Class Details

History of Nationalism in Central and Eastern Europe

Mondays and Wednesdays from 12:00 to 13:20
Richtrův dům, classroom Toyen
Location to be confirmed.

Prerequisites

None

Class Description

The introductory section of this course familiarizes the students with the theory of nationalism, the development of nationalism studies as an academic discipline and with preconditions for nationalism.

The main focus of the course will be on nationalism on nationalism in Ukraine, Russia, Poland and Hungary, in the former Yugoslavia including its break-up and the civil war in the Balkans, and on nationalism in the former Czechoslovakia, present-day Czech Republic and Slovakia.

We will identify the main sources of nationalism and of national identity in each of these countries, and examine how a romantic picture of national history influenced the development of national identity and what role the interpretation of national history has had in political struggles and programs of Central and East European nations, particularly in 19th and 20th C. As examples, major nationalist campaigns, arguments and leaders will be analyzed including the outbursts of nationalist hysteria and atrocities.

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.

The basic format of the course are lectures with power-point presentations, supplemented by several guest speakers during the semester. The course includes 4-6 field trips to Prague museums, historical sites and exhibitions related to the nationalism issues, and a field research with an analytical essay.

Desired Outcomes

After completion of this course, students should (1) be able to apply the theory of nationalism to its various manifestations. They (2) will acquire a survey knowledge of national histories in the examined region, (3) will have a solid understanding of main sources of nationalism in Central and Eastern Europe, and (4) will have skills to examine specific examples of this phenomena in modern and contemporary Central and Eastern Europe.

Assessment Components

Class participation/active attendance: 15% maximum
5 reading questions and discussion: 5% each, 25% in total
4 short writing assignments and discussion (1-1.5 pages): 5% each assignment maximum, 20% total
Book review (5-7 pages): 20% maximum
Field research and essay: 20%

Failure to submit or fulfill any required course component results in failure of the class.
Grade A: **Excellent performance.** The student has shown originality and displayed an exceptional grasp of the material and a deep analytical understanding of the subject.

Grade B: **Good performance.** The student has mastered the material, understands the subject well and has shown some originality of thought and/or considerable effort.

Grade C: **Satisfactory performance.** The student has acquired an acceptable understanding of the material and essential subject matter of the course, but has not succeeded in translating this understanding into consistently creative or original work.

Grade D: **Poor.** The student has shown some understanding of the material and subject matter covered during the course. Minimum Passing Grade.

Grade F: **Fail.** The student has not succeeded in mastering the subject matter covered in the course.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Letter Grade</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A</td>
<td>93 – 100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-</td>
<td>90 – 92.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+</td>
<td>87 – 89.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B</td>
<td>83 – 86.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-</td>
<td>80 – 82.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C+</td>
<td>77 – 79.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C</td>
<td>73 – 76.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-</td>
<td>70 – 72.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D+</td>
<td>67 – 69.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D</td>
<td>60 – 66.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>0 – 59.99</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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 Associate 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 two percent deduction from your final course grade for every week of classes missed.

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)


The reader for the course (NYU Library)

It is expected that the student will read 70-100 pages of academic text and sources per week.


The following internet resources will be used for the course:

- The website of the Nationalism Project [http://www.nationalismproject.org/what.htm](http://www.nationalismproject.org/what.htm)
- Other lists on H-NET related to the focus of the course, mainly HABSBURG, H-Russia and H-Poland

### Additional Required Equipment

None

### Session 1
**Monday, Feb 2**

*Theory of Nationalism I. and Historical Outline*

Reading:
- Alter, Peter. *Nationalism*.
- Hobsbawm, E. J. *Nations and Nationalism since 1780. Programme, Myth, Reality*.
- The website of the Nationalism Project [http://www.nationalismproject.org/what.htm](http://www.nationalismproject.org/what.htm)

### Session 2
**Wednesday, Feb 4**

*Nationalism in Ukraine*

Reading:
- Polišenská, *Study Guide*, chapter on Ukraine.

### Session 3
**Monday, Feb 9**

*Nationalism in Ukraine*

Reading:

### Session 4
**Wednesday, Feb 11**

*Nationalism in Ukraine*

Reading:

### Session 5
**Monday, Feb 16**

*Nationalism in Russia*

Reading:
- Polišenská, *Study Guide*, chapter on Russia.

