History of Nationalism in Central and Eastern Europe

Syllabus Spring 2012

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Course description:
After a brief introduction in the theory of nationalism and studies on nationalism as an academic discipline, the course examines nationalism in the Czech Republic and Slovakia, Poland, Hungary, Ukraine and Russia. The nationalism in the Balkan countries has been also included in the course. Comparative histories of the formation of modern national identities, including the ‘national awakening’ of non-dominant nations, will be interpreted against the backdrop of national policies of multi-ethnic states, national programs and leaders. The major focus of the course will be oriented toward topics surrounding post-WWI Central and Eastern Europe, Nazism and Communism. We will examine the disintegration of post-Communist Central and Eastern Europe, discuss the ethnic conflicts, policies toward minorities and xenophobia.

Learning outcomes:
The students will be able to:
1. understand the role of history in formation of national identity of Central and Eastern European nations;
2. understand and be able to identify how the interpretation of history served in support of nationalist political programs and arguments;
3. comprehend and be able to interpret Nazism and Communism in relationship to nationalism.

It is expected that the student will read 70-100 pages of academic text and sources per week. The reading is indicated in the syllabus or will be distributed in class in advance, alternatively will be available on line. The guidelines for mid-term and finals will be available in class one and two weeks before the scheduled exam. There will be three short home assignments during the semester. Several field trips, visits and guest speakers are planned. There may be small adjustments of the topics of the meetings due to the accessibility to the places of visit.
Grading policy:
Class participation/attendance: 25%
3 short assignments: 3 x 5 = 15 %
Mid-term: 25 %
Final: 35%

95 – 100 % A 77 – 79 % C plus
90 – 94 % A minus 73 - 76 % C
87 – 89 % B plus 70 – 72% C minus
83 – 86 % B 69% and less F
80 – 82 % B minus

Schedule of classes

Week 1
14 February - Nationalism as a subject of scholarly examination. Theories, definitions and categories. Typology of nationalism.
Reading: Reader: Chapter 1, 1-65 (Alter, P.: Nationalism, 1-119).

16 February - Nationalism on the territory of former Yugoslavia in past and present
Reading: NYU library: Mazower, Mark: The Balkans: A Short History.

Week 2
21, 23 February - Nationalism on the territory of former Yugoslavia in past and present

Week 3
28 February - Nationalism on the territory of former Yugoslavia in past and present.

1 March – Nationalism in Ukraine
Reading: Reader: Chapter 6, 144-179 (Ilya Prizel, National Identity and Foreign policy, 300-371).

Week 4
6 March - Nationalism in Ukraine
Reading: provided by the instructor in class.

8 March – Nationalism in Belarus
Reading: provided by the instructor in class

Week 5
13, 15 March - Nationalism in Russia
Reading:
Materials provided by the instructor in class

**Week 6**
20, 22 March - Nationalism in Poland.
**Reading:**
NYU library: Prizel, I. *National Identity and Foreign policy. Nationalism and Leadership in Poland, Russia and Ukraine.* Chapter on Poland.

**Study guidelines for the mid-term will be available in class**

**Week 7**
27 March - Nationalism in Hungary

29 March – Mid-term

**Week 8**
3 April - Nationalism in Hungary
**Reading:**
Materials provided in class.

5 April -
**Week 9 – Spring Break – no classes**

**Week 10**
17 April - Czech Nationalism.
**Reading:**

19 April – Czech Nationalism.
**Reading:**

**Week 11**
24, 26 April - Czech and Slovak Nationalism.
**Reading:**
Additional materials provided in class.

**Week 12**
1 May – National Holiday – no classes
3 May – Czech and Slovak Nationalism

*Reading*


*Week 13*

8 May- National Holiday – no classes

10 May - Nationalism in Czechoslovakia and Czech Republic and Slovak Republic

*Reading*: Poličenská, Milada: *Division of Czechoslovakia* (study material).

*Week 14*

15, 17 May – Manifestations of Nationalism in Czech Republic and Slovak Republic in today.

*Reading*: materials provided in class

*Week 15 - Exam week*

22 May – Finals