

**REE335/EUS348/GOV355M**  
**State and Society in Central Europe:**  
**Diasporas, Migrants, and Hungarian Nationalism**

Central European University (Nádor utca 13), Budapest, Hungary  
Room 301 (June 25 – July 4); Room 113 (July 8 – July 12)  
Ten class sessions (9:30am-12:00pm) – with additional excursions and programming

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Syllabus Version: May 31

This course explores the relationship – particularly, the mismatch – between the state and the society in Central Europe. Specifically, we will examine what happens when (1) nationals of a country reside outside the boundaries of the state and (2) when people from outside the state migrate – whether voluntarily or involuntarily – into the state. We will discuss the effects of these incongruences on nationalist attitudes. Given the location of the study abroad program, particular attention will be paid to the experience of Hungary, although developments in Romania will feature prominently in the readings.

The course is divided into two parts:

1. **Ethnic Hungarians not in Hungary:** We will focus on the ethnic *Magyars* outside of Hungary – a legacy of World War I and the Treaty of Trianon. We will explore how the European Union – with its open borders – has allowed the Hungarian government to speak to and *speak for* its diaspora outside the contemporary state borders.
2. **Non-Ethnic Hungarians in Hungary:** We will focus on the non-ethnic *Magyars* – who may in fact hold a Hungarian passport – in Hungary. Some are the result of historical migration; some, contemporary. Some are the result of voluntary migration; some, not. We will examine (1) the Romas – arguably the worst discriminated ethnic group not just in Hungary but across Europe; (2) the Chinese – one of the largest migrant populations in the region; (3) the Syrian refugees – who experienced tremendous obstacles in their journey into and through Hungary; and (4) the Ukrainian refugees – who despite being welcomed with open arms in the early months after the Russian invasion have struggled to integrate.

## Trips and Excursions

The afternoons of class days entail small excursions around Budapest. Beyond these trips, the class will take a two-day/three-night trip to Cluj, Romania (June 26-29) and a Friday day-trip to Szeged (July 5). All these trips and excursions are included in the study abroad program fee. Attendance is mandatory.

## Course Meetings and Readings

The course meets ten times in a classroom setting (9:30am-noon) from June 25 to July 12. Eight of the settings will be in Budapest; the other two will be in Cluj. Each of the classes features additional afternoon visits to sites in and around Budapest that relate to that week's material and/or professional opportunities in Hungary and the region after we leave. These are described in the syllabus below.

There are assigned readings. Students are expected to complete the readings ahead of the corresponding class session – all readings are uploaded to the course's Canvas page. There are no books to purchase for the class, but all students must bring a functioning laptop or tablet to Budapest to be able to complete the readings and course assignments. Students are highly encouraged to complete the readings for the course before they travel to Budapest.

## Assignments and Grading

Students will be evaluated on the following assignments during the course:

- **Class Participation (25%):** Your class participation grade will depend on both the quantity and quality of your participation in the course. I expect you to come to class sessions and excursions on time. I also expect you to be prepared for the sessions by completing and thinking about the assigned readings. I reserve the right to administer in-class quizzes.
- **Photo/Video Blog (25%):** You will curate a daily “Culture of Hungary” photo/video blog in the same spirit as “Humans of New York.” But, you will do so consistently through one specific cultural marker of your choosing – but also subject to my approval (e.g., architecture, food, language, music, and visual symbols). I want you to note and reflect the boundaries of these markers – i.e., who’s in and who’s not – in relation to what we discussed in class that day. I will meet individually with each student on June 25 to discuss your ideas for cultural markers. Detailed prompts will be provided on Canvas.
- **Blog Extension and Presentation (25%):** Because of Treaty of Trianon and the European Union, there are ethnic Hungarians everywhere outside of Hungary. Likewise, Hungary is home to a diverse community of non-

Hungarians – not just the Romas, the Chinese migrants, or the Ukrainian refugees. You will see this diversity in Budapest. You will do two additional blog entries where you focus on two different countries/groups beyond those we discuss in class. In the blog entry, you must not only note and reflect the cultural boundaries through that one specific cultural marker, but you must also demonstrate familiarity and competency of the context for that country/group. You will present your blog at the end of the course.

