

CAS IR 341/CAS HI 278
HISTORY OF CENTRAL EUROPE

Fall 2019

Tuesday/Thursday, 5 p.m.-6:15 p.m., CAS 213

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SCOPE AND OBJECTIVES

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

Central Europeans debate the past with much passion and considerable knowledge. Ask almost 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—all the way to the present crisis, visible in today's Vienna, involving migrants from Turkey and the Middle East.

Sir Halford Mackinder observed that whoever commanded the European heartland, ruled the world. The emergence of new power centers, e.g., the United States, China, and Japan has shown this claim to be falsely Eurocentric. Nevertheless, in the 20th century alone, Central Europe gave the world not only major cultural and intellectual stimuli, but also two world wars. Therefore, the history of Germany, Austria, Poland, the Czech lands, Slovakia, and Hungary must not be ignored by anyone who wishes to possess an accurate and nuanced understanding of the world around us.

IMPORTANT DATES

First lecture	3 September 2019
Last day to add a class	16 September 2019
Last day to drop a class	7 October 2019
Midterm	29 October 2019
Last lecture	10 December 2019
Final Examination	19 December 2019
Essay Due	19 December 2019

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

- a. Participation, preparedness (15 percent)
- b. Midterm (35 percent)
- c. Final (35 percent)
- d. Book/Film Essay (15 percent).

The midterm and final examinations take place in the classroom with books and notes closed. Note that the final examination is scheduled by the Registrar, not by me, and I am powerless to change it for any reason.

The midterm examination consists of ten identifications.

Such IDs are meant to be clear summaries of important individuals and events we have covered in this course. They should contain the following information:

1. *Who or what is the subject of the ID?* This needs to be correct. If, for example, you confuse Metternich with Castlereagh, you will not get any credit. You also need to ensure that your ID contains all that is central. Providing information about Talleyrand's private life but not his achievements in Vienna misses the point.
2. *When did the ID take place?* This does not always have to be a specific day, such as the exact day of the Battle of the White Mountain. It can be a year, in this case 1620. In other cases, e.g., the Stalin-Hitler Pact, it is the month and the year that are relevant—August 1939 in this case. On rare occasions the date needs to be complete. For instance, World War II broke out on 1 September 1939. It is helpful to indicate when the ID took place by stating what events paved the way for it. For example, an ID on the Congress of Vienna must note that it took place after the defeat of Napoleon and his exile to Elba.
3. *What is the historical significance of the ID?* Make sure you have time to state the significance of the personality or event in question. For example, writing about the revolutions of 1848 it is important to observe that they tested the stability of the political structure imposed on Europe by the Congress of Vienna.

The final examination consists of one analytical essay and five identifications:

You will be required to write an analytical essay on one out of three topics. The essay topics will hold you accountable for the material covered in lectures and in readings. You will receive the essay topics in advance. Therefore, a student who attends lectures, keeps up with the readings, and thinks about the topic before the examination should be able to succeed.

The final IDs follow the same pattern as explained in the midterm section, above.

Book or Film essay

The last requirement in this course is a 3-page essay. Please choose either one of the following three books:

- Josef Skvorecky, *The Cowards* or *The Swell Season*
- Milan Kundera, *The Unbearable Lightness of Being*
- Jaroslav Hasek, *The Good Soldier Svejk*

Or one of the following three films:

- Tony Richardson’s *The Charge of the Light Brigade* (1968)
- Andrzej Wajda’s *Katyń* (2007). Warning: This movie contains violent scenes.
- Antoni Krauze’s *Black Thursday* (2011)

A successful essay is likely to contain the following three parts:

1. *The Introduction*

The first paragraph of your paper should be your thesis paragraph. The function of this paragraph is to introduce your argument and to define it. It may also hint at your conclusion.

2. *The body of the essay*

In this section, you support your thesis. Think of body paragraphs as the building blocks of your essay. Good essay paragraphs contain an explanation of your ideas and evidence that supports them.

3. *The conclusion*

Your concluding paragraph might restate the thesis in different words, summarize the main points you have made, but from a different perspective. Your conclusion should underline the importance and significance of what you have written.

Finishing touches

- Avoid clichés and empty generalizations.
- Once you have written your paper, read it aloud to yourself. This is the best way to eliminate awkward formulations and identify places that need to be reformulated.

