

510:601  
Modern Eastern Europe  
Fall 2017

Prof. Melissa Feinberg  
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Office hours, Tuesdays, 2:00-4:00 (or by appointment)

For those looking at it from the outside, Eastern Europe has often seemed a mysterious place, backward, savage, and unknowable, hidden behind the veil of what Czech novelist Milan Kundera called its “strange and scarcely accessible languages.” Even for professional historians of Western Europe, the history of Eastern Europe can seem not only strange, but esoteric, peripheral to the “proper” study of European history. This class aims to remedy this misconception and break down the academic Iron Curtain that has kept Eastern Europe apart from the rest of the continent. Its goal is to de-mystify the history of Eastern Europe and to show how the past of this region is not merely interesting in its own right, but necessary for understanding the big themes of modern European (or indeed, global) history, including nationalism, colonialism, modernization, fascism, socialism, or the experiences of war, occupation and dictatorship.

This class concentrates on recent scholarship written about Eastern Europe during the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. Whether your own research concentrates on Britain, France, Germany, the USSR, the United States or any other region, this class will push you to think about “Europe” differently. It will also prepare you to integrate Eastern Europe into your future teaching. It requires no previous knowledge of the history of the region and no knowledge of strange languages, only a willingness to attempt to pronounce unfamiliar names when necessary.

**Grading and Assignments:** Because the purpose of this course is to expose you to a new historiography, it is particularly important that you complete all reading assignments before class and contribute actively to class discussion. To help you prepare for weekly discussion, you will write a response to each week’s reading (approximately 500-750 words) and post it to the Sakai discussion board by Tuesday at noon. Your reading response should address some aspect of the question: what is this book’s argument and why is it important? Rather than simply summarizing the material, you should aim to raise important issues (whether of interpretation, methodology, sources, argument, or ideology) that will be pertinent to class discussion.

In addition, each of you will take at least one turn introducing the readings and facilitating class discussion. As part of this, you will post a series of guiding questions to Sakai for the class by noon on Tuesdays.

Grades will be based on your weekly reading responses (25%), thoughtful, engaged, and consistent participation in class discussion each week (25%), discussion facilitation (10%), and a final written project (40%).

There are two options for the final project.

Option 1= a 15-20 page historiographical essay (strongly recommended for Ph.D students). For this option, you will read 4–5 additional books on a focused topic and write about how the work in this field intersects or differs from the current state of a related field in your own region of expertise. Your topic should be one of relevance to your own work. Examples might be the history of the Second World War, everyday life under socialism, gender and nation, nationalism and politics, etc. An essential part of the exercise here is figuring out which books to choose (not simply the first ones you find, but the most influential ones).

Option 2= a curriculum development project. This could take a variety of forms. You might write a detailed plan describing how you would integrate themes from the history of Eastern Europe into your current teaching (such as a high school world history or European history class), including themes and topics, assignments, activities, and appropriate readings. You could develop an annotated syllabus for an undergraduate course on East European history. Etc.

You should consult with me about what form your project will take. All final projects will be due no later than December 22 (no extensions).

Reading: You are responsible for obtaining copies of all assigned books, whether this is through purchase, EZ-Borrow, ILL or other means. All journal articles are available via Rutgers library resources. Book chapters or sections of books will be available on Sakai.

The following books have been assigned for this course:

Pieter Judson, *The Habsburg Empire: A New History* (Harvard University Press, 2016)

ISBN: 978-0674047761

Keely Stauter-Halsted, *The Devil's Chain: Prostitution and Social Control in Partitioned Poland*

(Cornell University Press, 2013) ISBN: 978-0801454196

Mary Neuberger, *Balkan Smoke: Tobacco and the Making of Modern Bulgaria* (Cornell

University Press, 2012) ISBN: 978-1501705724

Tara Zahra, *The Great Departure: Mass Migration from Eastern Europe and the Making of the*

*Free World* (Norton, 2016) ISBN: 978-0393353723

Andrea Orzoff, *Battle for the Castle: The Myth of Czechoslovakia in Europe, 1914–1948*