- **Paper on Hungarian Nationalism (25%):** You will write a short (1000-word, +/- 10%) paper on Hungarian nationalism. Is Hungarian nationalism exclusively about the *Magyar* ethnic group, or can it be something more inclusive based on civic values? How do we adjudicate between the two? The paper should be based primarily on the assigned readings, class lectures, and news articles easily accessible online. It should not require extensive academic research. I will meet individually with you on July 9 and 10 to discuss your paper and make suggestions for improving them. You should have a draft/outline of your paper in order to receive substantive feedback. The draft is due Friday, July 12 at 5:00pm.

Detailed assignment prompts, grade weighting, and due dates can be found on the course schedule below and on Canvas. The grading scale is as follows: A: >94%, A-: 90-93%, B+: 87-89%, B: 84-86%, B-: 80-83%, C+: 77-79%, C: 74-76%; C-: 70-73%; D+: 67-69%; D: 64-66%; D-: 60-63%; F: <60%.

### Academic Integrity, Late Penalties, Communication

I expect students to be familiar with UT's policies on academic integrity and to abide by them ([https://dean\\_ofstudents.utexas.edu/conduct/index.php](https://dean_ofstudents.utexas.edu/conduct/index.php)). I will penalize late assignments as follows: up to 24 hours late: 5% grade reduction, 24-48 hours late: 10% grade reduction, 48-72 hours late: 15% grade reduction. Any assignment turned in more than three days late will not be accepted, and will automatically result in a grade of 0. All communications regarding the class will be made via Canvas: Students must ensure that they have an email address that they check regularly linked to their Canvas profile.

### Disabilities Statement

Students with disabilities may request appropriate academic accommodations from the Disability and Access (<https://community.utexas.edu/disability/>) or by calling 512-471-6259.

## Course Outline

All instructions, assignments, readings, rubrics, and essential information will be on the Canvas website (<http://utexas.instructure.com>). Check Canvas regularly. Changes to the schedule may be made at my discretion if circumstances require. I will announce any such changes in class and will also communicate them via a Canvas announcement. It is your responsibility to note these changes when announced, and I will do my best to ensure that you are notified of changes with as much advance notice as possible.

### Monday, June 24 – Free Time

### Tuesday, June 25 – Class 1 – *Varieties of Nationalism*

- *Reading:* Hobsbawm – “Ethnicity and Nationalism in Europe Today”
- *Morning Activity:* Lecture on theories of nationalism – i.e., “Who is in the nation?”
- *Afternoon Activity:* 1-1 Student Meetings

### Wednesday, June 26 – Class 2 – *World War 1 and the European Union*

- *Reading:* McMillan – *Paris 1919* (Chapter 20).
- *Morning Activity:* Lecture on how World War 1 and the European Union have changed Hungary’s borders
- *Afternoon Activity:* Overnight train from Budapest to Cluj (Hungarian: *Kolozsvár*)  
Depart from Budapest Keleti @ 10:45pm; arrive in Cluj-Napoca @ 10:24am

### Thursday, June 27 – Class 3 – *Political Rights of Ethnic Hungarians in Romania*

- *Reading:* Csata and Máracz – “Prospects on Hungarian as a Regional Official Language and Szeklerland’s Territorial Autonomy in Romania.”
- *Late Morning Activity:* Guest lecture by Democratic Alliance of Hungarians in Romanian representative
- *Afternoon Activity:* Walking Tour of Cluj