OFFICE HOURS:

Every Tuesday and Thursday from 9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. and from 3:00 p.m. to 4:00 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 for us to meet as soon as possible on a different day.

REQUIRED TEXTS:

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

David King, *Vienna 1814: How the Conquerors of Napoleon Made Love, War, and Peace at the Congress of Vienna* (New York: Three Rivers Press, 2008).

Igor Lukes, *On the Edge of the Cold War: American Diplomats and Spies in Postwar Prague* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2012).

Alan Palmer, *Twilight of the Habsburgs: The Life and Times of Emperor Francis Joseph* (New York: Grove Press, 1994).

The books listed above are available in the BU Bookstore:

<https://tinyurl.com/BU-F19-CAS-HI-278-A1>

CODE OF CONDUCT

All students are expected to maintain high standards of academic honesty and integrity. Please provide citations for all quotations, paraphrases, and ideas taken from any source other than your own. See the CAS Academic Conduct Code. It is available at www.bu.edu/academics/resources/academic-conduct-code

DISABILITY ACCOMMODATION

Boston University provides accommodation to individuals with disabilities in conformance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and with the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. Students seeking accommodations should submit appropriate medical documentation.

STUDENTS WHO COMPLETE THIS COURSE WILL

1. Acquire the analytical tools for understanding the history of Central Europe;
2. Discover why the great empires collapsed in the 20th century;
3. Become familiar with such personalities as Metternich, Talleyrand, Bismarck;
4. Learn about the East-West competition in the field of intelligence;
5. Develop a foundation for understanding the crises that dominate the present political scene.

COURSE OUTLINE
CAS HI 278/CAS IR 341
CENTRAL EUROPE

1. 3 Sep. Introduction: Central Europe
2. 5 Sep. Broken Bohemia, Saved Vienna
3. 10 Sep. The Partitions of Poland
4. 12 Sep. Maria Theresa, the French Revolution, Napoleon, and Poland
5. 17 Sep. The Congress of Vienna: Europe Without Borders
6. 19 Sep. The Congress of Vienna: Napoleon the Bandit
7. 24 Sep. The Concert Survives: the Revolutions of 1848
8. 26 Sep. The Concert Breaks Down: the Crimean War
9. 1 Oct. The Decline of Austria and the *Ausgleich*
10. 3 Oct. The Rise of Prussia and the Congress of Berlin
11. 8 Oct. The Bismarckian System of Alliances
12. 10 Oct. Habsburg Catastrophes & the Death of Prince Rudolf
13. 17 Oct. Franz Ferdinand, Sofie Chotek, General Potiorek
14. 22 Oct. World War I
15. 24 Oct. The Great War and the Successor States
16. 29 Oct. **MIDTERM**
17. 31 Oct. Genoa, Rapallo, Locarno, and . . . Hitler
18. 5 Nov. Lord Halifax and the Road to Munich
19. 7 Nov. The Stalin-Hitler Pact and the Outbreak of the War
20. 12 Nov. Central Europeans in World War II
21. 14 Nov. The Enigma Machine, Operation Anthropoid
22. 19 Nov. Katyń vs. Khatyn
23. 21 Nov. Warsaw 1944: Between the Nazis and the Red Army
24. 26 Nov. Postwar Central Europe: Missed Opportunities
25. 3 Dec. U.S. Intelligence in Postwar Central Europe
26. 5 Dec. The Cold War
27. 10 Dec. The Polish Solidarity and the Cold War's End

