <i>Contemporary Romani Politics in Europe: recognition, mobilization and participation</i> , ed. N. Trehan and F. Sigona, London: Palgrave/Macmillan, 2009. pp. 135-159. Brooks, E. 2012. The Possibilities of Romani Feminism. <i>Signs: Journal of Women in Culture and Society</i> 38(1): 1-11.	
Session 17 Monday, November 5	<i>Transnationality, migration and mobility.</i>	Glick Schiller, N. 2004. Transnationality. In Nugent, D. Vincent J. (eds.). <i>A Companion to the Anthropology of Politics</i> , pp. 44-67. Hage, G. 2003. A not so multi-sited ethnography of a not so imagined community. <i>Anthropological Theory</i> 5(4): 463-75.	
Session 18 Wednesday, November 7		Grill, J. 2012. 'Going up to England': Exploring mobilities among Roma from Eastern Slovakia. <i>Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies</i> 38: 1-19. De Genova, N. 2018. The Securitization of Roma Mobilities and the Re-bordering of Europe. In <i>The Securitization of the Roma in</i>	

Week/Date	Topic	Reading	Assignment Due
		<i>Europe</i> . van Baar, H., Ivasiuc, A., Kreide, R. (Eds.)	
Make-up Day Friday, November 9 (9am-5pm)	Make-up day for missed classes		
Session 19 Monday, November 12	<i>The Romany political movement in contemporary Europe</i> . The politics of ethnicity has reached into the Gypsy question quite recently. In the lecture we will look what are the obstacles of pro-Roma activism and the diversity of ethnic projects carried out by them.	Klimova, I. 2002. Romani political representation in Central Europe: An historical survey. <i>Romani Studies</i> 12(2): 103–147. Vermeersch, P. 2003. Ethnic minority identity and movement politics: The case of the Roma in the Czech Republic and Slovakia, <i>Ethnic and Racial Studies</i> 26(5): 879-901. Kóczé, A. and Trehan, N. 2009. Racism (neo-)colonialism, and social justice: The struggle for the soul of the Romani civil rights movement in post-socialist Europe. In <i>Racism, Post-colonialism, Europe</i> , ed. G. Huggan, Liverpool: Liverpool University Press, 2009, pp.50-77.	
Session 20 Wednesday, November 14	<i>Inveting gypsiness vs. unconstructed gypsiness</i>	Vermeersch, P. 2003. Ethnic minority identity and movement politics: The case of the Roma in the Czech Republic and Slovakia, <i>Ethnic and Racial Studies</i> 26(5): 879-901. van Baar, H. 2012. Toward a politics of representation beyond hegemonic neoliberalism: the European Romani movement revisited. <i>Citizenship Studies</i> 16(2): 287-296.	
Session 21 Monday, November 19	<i>The Gypsies in Western and other peoples' imagination</i>	M. van de Port. 1998. Kafana, in <i>Gypsies, Wars and Other Instance of the Wild</i> , pp. 177-206, Amsterdam. Trumpener, K. 1992. The Time of the Gypsies. <i>Critical Inquiry</i> 18: 843-884.	
Session 22 Wednesday, November 21	<i>Film and society</i> . A number of authors find visual means of representation more appropriate for portraying Roma social life. As precursor to your film	Homer, Sean. 2004. "The Roma Do Not Exist": The Roma as an Object of Cinematic Representation and the Question of Authenticity. City College, Greece, pp. 183-198.	Film review due.

Week/Date	Topic	Reading	Assignment Due
	reviews we will try to point out some of the techniques of ethnographic film-making as well as to form of representation in films for general audience.	Dobreva, Nikolina. 2007. Constructing the 'Celluloid Gypsy': Tony Gatlif and Emir Kusturica's 'Gypsy films' in the context of New Europe. <i>Romani Studies</i> 17(2): 141–154. Reviews of E. Kusturica films	
Session 23 Monday, November 26	<i>Film and society.</i> A number of authors find visual means of representation more appropriate for portraying Roma social life. As precursor to your film reviews we will try to point out some of the techniques of ethnographic film-making as well as to form of representation in films for general audience.	Screenings	
Session 24 Wednesday, November 28			Final paper draft due.
Session 25 Monday, December 3	<i>Historical narrative vs. memory.</i> History and memory often address the same thing but in a different way. What constitutes this difference and how is it socially appropriated?	G. Margalit. 2000. The Uniqueness of the Nazi Persecution of the Gypsies, <i>Romani Studies</i> 2: 185-210. Lewy, G. 2000. Conclusion: The Course of Persecution Assessed. In <i>The Nazi Persecution of the Gypsies</i> , pp. 218-228. Hancock, I. 2004. Romanies and the Holocaust: A Re-evaluation and Overview. In <i>The Historiography of the Holocaust</i> , ed. D. Stone. Palgrave MacMillan: NY, pp. 383-396.	
Session 26 Wednesday, December 5	<i>Commemorating suffering.</i> The Lety camp controversy and its impact on contemporary Romani politics.	Polansky, P. 2001. <i>The Black Silence</i> . CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform (excerpts)	
Session 27 Monday, December 10	Guest lecture – Nancy Schaper Hughes (TBC)		
Session 28 Wednesday, December 12 (last day of classes)	Round table	Feedback on and discussion of final papers.	

