

NYU Prague

POL-UA9515P01 – HIST-UA9514P01 Germany and East Central Europe (1871-2000) Fall 2018

Instructor Information

- Gaelle Vassogne, Ph.D.
- Email: gv31@nyu.edu
- Office hours: Immediately before or after class, and by arrangement via email
- Telephone: 733 723 479

Course Information

- POL-UA9515P01 – HIST-UA9514P01
- Germany and East Central Europe (1871-2000)
- No co-requisite or pre-requisite
- **Tuesday-Thursday, 12:00-13:20**
 - Classroom: Dvořák - BB

Course Overview and Goals

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 use of primary and secondary sources, documentaries and field trips.

Upon Completion of this Course, students will be able 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
- 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.
- familiarize themselves with the major diplomatic texts involving Germany, Central Europe and the great powers.

- possess a new perspective on the Czech Republic and Central Europe, wider than the often limited approach which concentrates on the Cold War.

Course Requirements

Class Participation

The participation reflects involvement in class, which is demonstrated through questions (asked or answered) and the preparedness, as well as the general interest showed by the student in the studied material.

Research Paper

Each student will choose a topic according to his/her interests and in agreement with the instructor and write an analytical paper. The papers should respect the following format: 8 to 10 pages, Times New Roman 12, 1.5 spaced, margins 2.5 cm. The grade will be divided as follows:

- presentation of the topic and bibliography 5%
- outline of the paper 5%
- final paper 20%

Presentation

There are 6 presentation topics: Hungary, Poland and Czechoslovakia between 1918 and World War II, and Hungary, Poland and Czechoslovakia from 1945 to 1989. Each presentation should be 20 to 30 minutes long and based on a PowerPoint slide show (which will be posted on NYU Classes after the presentation). It should also include a timeline which will be handed out to all students at the beginning of the presentation. The instructor will be available for help and can review the slide show before the presentation.

Mid-term Exam

The exam is comprised of 5 or 6 essay questions (of which the students will be required to answer only 2). The mid-term exam covers the period from 1871 to 1933. A list of study questions will be provided. Chronologies and summaries will be available on the class website.

Final Exam

The exam is comprised of 5 or 6 essay questions (of which the students will be required to answer only 2). The final exam covers the period from 1933 to 2000. A list of study questions will be provided. Chronologies and summaries will be available on the class website.

Grading of Assignments

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

Assignments/Activities	% of Final Grade
Participation	10
Research Paper	30
Presentation	20
Mid-term Exam	20
Final Exam	20

Letter Grades

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

Letter Grade	Percent
A	94-100
A-	90-93
B+	87-89
B	84-86
B-	80-83
C+	77-79
C	74-76
C-	70-73
D+	67-79
D	63-66
D-	60-62
F	59.99% and lower

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.

Course Schedule

Topics and Assignments

Week/Date	Topic	Reading	Assignment Due
Session 1 Tuesday, September 4	Overview of course: Prague as a capital city of Mitteleuropa Short field trip to Old Town Square (weather permitting)		
Session 2 Thursday, September 6	What is <i>Mitteleuropa</i> ?	Milan Kundera: "The Tragedy of Central Europe", <i>New York Review of Books</i> , 26.4.1984, pp. 33 – 38. Peter Pulzer: "The citizen and the state in modern Germany", in: E. Kolinsky (ed.): <i>Modern German Culture</i> . Cambridge, Cambridge University Press, 1998, pp. 20 – 43.	
Session 3 Tuesday, September 11	Central Europe before the 1848 revolution	Miroslav Novák: "Historical Foundations and Developments in German Relations with the Countries of Eastern	

