SCOPE AND OBJECTIVES

This course examines the history and culture of Central Europe. We will analyze the rich, multidimensional texture of life in the space between Germany and Russia, and show that European history cannot be properly understood if it is studied exclusively on the basis of events driven by the Big Powers.

Remembering, recording, and pondering history are some of the most characteristic aspects of the Central European intellectual environment. Ask anyone in Prague about 1620 and you will get a lecture on the Battle of the White Mountain and its consequences; ask a Pole about 1795 and you will learn about the partitions of Poland; if you ask a Hungarian about 1526 you will be treated to a colorful description of the Battle of Mohács; an inquiry about the relevance of 1683 in the history of Vienna will result in an analysis of the many conflicts between the Habsburg and the Ottoman empires.

Bismarck is said to have observed that whoever ruled Central Europe, commanded the European heartland, and that whoever commanded the heartland of Europe, ruled the world. The subsequent emergence of new power centers in the United States and Asia has shown this claim to be an exaggeration. Nevertheless, in the 20th century alone, Central Europe gave the world not only several important cultural and intellectual stimuli, but also two world wars. Therefore the history of Germany, Poland, the Czech lands, Slovakia, Hungary, and Austria must not be ignored.

IMPORTANT DATES

First lecture 17 January 2012
Last day to drop the class without a “W” 21 February 2012
Midterm examination 6 March 2012
Last day to drop the class with a “W” 30 March 2012
Two essays due 26 April 2012
Last lecture 1 May 2012
Final examination Scheduled by the Registrar
COURSE REQUIREMENTS

I. In addition to active participation, there will be closed book midterm and final examinations, each worth c. 40 percent of the final grade. The final examination will be focused on the second half of the course.

II. You will also need to write an essay on a movie by Andrzej Wajda, Katyn.

III. Finally, you will have to write an essay on one book of your choice from the following list:

   Josef Skvorecky, The Cowards or The Swell Season
   Milan Kundera, The Unbearable Lightness of Being
   Bohumil Hrabal, I Served the King of England
   Jan Novak, The Willys Dream Kit
   Jaroslav Hasek, The Good Soldier Svejk

Each essay has to be exactly three pages long and counts for c. ten percent of the final grade. It would be a good idea to start on this task as soon as possible. The absolute deadline for submitting the essays is at noon on 26 April 2012. Please drop them off in my office – 154 Bay State Road.

The grading arrangement in this course, i.e., 40 plus 40 plus 10 plus 10, is not mathematically perfect because I need space to reward active course participation or to penalize less than perfect attendance. Familiarity with assigned texts is essential. Attendance and active participation are required.

The midterm will take place on 6 March 2012. The final examination will be scheduled by the Registrar of Boston University. I’m not able to change this arrangement for any reason.

CODE OF CONDUCT

No eating or drinking in the classroom. If you wear a baseball hat take it off for the duration of the class. Please turn off your cell phones.

OFFICE HOURS:

I am available for consultations during my office hours, every Tuesday and Thursday from 9:10 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. and again from 3:30 p.m. to 4:10 p.m. I am always happy to speak with you before and after each lecture. If you are unable to see me during my office hours I will make a prompt arrangement to see you as soon as possible at a time that is convenient for both of us.
REQUIRED TEXTS:


Igor Lukes, *Rudolf Slansky: His Trial and Trials*. This can be downloaded from <www.wilsoncenter.org>. This is available on Blackboard.


N. B. Some of the books listed above can be purchased in the Boston University Book Store, others are available on Blackboard, and at the Reserve Desk of the Mugar Library.
COURSE OUTLINE  
CAS HI 278/CAS IR 341  
CENTRAL EUROPE  
Spring Semester 2012

Lecture 1, 17 Jan.  
Introduction: Central Europe

Lecture 2, 19 Jan.  
The Mohács Tragedy, Broken Bohemia, Saved Vienna

Lecture 3, 24 Jan.  
The Partitions of Poland

Lecture 4, 26 Jan.  
Maria Theresia, Marie Antoinette, the French Rev.

