

## Political and Social History of CEE in 20<sup>th</sup> Century

### Course tutor(s)

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### Description

The aim of the course is to present and evaluate the history of Central and Eastern Europe (CEE) in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The course will focus on the changing political geography in the region: the creation of new states and disappearance of the old. The changing map of CEE will be one of the most important tools during the course.

All historical changes will be looked at from social, ethnic and economic points of view.

### Type of course

CEE Key Course

### Number of ECTS points

9 ECTS

### Prerequisites (if applicable)

None

### Intended Learning Outcomes

Understanding of the political, economic and social changes in Central Europe in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. In particular learning about the processes of forming of new states after the First World War, evaluating the Versailles Peace Conference and the Versailles system.

Students should learn basic facts about the causes and course of the Second World War.

Finally the last part of the course will devoted to Communist rule in Central Eastern Europe. Students should be able to tell the theoretical background of the system, but also its practical implications.

### Course communication

**E-mail:** basista@chello.pl

**Web page:** <http://members.upcpoczta.pl/basista>

**Office Hours:** Monday 14:00-15:00

Tuesday 10:00-11:30

Wednesday 8:00-9:00; 14:00-15:00

Thursday 9:30-11:30

Institute of History, 13 ul. Gołębia, room 5, or by appointment.

### Notices and announcements

*Via CES office.*

### COURSE ORGANISATION

The course will constitute 60 teaching hours. It will be taught mainly as a lecture course, although discussions and questions are welcome. The course will be supplemented by student presentations and all participants will be required to prepare one in-class paper during the semester.

The list of the suggested reference books is attached to this syllabus and students will be required to prepare appropriate chapters **without further notice**. **This is an MA course and students are expected to engage in reading seriously, even if no precise page**

**numbers are quoted.** In order to participate in discussions, listeners may have additional reading assigned from the enclosed list or other sources. The selection of these will depend on the interest of students.

For most of the in-class meetings relevant handouts will be available on the web page, along with a list of recommended maps, diagrams and charts to be consulted in available reference books. Links to documents will be placed on the web page as well.

**Assessment:**

The final mark will be calculated using the following elements:

1. Mid-term exam - 25%.
2. A 1000-word essay on a historical figure - 25%.
3. Final written exam - 50%.

**The mid-term exam** will consist of a one hour test like examination before Christmas, which will be devoted to the history of CEE in the years 1914-1945.

**The 1000-word essay** will describe any historical person having some importance for CEE history in the 20th century will be described in a brief, encyclopaedia-like entry. The essay should be close to 1500 words in length, of appropriate academic quality, with a reading list, but without footnotes. A plagiarised essay may result in failing the course. The instructor must approve the person about whom the biography will be written.

Deadlines:

1 December - mid-term exam.

20 December - essays due.

**The final written exam** will consist of 12 questions divided into three sections. Each student will be obliged to answer three questions in the form of an essay (at least one question from each section). The exact time of the exam, which will last two clock hours, will be announced later.

**LITERATURE**

**TEXTBOOKS:**

Briggs, Asa & Clavin, Patricia, *Modern Europe 1789-1989*, London 1997.

Crampton, R.J., *Eastern Europe in the Twentieth Century*, Routledge 1994.

Crampton, Richard & Crampton, Ben, *Atlas of Eastern Europe in the Twentieth Century*, London, New York 1996.

Davies, Norman, *Europe*, Oxford 1996.

Di Scala, Spencer M., *Twentieth Century Europe, Politics, Society, Culture*, McGraw Hill 2004.

Held, Joseph, (ed.) *The Columbia History of EE in the Twentieth Century*, New York 1992.

Lewis, Paul G., *Central Europe Since 1945*, London 1994.

Okey, Robin, *Eastern Europe 1740-1980*, Minneapolis 1982.

Prażmowska A., *Eastern Europe and the Origins of the Second World War*, MacMillan Press 2000.

Rothschild, Joseph, *East Central Europe Between the Two World Wars*, Washington 1974.

Rothschild, Joseph, *Return to Diversity*, Oxford 1989.  
Walters, E. Garrison, *The Other Europe*,  
Wandycz Piotr, *The Price of Freedom*, London - New York 1993.

