History 381
National Conflict in Eastern Europe, 1800-1948

NB: This is a sample syllabus. I will change assigned books and lecture topics for Spring 2017. However, you can use this version to get a sense of the scope and the workload. For Spring 2017, I anticipate assigning ca. 75 pages of reading per week. There will also be several (ca. 3) short papers (ca. 5 pages) assigned throughout the semester. These will ask you to respond to the readings and class materials. They will not require outside research.

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Course Description
What are nations? Why do people feel so passionately about them? Who is welcomed into a nation? Who is excluded from it? Who gets to decide? These questions have been at the center of the often troubled history of Eastern Europe. This course will look at the history of this region from the late 1700s until 1948. Topics will include the origins of national movements, the collapse of the great Eastern European empires after World War I, the rise nation-states (and ethnic minorities in them), fascism, and World War II. Our goal is how to examine how conflicts over the boundaries of communities and identities played out in a specific historical context, and to ask ourselves what studying those conflicts in Eastern Europe’s past can tell us about similar conflicts in our own time. Our readings will cover wide range of materials, including scholarly works and primary sources, as well as literature, music, and art.

Course Requirements
Students are expected to complete each reading assignment before they come to class, and to be prepared to participate actively in discussion. Evaluations will be based on attendance and participation (20%), two 5-6 pp. midterm essays (25% each) and a take-home final exam (30%). Each essay is due on the date indicated in the course schedule below. Questions for the essay will be handed out in class; they will also be posted thereafter on our class website.

Mechanics of Discussion Classes
This course is a hybrid of a lecture course and a seminar. This means that in-class discussion of assigned readings is a critical aspect of the class. Each session on the syllabus is designated as a lecture or discussion. For classes designated as discussions, you are expected to read the assigned reading carefully and then post one substantive comment or question about the reading to the Sakai site by 12 noon on the day of the discussion. Doing this will give us a basis for a lively and engaging discussion during class.
What do I mean by a “substantive comment or question?” This is a comment or question that engages with the author’s argument, or with the historical context or significance of the assigned reading. Questions about proper nouns (“Where is x?”, “Who is y?”) or about pronunciation (“How do you say “x” out loud?”) are certainly valid, but they are not substantive comments or questions for the purpose of this assignment.

Your assessment will be based on:

- Attendance, submitting discussion questions/comments, and participation (10%)
- Essay #1 (30%)
- Essay #2 (30%)
- Essay #3 (30%)

**Attendance**
I will take attendance. You can miss up to three classes without penalty. If you miss more than three classes for whatever reason, your participation grade will be reduced. You will be also be penalized if you do not submit a discussion question by noon of a discussion class, even if you do attend class. (In this case, you will receive credit for attendance.) Remember, it is always better to attend class even if you cannot participate effectively, since you will learn a lot from discussion. When I calculate your participation grades, I will consider both quantity and quality of participation.

Please note that the university now requires that you report absences via a centralized system (https://sims.rutgers.edu/ssra).

**Essay Assignments**
You must hand in essays in hard-copy format and also upload them to turnitin.com (through the class Sakai site); I will give you instructions for how to do this with the first essay assignment. Late essays will be graded down one letter grade per calendar day. I will entertain requests for deadline extensions, but requests must be made more than 24 hours before the due date. (Requests made after this time will not be considered.) If an extension is granted, the revised due date is final, and the one letter/day policy will be applied if the deadline is missed. No extensions will be granted for essay #3 for any reason.

**Plagiarism**
Plagiarism is unacceptable. Cases of plagiarism will be handled according to the guidelines established by the Office of Student Conduct and the Department of History. For a full text of the policy governing plagiarism, see http://academicintegrity.rutgers.edu/files/documents/AI_Policy_9_01_2011.pdf. When I hand out the essay topics, we will discuss what constitutes plagiarism.

**Assigned Readings**
Readings for each class session are given on the course schedule. You are expected to have read and thought about each reading before you come to class. Apart from the three
books listed below, all other readings will be available for download on our course Sakai site.

The following have all been ordered through Rutgers University Bookstore. They can also be purchased on-line, through sites such as Amazon.


**Course Website**
Many of the course readings will be available through our Sakai course website at sakai.rutgers.edu. You will also find a copy of this syllabus posted there, in case you should lose this one. From time to time, I will also post additional materials (images that we discuss in class, copies of the exam questions, etc.) If there are any changes to the syllabus, I will announce these in class and then post them on the website. You are expected to check the course website regularly to get weekly readings and to learn about any changes to the schedule.