(Oxford University Press, 2011) ISBN: 978-0199843466

Jan T. Gross, *Neighbors: The Destruction of the Jewish Community in Jedwabne, Poland*

(Penguin: 2002) ISBN: 978-0142002407

Anna Bikont, *The Crime and the Silence: Confronting the Massacre of Jews in Wartime*

*Jedwabne* (Farrar, Straus and Giroux: 2015) ISBN: 978-0374536374

Katherine Lebow, *Unfinished Utopia: Nowa Huta, Stalinism and Polish Society, 1949–1956*

(Cornell University Press, 2013) ISBN: 978-1501704383

Katherine Verdery and Gail Kligman, *Peasants Under Siege: The Collectivization of Romanian*

*Agriculture, 1945–1962* (Princeton University Press, 2011) ISBN: 978-0691149738

Josie McClellan, *Love in the Time of Communism: Intimacy and Sexuality in the GDR*

(Cambridge University Press, 2011) ISBN: 978-0521727617

Patrick Hyder Patterson, *Bought and Sold: Living and Losing the Good Life in Socialist*

*Yugoslavia* (Cornell UP, 2011) ISBN: 978-0801450044

Jonathan Bolton, *Worlds of Dissent: Charter 77, The Plastic People of the Universe, and Czech*

*Culture under Communism* (Harvard University Press, 2012) ISBN: 978-0674064386

Philipp Ther, *Europe Since 1989: A History* (Princeton UP, 2016) ISBN: 978-0691167374

Timothy Snyder, *On Tyranny: 20 Lessons from the 20<sup>th</sup> Century* (Tim Duggan, 2017)  
ISBN: 978-0804190114

### Schedule of Readings

- September 5           Imagining the East (No Sakai responses necessary for today)  
Larry Wolff, *Inventing Eastern Europe: The Map of Civilization on the Mind of the Enlightenment* (Stanford University Press, 1994): 1–16  
Maria Todorova, *Imagining the Balkans* (Oxford UP, 1997): 116–139  
Dubravka Ugrešić, “Nice People Don’t Say Such Things,” in *The Culture of Lies: Antipolitical Essays* (Penn State University Press, 1998): 326–352
- September 12           Nationalism and National Indifference  
Pieter Judson, *The Habsburg Empire: A New History*  
Robert Nemes, *Another Hungary: The Nineteenth-Century Provinces in Eight Lives* (Stanford University Press, 2016): 93–120 (ch 4, “The Teacher”)
- September 19           Cleaning Up the Nation: Vice, Modernity and Progress  
Keely Stauter-Halsted, *The Devil’s Chain*  
Alison Frank, “The Children of the Desert and the Laws of the Sea: Austria, Great Britain, the Ottoman Empire, and the Mediterranean Slave Trade in the Nineteenth Century,” *American Historical Review* 117, no. 2 (April 2012): 410–444  
Nancy Wingfield, “Destination: Alexandria, Buenos Aires, Constantinople; ‘White Slavers’ in Late Imperial Austria,” *Journal of the History of Sexuality* 20, no. 2 (May 2011): 291–311
- September 26           “Backwardness” and Modernization  
Mary Neuberger, *Balkan Smoke*  
Edin Hajdarpašić, “Out of the Ruins of the Ottoman Empire: Reflections on the Ottoman Legacy in South-eastern Europe,” *Middle Eastern Studies* 44, no.5 (Sept 2008): 715–734
- October 3               Population Politics: Migration, Expulsion, Deportation  
Tara Zahra, *The Great Departure*  
Theodora Dragostinova and David Gerlach, “Demography and Population Movements,” in Arpád von Klimó and Irina Livezeanu, eds., *The Routledge History of East-Central Europe* (Routledge, 2016): 126–175  
Eric Weitz, “From Vienna to the Paris System: International Politics and the Entangled Histories of Human Rights,

Forced Deportations and Civilizing Missions,” *American Historical Review* 113 no. 5 (2008): 1313–1343