Week/Date	Topic	Reading	Assignment Due
Session 29 Monday, December 17	Final exam		
Session 30 Wednesday, December 19	Final exam		Final paper due.

Course Materials

Required Textbooks & Materials

Required readings will be provided via NYU Classes.

Resources

- **Access your course materials:** [NYU Classes](https://nyu.edu/its/classes) (nyu.edu/its/classes)
- **Databases, journal articles, and more:** [Bobst Library](https://library.nyu.edu) (library.nyu.edu)
- **Assistance with strengthening your writing:** [NYU Writing Center](https://nyu.mywconline.com) (nyu.mywconline.com)
- **Obtain 24/7 technology assistance:** [IT Help Desk](https://nyu.edu/it/servicedesk) (nyu.edu/it/servicedesk)
- **NYU Prague library:** [Tritius Catalog](https://nyu.tritius.cz/?lang=EN) (https://nyu.tritius.cz/?lang=EN)

Course Policies

Attendance and Tardiness

Absences only for medical reasons and for religious observance will be excused. To obtain an excused absence, you are obliged to supply either a doctor's note or corroboration of your illness by a member of the housing staff (either an RA or a Building Manager). To be excused for religious observance, you must contact the instructor and the Academic Director via e-mail one week in advance of the holiday. Your absence is excused for the holiday only and does not include days of travel associated with the holiday. Unexcused absences will be penalized with a 2% percent deduction from your final course grade for every week of classes missed.

Please note that Friday, November 9 (9am – 5pm) is reserved as a make-up day for missed classes. Do not schedule any trips for this day.

Late Submission of Work

Late submission of the Final Paper will result in the deduction of 2 points for every day after deadline.

Academic Honesty/Plagiarism

According to the Liberal Studies Program Student Handbook, plagiarism is defined as follows:

Plagiarism is presenting someone else's work as though it were one's own. More specifically plagiarism is to present as one's own a sequence of words quoted without quotation marks from another writer, a paraphrased passage from another writer's work; facts or ideas gathered, organized and reported by someone else, orally and/or in writing. Since plagiarism is a matter of fact, not of the student's intention, it is crucial that acknowledgment of the sources be accurate and complete. Even where there is no conscious intention to deceive, the failure to make appropriate acknowledgment constitutes plagiarism.

The College of Arts and Science's Academic Handbook defines plagiarism similarly and also specifies the following:

“presenting an oral report drawn without attribution from other sources (oral or written), writing a paragraph which, despite being in different words, expresses someone else's idea without a reference to the source of the idea, or submitting essentially the same paper in two different courses (unless both teachers have given their permission in advance).

Receiving help on a take-home examination or quiz is also cheating – and so is giving that help – unless expressly permitted by the teacher (as in collaborative projects). While all this looks like a lot to remember, all you need to do is give credit where it is due, take credit only for original ideas, and ask your teacher or advisor when in doubt.”

“Penalties for plagiarism range from failure for a paper, failure for the course or dismissal from the university.” **(Liberal Studies Program Student Handbook)**

Classroom Etiquette

Please avoid using your smart phones during lectures and seminars. Chatting, messaging and the use of any online social media are considered rude and disrespectful.

Disability Disclosure Statement

Academic accommodations are available for students with disabilities. Please contact the Moses Center for Students with Disabilities (212-998-4980 or mosescsd@nyu.edu) for further information. Students who are requesting academic accommodations are advised to reach out to the Moses Center as early as possible in the semester for assistance.