### Friday, June 28 – Class 4 – *Socioeconomic Status of Ethnic Hungarians in Romania*

- *Reading:* Csata et al. – “Linguistic Diversity in Media and State Language Proficiencies: Evidence from Hungarian Minority Regions in Central-Eastern Europe”

- *Morning Activity:* Guest lecture by Director of Hungarian Studies at Babes-Bolyai University (Prof. Zsombor Csata)
- *Afternoon Activity:* Tour of Mathias Corvinus Collegium
- *Evening Activity:* Overnight train from Cluj to Budapest  
Depart from Cluj-Napoca @ 6:47pm; arrive in Budapest Keleti @ 5:20am

### Saturday, June 29 and Sunday, June 30 – Free Time

### Monday, July 1 – Class 5 – *Varieties of Migration*

- *Reading:* Fitzgerald et al. – “Defying the Law of Gravity: The Political Economy of International Migration”
- *Morning Activity:* Lecture on theories of migration – i.e., who goes when, where, why?
- *Afternoon Activity:* Tour of the US Embassy in Hungary

### Tuesday, July 2 – Class 6 – *Historical Migration: The Romas in Hungary*

- *Reading:* Kinga et al. – “Roma in Hungary: The Challenges of Discrimination”
- *Morning Activity:* Guest lecture by Roma community activist (Norbert Horváth)
- *Afternoon Activity* (2:00pm): Guided tour of VIII District with UCCU Foundation

### Wednesday, July 3 – Class 7 – *Voluntary Migration: The Chinese in Hungary*

- *Reading:* Zoldi – “From China to Hungary, in Hope and Fear”
- *Morning Activity:* Lecture on Chinese migration to Hungary in Central-Eastern Europe – including guest lecture by Chinese-in-Hungary expert (Dr. Fanni Beck)
- *Afternoon Activity:* Meeting with US Fulbright Commissioner in Hungary (3:00pm)

### Thursday, July 4 – Class 8 – *Voluntary Migration: The Chinese in Hungary*

- *Morning Activity:* Guided walking tour of Chinese neighborhoods with Dr. Linda Szabó

### Friday, July 5 – Excursion to Szeged

Depart from Budapest Nyugati @ 7:50am; arrive in Szeged @ 10:16am

Depart from Szeged @ 5:44pm; arrive in Budapest Nyugati @ 8:20pm

## Saturday, July 6 and Sunday, July 7 – Free Time

## Monday, July 8 – Class 9 – *Involuntary Migration: The Syrian Refugees*

- *Reading:* Jones – “With millions of Syrians displaced in country, it’s urgent to facilitate their return home”
- *In-Class Activity:* Guest lecture by Director of Foreign Affairs for the Hungarian Charity Service of the Order of Malta representative (Dániel Solymári)
- *Afternoon Activity:* Meeting with MA Political Science Graduate Program Director for Central European University (Prof. Zsolt Enyedi – tentative)

## Tuesday, July 9 – Class 10 – *Involuntary Migration: The Ukrainian Refugees*

- *Reading:* Kiss et al – “Housing of Ukrainian Refugees in Europe: Options for Long-Term Solutions”
- *In-Class Activity:* Guest lecture by Director of Hungarian Association for Migrants (Dr. András Kováts – to be confirmed,) Metropolitan Research Institute Researcher (Dr. Eszter Somogyi), and former Director of Open Learning Initiative (Dr. Ian Cook)
- *Afternoon Activity:* Student 1-1 Meetings

## Wednesday, July 10 – Student Presentations

- *Morning Activity:* Student Presentations
- *Afternoon Activity:* Student 1-1 Meetings

## Thursday, July 11 – Student Presentations

- *Morning Activity:* Student Presentations
- *Afternoon Activity:* Work on and submit final paper on Hungarian nationalism due by Thursday, July 12 @ 5:00pm

## Friday, July 12 – Free Time

- *Evening Activity:* Farewell Dinner  
Tata Restaurant @ 6:00pm

## Saturday, July 13 – Program Ends