Class code
Germany and East Central Europe (1871-2000)
POL – UA – 9515-001

Instructor Details
Dr Gaëlle Vassogne PhD
vassogneg@yahoo.fr
mobile: 733 723 479
Office hours immediately before and after class, and by arrangement via e-mail

Class Details
Spring 2013
Monday – Wednesday 10:30 – 11:50
Location to be confirmed.

Prerequisites
None

Class Description
This course will focus on the history of the culturally rich region of “Mitteleuropa” through analysis of the parallel evolution of Germany and the Czech Republic, Poland, Slovakia and Hungary. Mitteleuropa as a region produced such important figures as Franz Kafka, Gustav Mahler, Sigmund Freud, Theodor Herzl and Milan Kundera; historical personalities whose influence internationally is indisputable. We’ll delve into the history of the region and on the central role played by German politics and culture from the end of the 19th century, through the turbulent 20th century to the present day. Emphasis will be on the evolution of the concept of nationalism as well as on Germany’s foreign policy in the “concert of nations”, especially towards its Eastern neighbors. The aim is to achieve an understanding of the complex evolution of national entities and their interaction between the birth of the modern German state and the integration of the Visegrád countries in NATO and the European Union.

The class will be lecture-based, with discussion of primary sources, a documentary and a short field trip

Desired Outcomes
The aim of the course is to achieve an understanding of the history of the different national entities that now constitute Germany, Poland, Hungary, the Czech Republic, and Slovakia, and of their complex interaction. At the end of the semester, students will possess a solid knowledge of the history of Germany and the countries of Central Europe in the 19th and 20th centuries, as well as their interaction and the European
context, especially from a political and diplomatic perspective. They will familiarize themselves with the major diplomatic texts involving Germany, Central Europe and the great powers. Moreover, this class will provide a new perspective on the Czech Republic and Central Europe, wider than the often limited approach which concentrates on the Cold War.

Assessment Components

1. Book review (8 to 12 pages, Times New Roman 12, 1.5 spaced) 25%
2. Mid-term exam 20%
3. Presentation on the history of one East Central European Country 20%
4. Final exam 25%
5. Participation 10%

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

Assessment Expectations

Grade A: Excellent work. Shows a full mastery of the topic, great engagement in class as well as an organized and personal approach to the questions asked.

Grade B: Good work. Shows a proper mastery of the topic, proper research and coherent argumentation. Good participation in class.

Grade C: Passable work, limited engagement in class, limited knowledge of the subject and insufficient research.

Grade D: Poor work

Grade F: Fails to meet the requirements.

Grade conversion

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Grading Policy
NYU Prague aims to have grading standards and results similar to those that prevail at Washington Square. At the College of Arts and Sciences, roughly 39% of all final grades are in the B+ to B- range, and 50% in the A/A- range. We have therefore adopted the following grading guideline: in any non-Stern course, class teachers should try to ensure that no more than 50% of the class receives an A or A-. A guideline is not a curve. A guideline is just that—it gives an ideal benchmark for the distribution of grades towards which we work.

Attendance Policy
Each unexcused absences will result in your final grade being reduced by 3%. Absences only for medical reasons 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). Absences due to travel will not be excused.

Late Submission of Work
Late submission of work is possible, with a valid reason. However, this needs to be discussed with the instructor in advance. Unauthorized late submission of work will result in the final grade being reduced by 2% per day.

Plagiarism Policy
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)
**Required Text(s)**

Reader to be borrowed from the NYU Prague library

**Internet Research Guidelines**

The careful and critical use of internet resources is encouraged, it being understood that Wikipedia and such websites can be a good way to acquire a first view of the presentation subject but are not sufficient for a good presentation.

**Additional Required Equipment**

None

**Session 1**

Overview of course: Prague as a capital city of Mitteleuropa

Monday, February 11

Short field trip to Old Town Square (weather permitting)

**Session 2**

What is Mitteleuropa? Germany, Austria-Hungary and Central Europe before the 1848 revolution

Wednesday, February 13

*Assigned reading*


**Session 3**

Definition(s) of nationalism

Friday, February 15

*(make up for Monday classes)*

*Assigned reading*


*Further reading*


**Session 4**

Nationalism and statehood in Germany and Central Europe: an overview
Monday, February 18

**Assigned reading**


**Session 5**

Germany’s unification

**Further reading**

**Session 6**

Germany from the unification to the beginning of the First World War: an overview

**Further reading**
Gordon A. Craig: *Germany 1866 – 1945*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1981. (Chapters 2, 3, 5, 6, 8).