Week/Date	Topic	Reading	Assignment Due
		and Central Europe”, in: V. Handl, J. Hon, O. Pick: <i>Germany and the East Central Europe since 1990</i> . Prague, Institute of International Relations, 1999, pp. 33 – 49.	
Session 4 Thursday, September 13	Definition(s) of nationalism	Benedict Anderson: <i>Imagined Communities. Reflections on the Origin and Spread of Nationalism</i> . London, Verso, 1991. Ernest Gellner: <i>Nations and nationalism</i> . Oxford : Basil Blackwell, 1983.	
Session 5 Tuesday, September 18	Nationalism and statehood in Central Europe: an overview	Jean Bérenger: „The Austro-Hungarian Compromise“, in: <i>A History of the Habsburg Empire 1700-1918</i> . London, Routledge, 2014, pp. 209-224.	
Session 6 Thursday, September 20	Nationalism and statehood in Central Europe: an overview	Jean Bérenger: „The Austro-Hungarian Compromise“, in: <i>A History of the Habsburg Empire 1700-1918</i> . London, Routledge, 2014, pp. 209-224.	
Session 7 Tuesday, September 25	Germany’s unification	John Breuilly: “German National Identity”, in: E. Kolinsky (ed.): <i>Modern German Culture</i> . Cambridge, Cambridge University Press, 1998, pp. 44 – 66.	
Session 8 Thursday, September 27	Germany’s foreign policy: Bismarck’s Balance of powers	Gordon A. Craig “Ideology and Interest: The Limitations of Diplomacy 1871-1890”, in: <i>Germany 1866-1945</i> , Oxford University Press, 1991, p. 101-139. Dual Alliance, 7 October 1879, in: J.A.S. Grenville and B. Wasserstein, <i>The Major International Treaties of the Twentieth Century</i> . Routledge, London & New York, 2001, vol.1, p. 36-37. Reinsurance Treaty http://germanhistorydocs.ghi-dc.org/sub_document.cfm?document_id=1862	
Session 9 Tuesday, October 2	Germany’s foreign policy: William II’s Weltpolitik	Jörg Brechtefeld “The Europeanization of ‘Mitteleuropa’ 1848-1914”, in: <i>Mitteleuropa and German Politics 1848 to the Present</i> , Macmillan, London, 1996, p. 25-38.	
Session 10 Thursday, October 4	The First World War and the end of old Central Europe	A.J.P. Taylor “The Diplomacy of War”, in: <i>The Struggle for Mastery in Europe 1848-1918</i> . Oxford University Press, 1986, p. 532-566.	Research paper: presentation of the topic and bibliography are due
Session 11 Tuesday, October 9	The Paris Peace Conference, the national reconstruction of Europe’s centre and the question of minorities in Central Europe.	Woodrow Wilson “Fourteen Points”, in: J.A.S. Grenville and B. Wasserstein, <i>The Major International Treaties of the Twentieth Century</i> . Routledge, London & New York, 2001, vol.1, p. 98-100	

