



## **CET Academic Programs in Prague Jewish/Central European Studies Program**

**Program:** CET Prague

**Course Title:** Political and Cultural History of East Central Europe in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century

**Course Code:** CE250 Spring 2018

**Total Hours:** 45

**Recommended Credits:** 3

**Suggested Cross Listings:** History, Political Science, Central European Studies

**Language of Instruction:** English

**Prerequisites/Requirements:** none

**Professor:** Oldřich Tůma, [tuma@usd.cas.cz](mailto:tuma@usd.cas.cz)

**Class schedule :** **Group A** Monday 10:45-12:15, Thursday 10:00-11:30

**Group B** Monday 9:00-10:30, Thursday 12:05-13:35

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### **Description**

This is a required course for the Central European Studies concentration. The course covers the geographic area comprising former Czechoslovakia (or the Czech and Slovak Republics), Hungary and Poland, and provides an understanding of the important political, social and cultural developments of the region during the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Students explore the establishment of independent nation states during the interwar period, the Nazi occupation, resistance and collaboration, the Holocaust and the expulsion of the Germans, the nature of the communist system, its final collapse and the post-communist transformation. Throughout the course, emphasis is given to examination of the relationship between the Judeo-Christian tradition and the secular world and how this relationship manifests in the politics and cultural spheres of the region.

### **Objectives**

During this course, students:

- Develop a background knowledge of East Central European history post-1918 to the present day
- Achieve an overall understanding of the important political events that occurred in east central Europe during the 20<sup>th</sup> century, their causes and effects
- Examine the important political, economic, social, cultural and diplomatic issues in the region
- Learn about formation of the independent nation states of Czechoslovakia, Hungary and Poland after World War I, World War II, Communism, post-Communism eras

### **Course Requirements**

#### Participation

Course readings average 50 pages per session and should be completed before class. Students are expected to participate actively in class, raising thoughtful questions from the assigned readings.

#### Attendance

Mandatory attendance is a primary requirement for a responsible learning experience. Please consider that every absence has the potential to lower the final grade, as it may affect the "attendance and

participation” portion of your grade or result in missing key information that could appear on quizzes or exams. In addition, professors take attendance at the beginning of the class. If you are more than 10 minutes late, professors mark one hour of absence from class. Onsite visits count as regular class hours. A no-show to a site visit counts as an absence. Detailed information about the Attendance you will find in the **CET Prague Academic Policies**.

### Book Review

Students submit a written book review that they then present in class. Students select a book from the instructor’s list. Each book provides a different account (journalistic or literary) of specific historical circumstances reviewed in class. The book review and accompanying presentation should be polished and thorough, and include a complete summary of the text as well as an analysis of its interpretation of historical events.

### Exams

Students take comprehensive midterm and final exams that ensure they have kept up on and digested material covered during the course.

### Traveling Seminar

CET Prague’s Traveling Seminar is a required, credit-bearing, field-based component of the course. Students are expected to complete required reading and written assignments related to the Seminar, which are factored into the final grade as outlined below.

## **Methods of Evaluation**

Book review, presentation	25%
Midterm	25%
Discussions, activity in class	25%
Final	25%

## **Grading scale**

A: 93-100%	C+: 77-79%
A-: 90-92%	C: 73-76%
B+: 87-89%	C-: 70-72%
B: 83-86%	D+: 67-69%
B-: 80-82%	D: 60-66%
	F: 59% and below

## **Primary Texts**

### **Reader**

Crampton, R.J., *Eastern Europe in the Twentieth Century - and After*. (London: Routledge, 1997)

Rothschild, Joseph and Wingfield, Nancy M., *Return to Diversity. A Political History of East Central Europe Since World War II*. (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2000)

Wandycz, Piotr S., *The Price of Freedom. A History of East Central Europe from the Middle Ages to the Present*. (London: Routledge, 1992)

### **For the Traveling Seminar:**

Padriac Kenney, “The Gender of Resistance in Communist Poland” pp. 399-425, course reader 199 – 225.

Alison Stenning, “Place (Post-)Socialism: The Making and Remaking of Nowa Huta, Poland,” pp. 99-118, course reader 226 – 245.

Katherine Lebow, "Private Lives: Youth Brigades in Nowa Huta in the 1950s," pp. 199-219, course reader 246 – 267.