**Getting Started**

9/1 Introduction

9/3 Lecture: What and Where is Eastern Europe?

**Russia and the Lands of the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth**

9/8 NO CLASS – GO TO YOUR MONDAY CLASSES

9/10 Lecture: The Rise and Fall of the Polish Lithuanian Commonwealth
  - Jerzy Lukowski and Hubert Zawadski, *A Concise History of Poland*, 83-132
  - Adam Mickiewicz, “The Books of the Polish Nation.”

9/15 Discussion: Nobles, Peasants, Jews
  - Gershon Hundert, “Some Basic Characteristics of the Jewish Experience in Poland.”
  - John D. Klier, “What Exactly Was a Shtetl?”

9/17 NO CLASS
III. The Austro-Hungarian Monarchy

9/29 Lecture: 1683: Habsburg Austria and “Christian Europe”
- Andrew Wheatcroft, *The Enemy at the Gates*, 1-13; 188-224

10/1 Discussion: Glory and Agony: Hungary and 1848
- Paul Lendvai, *The Hungarians*, 206-241
- Sándor Petőfi, “The National Ode”
- Ferenc Kölcsey, “Hymn”
- József Eötvös, “The Nationality Question”

10/6 Lecture: Nationalizing Society: Peasants
- Gyula Illyés, *People of the Puszta*, excerpts

10/8 Discussion: Nationalizing Society: Germans and Czechs in Bohemia
- Tara Zahra, *Kidnapped Souls*, 13-48
- Heinrich von Gagern, “Speech to the Frankfurt National Assembly”
- František Palacký, “History of the Czech Nation”
- Bedřich Šmetana, *Libuše*, libretto, excerpts

10/13 Lecture: Did Anybody Want to Keep the Habsburg Monarchy?
- Joseph Roth, “The Bust of the Emperor”

IV. The Ottoman Empire

10/15 Lecture: The Rise of an Islamic State in Europe
- Mark Mazower, *The Balkans*, 1-76

10/20 Discussion; National Movements in the Balkans
TAKE-HOME EXAM #1 DUE IN CLASS
- “The Maiden of Kosovo”
- Ilija Garašanin, “The Draft”

10/22 Discussion: Harems and Horrors: The “Eastern Question” in the Balkans
- Mark Mazower, *The Balkans*, 77-113
- Lord Byron, “The Isles of Greece” (1819-1821)
- Paintings by Eugène Delacroix
- Documents on “The Bulgarian Horrors” (1876)
10/27 Lecture: The Balkan Wars and Forced Migrations
- Mark Mazower, *The Balkans*, 113-145

**V. World War I and Interwar Eastern Europe**

10/29 Lecture: Wars and Civil Wars
- Lonnie Johnson, *Central Europe*, 171-198
- Mark Levene, “Nationalism and Its Alternatives In the International Arena: The Jewish Question at Paris, 1919”

11/3 Discussion: Revolution and Counter-Revolution
- The Artists of *Ma*, “Proclamation for the Communist Republic!”
- Béla Uitz, “We need a Dictatorship!”

11/5 Lecture: Nation-States and National Minorities
- Aviel Roshwald, *Ethnic Nationalism and the Fall of Empires*, 157-171

11/10 Discussion: Fascism
- Passmore, excerpt from *Fascism*

**VI. World War II**

11/12 Lecture: The Soviet Union and Eastern Europe
- Snyder, *Bloodlands*, 59-89 and excerpts

11/17 Lecture: The March to War

**TAKE-HOME EXAM #2 DUE IN CLASS**
- István Deák, *Europe on Trial*, 27-41

11/19 **NO CLASS**

11/24 Discussion: Nazi Germany and Eastern Europe
- Zygmunt Klukowski, *Diary from the Years of Occupation*, 67-113

11/26 **THANKSGIVING**

12/1 Lecture: Germany’s Allies in Eastern Europe
- István Deák, *Europe on Trial*, 81-109 and excerpts

12/3 Discussion: Neighbors
• Jan Gross, *Neighbors*

**12/8** Discussion: History and Memory: The Neighbors Respond

**12/10** Summing Up -- Take-Home Final Questions Handed Out

**Final Exam**
The Final Exam will be due on TBD.