Week/Date	Topic	Reading	Assignment Due
		A.J. Grant & H. Temperley "The Paris Peace Conference and the Treaty with Germany, 1919" and "Nation-Making in Central Europe", in: <i>Europe in the Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries</i> . Longmans, London, 1964, p. 426-445.	
Session 12 Thursday, October 11	The Birth of the Weimar Republic	Treaty of Versailles (excerpts). In: J.A.S. Grenville and B. Wasserstein, <i>The Major International Treaties of the Twentieth Century</i> . Routledge, London & New York, 2001, vol.1.	
Fall Break October 13-21	Fall Break		
Session 13 Tuesday, October 23	The Weimar Republic: history and constitutional problems	Roderick Stackelberg: "The Weimar Republic and the Weakness of Liberal Democracy". In: <i>Hitler's Germany. Origins, Interpretations, Legacies</i> . Routledge, London, 1999, 63-81.	
Session 14 Thursday, October 25	The Foreign Policy of the Weimar Republic	Treaty of Rapallo – Pact of Locarno – Treaty of Berlin, in: J.A.S. Grenville and B. Wasserstein, <i>The Major International Treaties of the Twentieth Century</i> . Routledge, London & New York, 2001, vol.1, 181-182 /144 – 147 / 182 – 184.	
Session 15 Tuesday, October 30	The end of the Weimar Republic	Mary Fulbrook: "The Collapse of Democracy and the Rise of Hitler". In: <i>History of Germany 1918-1990</i> . Fontana, London, 1991, 44-65.	
Session 16 Thursday, November 1			Mid-term exam
Session 17 Tuesday, November 6	The Rise of National-Socialism	Hannah Arendt: "Ideology and Terror: A Novel Form of Government". In: <i>Totalitarianism</i> (part 3 of The Origins of Totalitarianism). Harcourt Brace, San Diego & London, 1979, 158-177. Roderick Stackelberg: "Origins and Consolidation of Nazi Germany". In: <i>Hitler's Germany. Origins, Interpretations, Legacies</i> . Routledge, London, 1999, 107-121.	
Session 18 Thursday, November 8	The Nazi-Regime in Germany, its structure and ideology	Gordon A. Craig: "The Nazi Dictatorship: The instruments of power". In: <i>Germany 1866-1945</i> , Oxford University Press, 1991, 569-601.	
Make-up Day Friday, November 9 (9am-5pm)	Make-up day for missed classes		
Session 19	Hitler's Foreign Policy: The <i>Anschluß</i> , the Munich	Declaration of Non-Aggression between Germany and Poland, 26 January 1934, in: J.A.S. Grenville and B.	

Week/Date	Topic	Reading	Assignment Due
Tuesday, November 13	Agreement and the beginning of WW II	<p>Wasserstein, <i>The Major International Treaties of the Twentieth Century</i>. Routledge, London & New York, 2001, vol.1, p. 207-208.</p> <p>The Munich Agreement between Germany, Britain, Italy, and France, 29 September 1938, in: J.A.S. Grenville and B. Wasserstein, <i>The Major International Treaties of the Twentieth Century</i>. Routledge, London & New York, 2001, vol.1, p. 220-221.</p> <p>Alliance between Germany and Italy (Pact of Steel), 22 May 1939, in: J.A.S. Grenville and B. Wasserstein, <i>The Major International Treaties of the Twentieth Century</i>. Routledge, London & New York, 2001, vol.1, p. 226-227.</p> <p>Treaty of Non-Aggression between Germany and the Soviet Union, 23 August 1939, in: J.A.S. Grenville and B. Wasserstein, <i>The Major International Treaties of the Twentieth Century</i>. Routledge, London & New York, 2001, vol.1, p. 229-230.</p> <p>Jörg Brechtefeld: „The Imperial Mitteleuropa“, in: <i>Mitteleuropa and German Politics: 1848 to the Present</i>. London, Palgrave, 1996. (Chapter 4)</p>	
Session 20 Thursday, November 15	World War II		Research paper: Outlines are due
Session 21 Tuesday, November 20	Central Europe between the two World Wars: the rise of authoritarian regimes Presentations on Poland, Hungary and Czechoslovakia	Piotr S. Wandycz “The Difficult Independence” (chapter 7), in: <i>The Price of Freedom</i> . Routledge, London and New York, 2001, p. 201-235.	Presentation Group 1
Session 22 Thursday, November 22	Central Europe between the two World Wars: the rise of authoritarian regimes Presentations on Poland, Hungary and Czechoslovakia	Piotr S. Wandycz “The Difficult Independence” (chapter 7), in: <i>The Price of Freedom</i> . Routledge, London and New York, 2001, p. 201-235.	Presentation Group 1
Session 23 Tuesday, November 27	Teheran, Yalta and Potsdam: redefinition of Central Europe	<p>Atlantic Charter, 14 August 1941, J.A.S. Grenville and B. Wasserstein, <i>The Major International Treaties of the Twentieth Century</i>. Routledge, London & New York, 2001, vol.1, 234.</p> <p>Potsdam Conference Protocol, 2 August 1945, J.A.S. Grenville and B. Wasserstein, <i>The Major International Treaties of the Twentieth Century</i>.</p>	