LECTURE TOPICS AND READING ASSIGNMENTS
CAS HI 278/CAS IR 341

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| Lecture 1
3 Sep. | Introduction: Central Europe |
| Lecture 2
5 Sep. | Broken Bohemia, Saved Vienna
Johnson, <i>Central Europe</i> , 87-102.
Wheatcroft, <i>The Enemy at the Gate</i> , 13-34, 177-187. |
| Lecture 3
10 Sep. | The Partitions of Poland
Johnson, <i>Central Europe</i> , 126-130.
Armour, <i>A History of Eastern Europe</i> , 60-75. |
| Lecture 4
12 Sep. | Maria Theresa, the French Revolution, and Poland
Judson, <i>The Habsburg Empire</i> , 16-50.
Soboul, <i>A Short History of the French Revolution</i> , 56-71, 126-133. |
| Lecture 5
17 Sep. | The Congress of Vienna: Europe Without Borders
King, <i>Vienna 1814</i> , 53-77.
Judson, <i>The Habsburg Empire</i> , 51-102. |
| Lecture 6
19 Sep. | The Congress of Vienna: Napoleon the Bandit
King, <i>Vienna 1814</i> , 211-244.
Judson, <i>The Habsburg Empire</i> , 103-154. |
| Lecture 7
24 Sep. | The Concert Survives: the Revolutions of 1848
Palmer, <i>Twilight of the Habsburgs</i> , 28-63.
Judson, <i>The Habsburg Empire</i> , 176-212. |
| Lecture 8
26 Sep. | The Concert Breaks Down: the Crimean War
Craig, <i>Europe</i> , 156-163.
Palmer, <i>Twilight of the Habsburgs</i> , 73-4, 80-85.
Judson, <i>The Habsburg Empire</i> , 218-221. |
| Lecture 9
1 Oct. | The Decline of Austria and the <i>Ausgleich</i>
Palmer, <i>Twilight of the Habsburgs</i> , 130-164.
Judson, <i>The Habsburg Empire</i> , 218-268. |

- Lecture 10**
3 Oct. **The Rise of Prussia and the Congress of Berlin**
Craig, *Europe*, 234-238, 248-256.
Taylor, *The Struggle for Mastery in Europe*, 228-254.
- Lecture 11**
8 Oct. **The Bismarckian System of Alliances**
Taylor, *The Struggle for Mastery in Europe*, 255-280.
Craig, *Europe*, 256-261.
- Lecture 12**
10 Oct. **Habsburg Catastrophes & The Death of Prince Rudolf**
Palmer, *Twilight of the Habsburgs*, 214-227, 246-285.
- Lecture 13**
17 Oct. **Franz Ferdinand, Sofie Chotek, and General Potiorek**
Palmer, *Twilight of the Habsburgs*, 286-324.
- Lecture 14**
22 Oct. **World War I**
Palmer and Colton, *A History of the World*, 665-677.
Stead, *Conversations with Mr. Bloch*, x-xli.
- Lecture 15**
24 Oct. **The Great War and the Successor States**
Judson, *The Habsburg Empire*, 385-436.
- Lecture 16**
29 Oct. **MIDTERM**
- Lecture 17**
31 Oct. **Genoa, Rapallo, Locarno, and Hitler**
Palmer and Colton, *A History of the World*, 741-746.
Holborn, *History of Modern Germany*, 604-606, 624-626.
Rothschild, *East Central Europe*, 54-55.
- Lecture 18**
5 Nov. **Lord Halifax and the Road to Munich**
Lukes, *Czechoslovakia Between Stalin and Hitler*, 79-85.
Lukes, "Stalin and Benes," 28-48.
- Lecture 19**
7 Nov. **The Stalin-Hitler Pact and the Outbreak of World War II**
Tucker, *Stalin in Power*, 592-607.
Ulam, *Expansion and Coexistence*, 273-279.
- Lecture 20**
12 Nov. **Central Europeans in World War II**
Olson and Cloud, *A Question of Honor*, 127-167.
Kochanski, *The Eagle Unbowed*, 59-93.

- Lecture 21**
14 Nov. **The Enigma Machine, Operation Anthropoid**
Kozaczuk and Straszak, *Enigma*, 1-47.
Operation Anthropoid: Assassination of Heydrich
- Lecture 22**
19 Nov. **Katyń vs. Khatyn**
Olson and Cloud, *A Question of Honor*, 254-272.
Kochanski, *The Eagle Unbowed*, 338-343.
- Lecture 23**
21 Nov. **Warsaw 1944: Between the Nazis and the Red Army**
Snyder, *Bloodlands*, 298-312.
Olson and Cloud, *A Question of Honor*, 321-353, 365-71.
- Lecture 24**
26 Nov. **Postwar Central Europe: Missed Opportunities**
Lukes, *On the Edge of the Cold War*, 32-94.
- Lecture 25**
3 Dec. **U.S. Intelligence in Postwar Central Europe**
Lukes, *On the Edge of the Cold War*, 142-182.
- Lecture 26**
5 Dec. **The Cold War**
Lukes, *Rudolf Slansky: His Trial and Trials*.
Lukes, "KAMEN: A Cold War Dangle Operation."
- Lecture 27**
10 Dec. **The Polish Solidarity and the Cold War's End**
Weiser, *A Secret Life*, 5-28, 266-291.