**REFERENCE:**

Agnew, Hugh, *Documentary Readings in European Civilization since 1715*, Kendall/Hunt 2000.  
Berend, Ivan, *Central and Eastern Europe 1944-1993*  
Berend, Ivan, *Decades of Crisis. Central Eastern Europe Before World War II*. UCP 1998  
Berend, Ivan, *From the Soviet Block to the European Union*, CUP 2009.  
Gibianski N., *The Establishing of Communist Regimes in East Europe 1944-49*.  
Griffin, Roger, *The Nature of Fascism*, 1991.  
Heineman, John L., *Readings in European History 1789 to the Present*, Kendall/Hunt 1994.  
Held, Joseph, *Dictionary of East European History since 1945*, Westport 1994.  
Janos, A., *East Central Europe in the Modern World*.  
Leitz, Christian, *The Third Reich*, Blackwell 1999.  
Magocsi, Paul, *Historical Atlas of East Central Europe*, Seattle-London 1993.  
Miller M., *The Russian Revolution*, Blackwell 2001.  
Noakes J. & Pridham G., *Nazism, 1919-1945: A Documentary Reader*, Exeter 1984.  
Paczkowski Andrzej, *The Spring Will Be Ours*, The Pennsylvania State University Press 2003.  
Schopflin George, *Politics in Eastern Europe (1948-1992)*  
Stokes Gale, *The Walls Came Tumbling Down; The Collapse of Communism in East Europe*.  
Stokes, Gale, (ed.), *From Stalinism to Pluralism*, Oxford 1996.

**STRUCTURE OF THE COURSE**

Please note, that materials for each meeting will be available on the web page as we move along. There will be a handout with facts, dates and comments, as well as links to relevant web pages and documents. Handouts may be downloaded or printed depending on preference.

Session 1. (4 October)

Course discussion - requirements.

CEE (political and social situation) at the turn of 19th and 20th centuries. The First World War: causes, pre-war political situation, and main actors in the war.

Session 2. (6 October) [meeting 2](#)

The First World War: the eastern front. The emergence of a new CEE after the war: the development of new national states in CEE.

Session 3. (11 October) [meeting 3](#)

Peace settlements after the First World War - the Versailles system. CEE in Europe in the years 1918-1938 in a statistical mirror.

Session 4. (13 October) [meeting 4](#)

Domestic economic and political problems of CEE countries 1918-1939. Part I. Poland.

Session 5. (18 October) [meeting 5](#)

Domestic economic and political problems of CEE countries 1918-1939. Part II. Czechoslovakia and Hungary.

Session 6. (20 October) [meeting 6](#)

The international situation in Europe at the brink of the Second World War. Hitler's Germany; policy of appeasement; *Anschluss*, Munich and Polish September 1939.

Session 7. (25 October) [meeting 7](#)

The Second World War - Poland. Part I - domestic problems.

Session 8. (27 October) [meeting 8](#)

The Second World War - Poland. Part II - international political developments. CEE in the Second World War. The international dimension of CEE - meetings in Teheran, Yalta, Potsdam and their impact on CEE.

Session 9. (8 November) [meeting 9](#)

The Second World War - Czechoslovakia, Hungary. The differences between the various CE countries.

Session 10. Possible guest lecture by a visitor from Ireland (10 November)

Session 11. (15 November) [meeting 10](#)

CEE in the Second World War. The international dimension of CEE - meetings in Teheran, Yalta, Potsdam and their impact on CEE.

Session 12. (17 November) [meeting 11](#)

The establishment of Communist regimes in CEE 1944-1948.

Session 13. (22 November) [meeting 12](#)

The outbreak of the Cold War. The Marshall Plan; the two camp policy, the Berlin Blockade, NATO, Warsaw Pact, the forming of FRG and GDR.

Session 14. (24 November) [meeting 13](#)

Stalinism and the age of terror 1948-1956.

Session 15. (29 November) [meeting 15](#)

The 'Thaw' of 1956. XX Congress of the CPSU. Polish October, Hungarian October.

Session 16. **Mid-term exam** (1 December)

Session 17. (6 December) [meeting 16](#)

Normalisation?: Kadar's Hungary, Gomułka's Poland.

Session 18. (8 December) [meeting 17](#)

Dubcek's Czechoslovakia and the Prague Spring.

Session 19. (13 December) [meeting 18](#)

Gierek's Poland. The emergence of democratic opposition in Central Europe. The role of the Church.

Session 20. (15 December) [meeting 19](#)

Solidarity Revolution of 1980/81.

Session 21. (20 December) **ESSAYS DUE** [meeting 20](#)

The Martial Law in Poland. Central Europe after 13 December 1981. Peoples' democracies in the 1980s. Crisis of the Communist system.

Session 22. (3 January) [meeting 21](#)

Central Europe in Europe and the world after World War II and until 1989; COMECON, Warsaw Pact.

Session 23. (5 January) [meeting 22](#)

[meeting 22a](#)

[meeting 22b](#)

The 'Velvet' Revolution of 1989/1990

Session 24. (10 January) [meeting 23](#)

CE today