Week/Date	Topic	Reading	Assignment Due
		Routledge, London & New York, 2001, vol.1, 271-277. Lonnie Johnson: "Sphere of Influence II: East and West or 'Yalta Europe'". In: <i>Central Europe. Enemies, Neighbors, Friends</i> . Oxford University Press, New York, 2011, 211-235.	
Session 24 Thursday, November 29	The birth of the two German states	Hans-Peter Schwarz: "The Division of Germany". In: M. Leffler and O.A. Westad (ed.): <i>A Cambridge History of the Cold War</i> . Cambridge University Press, 2010, vol.1, 133-153. Dietrich Orlow "The Federal Republic of Germany (1949-1990)", in: <i>A History of Modern Germany</i> . Prentice Hall, Englewood Cliffs, 1995, p.258-292.	
Session 25 Tuesday, December 4	The Adenauer Era: the end of the German <i>Sonderweg</i> and the Hallstein Doctrine	Timothy Garton Ash: „Bonn, Moscow, Berlin“, in: <i>In Europe's Name. Germany and the Divided Continent</i> . London, Jonathan Cape, 1993, pp. 48 - 67	
Session 26 Thursday, December 6	Brandt's <i>Ostpolitik</i> and the normalization of the relations between Germany and the Eastern Bloc	Treaty between the Federal Republic of Germany and the Soviet Union (Treaty of Moscow), 12 August 1970, in: J.A.S. Grenville and B. Wasserstein, <i>The Major International Treaties of the Twentieth Century</i> . Routledge, London & New York, 2001, vol.1, 438-439. Treaty on the basis of relations between the Federal Republic of Germany and the German Democratic Republic (Basic Treaty), 21 December 1972, in: J.A.S. Grenville and B. Wasserstein, <i>The Major International Treaties of the Twentieth Century</i> . Routledge, London & New York, 2001, vol.1, 441-443. Contributions of G. Niedhardt and E. Bahr: Proceedings of the conference "American détente and German Ostpolitik", Washington, December 2003 (http://www.ghi-dc.org/publications/ghipubs/bu_supp/supp001/supp01.html)	Research papers are due
Session 27 Tuesday, December 11	Central Europe between World War II and the fall of the Wall. Revolt and reform Presentations on Hungary, Poland, and Czechoslovakia	Archie Brown "What do We Mean by a Communist System?", in: <i>The Rise and Fall of Communism</i> . Vintage, London, 2010, p. 101-114. Michael G. Roskin "The Communist Takeovers", in: <i>The Rebirth of East Europe</i> . Prentice Hall, Upper Saddle River, 2001, p. 64-79. Piotr Wandycz: "The Hard Road to Freedom", in: <i>The Price of Freedom. A History of East Central Europe from the</i>	Presentation Group 2

Week/Date	Topic	Reading	Assignment Due
		<i>Middle Ages to the Present</i> . London, Routledge, 2001. (Chapter 8)	
Session 28 Thursday, December 13 (last day of classes)	Mikhail Gorbachev, Helmut Kohl: perestroika and the road to German unity German unity, domestic and international aspects	Treaty of the final settlement with respect to Germany, 12 September 1990, in: J.A.S. Grenville and B. Wasserstein, <i>The Major International Treaties of the Twentieth Century</i> . Routledge, London & New York, 2001, vol.1, 453-456. Helga Haftendorn: "The unification of Germany". In: M. Leffler and O.A. Westad: <i>A Cambridge History of the Cold War</i> . Cambridge University Press, 2010, vol.3, 333-355. Timothy Garton Ash: "German Unification". In: <i>In Europe's Name. Germany and the Divided Continent</i> . Jonathan Cape, London, 1993, 343-356.	
Session 29 Tuesday, December 18		Review session	
Session 30 Thursday, December 20			Final exam

Course Materials

Required Textbooks & Materials

The readings will be posted on NYU Classes

Supplemental Text (not required to purchase, copies available in NYU P Library)

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 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.

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

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.

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.