Lecture 5, 31 Jan.  
Napoleon, Mme. Walewska, and Poland

Lecture 6, 2 Feb.  
Preparing the Congress of Vienna

Lecture 7, 7 Feb.  
The Congress of Vienna

Lecture 8, 9 Feb.  
Diplomacy and Violence: 1848-1849

Lecture 9, 14 Feb.  
Polish Uprisings

Lecture 10, 16 Feb.  
The Crimean War & the Breakdown of the Concert

Lecture 11, 23 Feb.  
The Decline of Austria and the Rise of "Germany"

Lecture 12, 28 Feb.  
Bismarck and the Congress of Berlin

Lecture 13, 1 Mar.  
The Bismarckian System

Lecture 14, 6 Mar.  
Midterm

Lecture 15, 8 Mar.  
A Habsburg Catastrophe: The Death of Prince Rudolf

Lecture 16, 20 Mar.  
Franz Ferdinand, Sofie Chotek, and Oskar Potiorek

Lecture 17, 22 Mar.  
From "Prison of Nations" to Self-Determination, 1918

Lecture 18, 27 Mar.  
Between Stalin and Hitler: The Crisis of 1938

Lecture 19, 29 Mar.  
Czech September 1938 & Polish September 1939
| Lecture 20, 3 Apr. | Central Europeans and the Royal Air Force |
| Lecture 21, 5 Apr. | Katyn |
| Lecture 22, 10 Apr. | Commandos in Action: the Assault on Heydrich |
| Lecture 23, 12 Apr. | August ’44 in Paris and Warsaw: Two Cities at War |
| Lecture 24, 19 Apr. | Central Europe, 1945-1950; Operation Kamen |
| Lecture 25, 24 Apr. | The Cold War in the 1950s: The Slansky Murder |
| Lecture 26, 26 Apr. | The Cold War in the 1960s: The Komarek Affair |
| Lecture 27, 1 May | How the Cold War Ended |

**LECTURE TOPICS AND READING ASSIGNMENTS**

CAS HI 278/CAS IR 341
Spring Semester 2012

| Lecture 1 | Introduction: Central Europe |
| Lecture 2 | The Mohács Tragedy, Broken Bohemia, Saved Vienna |
|           | Johnson, *Central Europe*, 75-102. |
| Lecture 3 | The Partitions of Poland |
|           | Johnson, *Central Europe*, 103-130. |
| Lecture 4 | Maria Theresia, Marie Antoinette, the French Revolution |
|           | Doyle, *The Origins of the French Revolution*; read as much as you can to develop a good sense of the events that led up to the revolution. |
| Lecture 5 | Napoleon, Mme. Walewska, and Poland |
|           | Wandycz, *The Lands of Partitioned Poland*, 24-64. |
| Lecture 6 | Preparing the Congress of Vienna |
| Lecture 7 | Congress of Vienna |
| Lecture 8 | Diplomacy and Violence: 1848-1849  
Johnson, *Central Europe*, 149-160.  
| Lecture 9 | Polish Uprisings  
| Lecture 10 | The Crimean War & the Breakdown of the Concert  
Craig, *Europe*, 156-165. |
| Lecture 11 | The Decline of Austria and the Rise of “Germany”  
| Lecture 12 | Bismarck and The Congress of Berlin  
Craig, *Europe*, 252-256. |
| Lecture 13 | The Bismarckian System  
Craig, *Europe*, 256-261.  
Johnson, *Central Europe*, 165-170. |
| 6 March 12 | MIDTERM EXAMINATION |
| Lecture 15 | Habsburg Catastrophes: The Death of Prince Rudolf, et al.  
| Lecture 16 | Franz Ferdinand, Princess Chotek, and Oskar Potiorek  
| Lecture 17 | From “Prison of Nations“ to Self-Determination in 1918  
Lukes, *Czecho Slovakia*, 33-86. |
Lecture 18  
**Between Stalin and Hitler: The Crisis of 1938**
Lukes, *Czechoslovakia*, 141-201.
Johnson, *Central Europe*, 197-222.

Lecture 19  
**The Czech September 1938 and the Polish September 1939**
Lukes, *Czechoslovakia*, 209-263.

Lecture 20  
**Central Europeans and the Royal Air Force**

Lecture 21  
**Katyn**

Lecture 22  
**Commandos in Action: The Assault on Heydrich**
Operation Anthropoid. This is available on Blackboard.

Lecture 23  
**August 1944 in Paris and Warsaw: Two Cities at War**

Lecture 24  
**Central Europe, 1945-1950; Operation KAMEN**
Lukes, “KAMEN: A Cold War Operation with an American Dimension,” *Studies in Intelligence* 55, 1 (March 2011). This is available on Blackboard.

Lecture 25  
**The Cold War in the 1950s: The Slansky Murder**

Lecture 26  
**The Cold War in the 1960s: The Komarek Affair**
Lecture 27

**How the Cold War Ended**