- October 10      Nationalism in Power: The Interwar Decades  
Andrea Orzoff, *Battle for the Castle*  
Paul Hanebrink, “Transnational Culture War: Christianity, Nation, and the Judeo- Bolshevik Myth in Hungary, 1890–1920,” *The Journal of Modern History* 80, No. 1 (March 2008): 55–80  
Holly Case, “The Strange Politics of Federative Ideas in East-Central Europe,” *Journal of Modern History* 85, no. 4 (December 2013): 833–866
- October 17      East Europeans as Perpetrators and Victims in WWII  
Jan T. Gross, *Neighbors*  
Antony Polonsky and Joanna B. Michlic, eds., *The Neighbors Respond: The Controversy over the Jedwabne Massacre in Poland* (Princeton UP, 2004), 93–118 (Macierewicz, Świda-Ziemia, Mac) and 220–236 (Strzembosz)  
Anna Bikont, *The Crime and the Silence*, 1–20, 64–220
- October 24      Making New Men and Women in Stalinist EE  
Katherine Lebow, *Unfinished Utopia*  
Sándor Horvath, *Stalinism Reloaded: Everyday Life in Stalin-City, Hungary* (Indiana University Press, 2017): 1–12, 115–152, 195–216 (Intro, ch. 4 and ch. 7)  
Czesław Miłosz, *The Captive Mind* (Vintage, 1990): 54–81 (“Ketman”)
- October 31      Molding the Land: Collectivization and (Re)Settlement  
Katherine Verdery and Gail Kligman, *Peasants Under Siege*  
Eagle Glassheim, *Cleansing the Czechoslovak Borderlands: Migration, Environment and Health in the Former Sudetenland* (University of Pittsburgh Press, 2016), ch. 4 (“The New Frontier): 92–122
- November 7      Marriage, Family and Sexuality during State Socialism  
Josie McClellan, *Love in the Time of Communism*  
Jill Massino, “Something Old, Something New: Marital Roles and Relations in State Socialist Romania,” *Journal of Women's History* 22, no.1 (Spring 2010): 34–60  
Kristen Ghodsee, “Pressuring the Politburo: The Committee of the Bulgarian Women's Movement and State Socialist Feminism,” *Slavic Review* 73 no.3 (Fall 2014): 538–562

- November 14            Communist Consumerism  
 Patrick Hyder Patterson, *Bought and Sold*  
 Paulina Bren, “Mirror, Mirror on the Wall...Is the West the  
 Fairest of Them All? Czechoslovak Normalization and Its  
 Discontents,” *Kritika* 9, no. 4 (2008): 831–85  
 James Mark and Peter Ápor, “Socialism Goes Global:  
 Decolonization and the Making of a New Culture of  
 Internationalism in Socialist Hungary, 1956–1989,”  
*Journal of Modern History* 87, no. 4 (December 2015):  
 852-891
- November 21            no class (Thursday classes meet today)
- November 28            Dissidents at Home and Abroad  
 Jonathan Bolton, *Worlds of Dissent*  
 Samuel Moyn, *The Last Utopia* (Harvard University Press, 2010):  
 120–175 (ch. 4, “The Purity of this Struggle”)
- December 5             1989 and a “Return” to Europe?  
 Philipp Ther, *Europe Since 1989: A*  
 Katherine Verdery, “Faith, Hope and Caritas in the Land of the  
 Pyramids: Romania, 1990–1994,” in *What Was Socialism*  
*and What Comes Next?* (Princeton University Press, 1995):  
 168–203  
 Kristen Ghodsee, *Muslim Lives in Eastern Europe* (Princeton:  
 Princeton University Press, 2010), ch 3 (“The Haves and  
 the Have-nots”): 86–108
- December 12            Lessons from the “Totalitarian” Past?  
 Václav Havel, “The Power of the Powerless,” in Havel, *Open*  
*Letters* (Vintage: 1992), 125–214  
 Timothy Snyder, *On Tyranny: 20 Lessons from the 20<sup>th</sup> Century*