### Supplementary Texts

Gross, Jan T. *The Neighbors: The Destruction of the Jewish Community in Jedwabne, Poland*. (New York: Penguin, 2002)

Andrzejewski, Jerzy. *Ashes and Diamonds*. (Evanston: Northwestern University Press, 1997)

Fischer, Tibor. *Under the Frog*. (New York: Picador, 2001)

Kundera, Milan. *The Joke*. (New York: Harper Perennial, 1993)

**Ságl, Jan. *Dancing on the Double Ice* (Praha: KANT, 2013)**

Garton, Timothy Ash. *The Magic Lantern: The Revolution of '89 Witnessed in Warsaw, Budapest, Berlin, and Prague* (New York: Vintage, 1993)

Don, Yehuda and Karady, Victor (ed.), *A Social & Economic History of Central European Jewry*. (New Brunswick/London: Transaction Publishing, 1990)

Naimark, Norman M. *Fires of Hatred. Ethnic Cleansing in Twentieth Century Europe*. (Cambridge, Mass: Harvard University Press, 2001)

Wasserstein, Bernard. *Vanishing Diaspora. The Jews in Europe Since 1945*. (Cambridge, Mass: Harvard University Press, 1996)

### Outline of Course Content

	Topics Covered During Class	Readings or Homework Required for this Class
Week 1 <b>Jan. 26, 29, Feb. 1</b>	Introduction, WW1 E/C Europe during interwar years 1: political systems, minorities	H 81-125, P 1-14, Cz 379-392, S 234-240 H 127-197, P 14-36, Cz 395-420, S241-253
Week 2 <b>Feb. 5, 8</b>  <b>Feb. 7 - 18:00</b>	E/C Europe during interwar years 2: economy, culture, international relations E/C Europe during WW 2  Traveling Seminar Meeting I	H 127-197, P 14-36, Cz 395-420, S241-253 H 197-216, P 37-145, Cz 420-460, S 254-273  Introduction + Program Overview
Week 3 <b>Feb. 12, 15</b>	E/C Europe during WW 2 Movie Power of Good	H 197-216, P 37-145, Cz 420-460, S 254-273
Week 4 <b>Feb. 19, 22</b>  <b>Feb. 21- 18h</b>	E/C Europe during WW 2 Discussion of The Neighbours  TS Meeting II	H 197-216, P 37-145, Cz 420-460, S 254-273  Guest lecture + Blank EU Map Quiz
Week 5 <b>Feb. 26, March 1</b>	E/C Europe during WW 2 Communization of E/C Europe	H 197-216, P 37-145, Cz 420-460, S 254-273 H 219-264, P 146-197, Cz 463-501, S 274-278

Week 6 <b>March 5, 8</b>	Communization of E/C Europe Discussion of Diamonds and Ashes	H 219-264, P 146-197, Cz 463-501, S 274-278
<b>March 7 - 18h</b>	TS Meeting III	Presentations
Week 7 <b>March 12, 15</b>	Midterm test Traveling seminar	
Week 8 <b>March 19, 22</b>	Traveling seminar	
Week 9 <b>March 26, 29</b>	Communization of E/C Europe Nature of the Communist system	H 219-264, P 146-197, Cz 463-501, S 274-278 H 265-293, P 198-262, Cz 501-511, S 278-286
Week 10 <b>Apr. 9, 12</b>	Nature of the Communist system Crises of 1956	H 265-293, P 198-262, Cz 501-511, S 278-286 H 293-402, P 262-286, Cz 511-528
Week 11 <b>Apr. 16, 19</b>	Crises of 1956 Discussion of Under the Frog Trip to Budapest	H 293-402, P 262-286, Cz 511-528
Week 12 <b>Apr. 23, 26</b>	Crises of 1968 Discussion of Dancing on the double ice	Cz 528-580, S 286-293
Week 13 <b>May 3</b>	Crises of 1980/1	P 286-490
Week 14 <b>May 7, 10, 11</b>	Discussion of Magic Lantern Collapse of Communism in E/C Postcomunist transformation Museum of communism	H 402-465, P 490-536, Cz 580-615, S 293-305
Week 15 <b>May 14</b>	Final test	

## **Bibliography**

Reader

Jan T. Gross: The Neighbours

Jerzy Andrzejewski: Ashes and Diamonds

Tibor Fischer: Under the Frog

Jan SágI: Dancing on the Double Ice

Timothy Garton Ash: Magic Lantern