**Session 7**

Mitteleuropa after Germany’s unification

**Assigned reading**

**Session 8**

Germany’s foreign policy: Bismarck’s Balance of powers

**Assigned reading**

**Further reading**

**Session 9**

Germany’s foreign policy: William II’s Weltpolitik

**Assigned reading**

**Further reading**

**Session 10**

The First World War and the end of old Central Europe

**Assigned Reading**
Jörg Brechtefeld: *Mitteleuropa and German Politics: 1848 to the Present*. London, Palgrave, 1996. (Chapter 4)*

**Further reading**


**Session 11**

Monday, March 11

The Paris Peace Conference, the national reconstruction of Europe’s centre and the question of minorities in Central Europe.

**Assigned reading**


**Session 12**

Wednesday, March 13

The Weimar Republic: history and constitutional problems

**Further reading**


**Session 13**

Friday, March 15

The Foreign Policy of the Weimar Republic

**Assigned reading**

Jörg Brechtefeld: *Mitteleuropa and German Politics: 1848 to the Present*. London, Palgrave, 1996. (Chapter 4)*

Further Reading


**Session 14**

Monday, March 18

The Rise of National-Socialism

**Further reading**


**Session 15**

Wednesday, March 20

Central Europe between the two World Wars: the rise of authoritarian regimes

Presentations on Poland and Czechoslovakia

**Session 16**

Friday, March 22

Central Europe between the two World Wars: the rise of authoritarian regimes

Presentation on Hungary
Session 17

Mid-term exam

Monday,
March 25

Session 18

The Nazi-Regime in Germany, its structure and ideology

Wednesday
March 27,

Further reading


Spring Break

April 1 – 5

Session 19

Hitler’s Foreign Policy: The Anschluß, the Munich Agreement and the beginning of World War II

Monday,
April 8

Assigned reading


Jörg Brechtlefeld: Mitteleuropa and German Politics: 1848 to the Present. London, Palgrave, 1996. (Chapter 4)*


Further reading


Session 20

World War II

Wednesday,
April 10

Assigned reading

Jörg Brechtlefeld: Mitteleuropa and German Politics: 1848 to the Present. London, Palgrave, 1996. (Chapter 4)*

Further reading


Book reviews are due

Session 21

Teheran, Yalta and Potsdam: redefinition of Central Europe

Monday,
April 15

Assigned reading


Further reading

Session 22
Wednesday, April 17

The birth of the two German states

Further reading

Session 23
Monday, April 22

The Adenauer Era: the end of the German Sonderweg and the Hallstein Doctrine

Assigned reading

Further reading
Timothy Garton Ash: *In Europe’s Name. Germany and the Divided Continent*. London, Jonathan Cape, 1993. (Chapter 5)*

Session 24
Wednesday, April 24

Brandt’s Ostpolitik and the normalization of the relations between Germany and the Eastern Block.

Assigned reading

Further reading
Timothy Garton Ash: *In Europe’s Name. Germany and the Divided Continent*. London, Jonathan Cape, 1993. (Chapter 5)*

Session 25
Monday, April 29

Mikhail Gorbachev, Helmut Kohl: perestroika and the road to German unity

Assigned reading

Further reading
Timothy Garton Ash: *In Europe’s Name. Germany and the Divided Continent*. London,
Jonathan Cape, 1993. (Chapters 5 – 6)*

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<td>May 1</td>
<td>National Holiday</td>
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<td>May 6</td>
<td>Session 26: German unity, domestic and international aspects</td>
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<td><strong>Assigned reading</strong></td>
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<td>*The Major International Treaties of the Twentieth Century: A History</td>
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<td>Timothy Garton Ash: *In Europe’s Name. Germany and the Divided</td>
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<td>Konrad H. Jarausch: <em>The rush to German Unity</em>. New York, Oxford</td>
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<td>Presentations on Hungary and Poland</td>
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<td>May 20</td>
<td>Session 29: Final exam</td>
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<td>May 22</td>
<td>Session 30: Germany’s new relations with the East Central European</td>
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<td>Return of exams, movie (“Václav Havel – Prague, Castle”, a documentary</td>
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<td>by Petr Jančárek and Martin Vidlák)</td>
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<td>NB: Documents marked with * are to be found in the reader.</td>
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Classroom Etiquette

Toilet breaks should be taken before or after class
Drinking is permitted in class, eating is not.
Mobile phones should be set on silent and should not be used in class except for emergencies
Laptops can be used in class with permission of the lecturer
Students are expected to arrive to class promptly and to remain for the duration of the class.
If timely attendance becomes a problem, the participation grade will be 0.

Required Co-curricular Activities

None outside of class

Books for the book review (suggestions)