### Session 6
**Wednesday, Feb 18**

*Visit of Mucha Museum, Panská 7, Prague 1-Nové Město*

Meeting: 12:00, Richtrův dům, Groundfloor reception

### Session 7
**Monday, Feb 23**

*Nationalism in Russia*

Prizel, I. *National Identity and Foreign policy. Nationalism and Leadership in Poland, Russia and Ukraine*. Chapter on Russia (NYU Library)

### Session 8
**Wednesday, Feb 25**

*Visit: Mucha: Slavic Epic in the National Gallery*

Meeting: 12:15, metro Malostranská, at the escalators upstairs

### Session 9
**Monday, March 2**

*Nationalism in Russia*

Reading:
- Laruelle, Marlene. *Russian Nationalism and the National Reassertion of Russia*.

### Session 10
**Wednesday, March 4**

*Nationalism in Poland*

Reading:
- Polišenská, *Study Guide*, chapter on Poland.
- Shelton, Anita *The Poles and the Search for a National Homeland*. In *Eastern European Nationalism in the 20th Century* (on line in Classes)

### Session 11
**Monday, March 9**

*Nationalism in Poland*

Reading:
- Prizel, I. *National Identity and Foreign policy. Nationalism and Leadership in Poland, Russia and Ukraine*. Chapter on Poland (NYU Library)

### Session 12
**Wednesday, March 11**

*Nationalism in Hungary*

Reading:
Nationalism in Hungary
Reading:
Frank, Tibor. Nation, National Minorities and Nationalism in the Twentieth Century Hungary (online in Classes)

Visit of a historical site in Prague, preferably Betlehem Chapel pending hours for visitors.
Meeting: 12:00, Richtrův dům, Groundfloor reception

Theory of Nationalism II- Review, application of acquired specific knowledge towards the theory and vice versa
Hroch, Miroslav. In the national interest: demands and goals of European national movements of the nineteenth century: a comparative perspective.

Nationalism in the Balkans
Polišenská, Study Guide, chapter on Yugoslavia.
Mazower, Mark: The Balkans: A Short History.

Nationalism in the Balkans
Reading:

Nationalism in the Balkans

Czech Nationalism: Discourse on the meaning of Czech history
Reading:
Polišenská, Study Guide, Czech/Czechoslovak chapter

Czech and Slovak Nationalism
Reading:

Czech and Slovak Nationalism
Reading:
Leff Skalnik, Carol. Czech and Slovak Nationalism in the Twentieth Century

Historical site visit (Betlehem Chapel and Jan Hus Apartment)
Meeting: 12:00, Richtrův dům, Groundfloor reception

Historical site visit (apartment of František Palacký and DF.L.Rieger)
Meeting: 12:00, Richtrův dům, Groundfloor reception

Czech and Slovak Nationalism
Reading:

Historical site visit (National Memorial to the Heroes of the Heydrich Terror)
Meeting: 12:00, Richtrův dům, Groundfloor reception

Roma in Central and Eastern Europe in the past and today
Guest speaker. Reading will be provided on line in classes.

Historical site visit (Old Town City Hall)
Meeting: 12:00, Richtrův dům, Groundfloor reception
Review of the course

Final exam: all assignments and other requirements of the course have to be fulfilled by 13:20 via e-mail to milada.polisenska@aauni.edu and via classes at the same time.

Classroom Etiquette

Even if the atmosphere in class should be open, friendly and informal, certain basic etiquette is necessary for the effective work of both instructor and students. It is expected that the students will be in class at time and prepared for the session. The students should not leave the classroom without a serious reason and should not stay outside longer than necessary.

Students should not eat in class and their mobile phones should be switched off. Even if the instructor provided the students her mobile phone number, the students should not misuse it and call the instructor just in very urgent matters.

Required Co-curricular Activities

Students are required to participate in trips and other activities organized by the NYU if they are related to Central European area. Particularly important are visits to Bratislava, Budapest, Cracow and other important locations, and lectures and panels at NYU, such as the Gellner Seminars.

Suggested Co-curricular Activities

Suggested other activities will be recommended during the semester. The students should also note that the visits of historical sites may be slightly rescheduled pending the opening hours of the monuments, and therefore a certain flexibility is necessary. All information about the visits will be provided in advance.