

# CAS IR 341/CAS HI 278

## CENTRAL EUROPE

Spring 2014

Tuesday/Thursday, 12:30-2:00 p.m.

Igor Lukes

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## 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	16 January 2014
Last day to drop the class without a "W"	20 February 2014
Midterm examination	6 March 2014
Last day to drop the class with a "W"	28 March 2014

Book essay due	1 May 2014
Last lecture	1 May 2014
Final examination	7 May 2014

## COURSE REQUIREMENTS

- a. Attendance (obligatory)
- b. Active participation (10 percent)
- c. Midterm examination (40 percent)
- d. Final examination (40 percent)
- e. Book essay (10 percent)

The midterm and final are in-class, closed book examinations. The final will be focused on the second half of the course.

The book essay has to be written on one book from the following list:

Josef Skvorecky, *The Cowards*  
 Milan Kundera, *The Unbearable Lightness of Being*  
 Bohumil Hrabal, *I Served the King of England*  
 Jaroslav Hasek, *The Good Soldier Svejk*

The essay must be exactly three pages long. It would be a good idea to start this project as soon as possible. There are no limitations or requirements regarding the style you choose: feel free to write a regular essay with an introduction, argument, and conclusion. Or be as creative as you can. The absolute deadline for submitting the book essay is the last lecture on 1 May 2014. Bring it with you to class or drop it off in my office – 154 Bay State Road – any time before the deadline, i.e., the class on 1 May 2014.

The final grade in this course may not be an outcome of a mathematical computation ( $40 + 40 + 10 + 10$ ) because I need space to reward extraordinary participation or penalize less than perfect attendance. Familiarity with assigned texts is essential.

Please note that the final examination has been scheduled by the Registrar of Boston University. I'm not able to change this arrangement for any reason.

## OFFICE HOURS:

Every Tuesday and Thursday from 9:10 a.m. to 11:00 a.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 meet with you as soon as possible at a time that is convenient for both of us.

## REQUIRED TEXTS:

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).

Lynne Olson and Stanley Cloud, *A Question of Honor* (New York: Alfred Knopf, 2003).

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

## 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.

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. Boston University has very strict standards for intellectual integrity, and punishment for plagiarism may be severe, and can include permanent expulsion from the university. For more on the definition of plagiarism and the standards to which you will be held, see the CAS Academic Conduct Code, available at <http://www.bu.edu/academics/resources/academic-conduct-code/>

**COURSE OUTLINE**  
**CAS HI 278/CAS IR 341**  
**CENTRAL EUROPE**  
**Spring Semester 2014**

- Lecture 1, 16 Jan.** Introduction: Central Europe
- Lecture 2, 21 Jan.** Broken Bohemia, Saved Vienna
- Lecture 3, 23 Jan.** The Partitions of Poland
- Lecture 4, 28 Jan.** The French Revolution, Napoleon, and Poland
- Lecture 5, 30 Jan.** The Congress of Vienna: Europe Without Borders
- Lecture 6, 4 Feb.** The Congress of Vienna and Its Achievements
- Lecture 7, 6 Feb.** The Congress of Vienna: Napoleon the Bandit
- Lecture 8, 11 Feb.** Diplomacy and Violence: 1848-1849
- Lecture 9, 13 Feb.** The Crimean War & the Breakdown of the Concert
- Lecture 10, 18 Feb.** The Decline of Austria, Rise of Prussia, and the *Ausgleich*
- Lecture 11, 20 Feb.** The Franco-Prussian War and the Congress of Berlin
- Lecture 12, 25 Feb.** The Bismarckian System of Alliances
- Lecture 13, 27 Feb.** A Habsburg Catastrophe: The Death of Prince Rudolf
- Lecture 14, 4 Mar.** Franz Ferdinand, Sofie Chotek, and World War I
- Lecture 15, 6 Mar.** **Midterm**
- Lecture 16, 18 Mar.** Central Europe Between Stalin and Hitler
- Lecture 17, 20 Mar.** The Enigma Machine
- Lecture 18, 25 Mar.** Central Europeans in World War II
- Lecture 19, 27 Mar.** Central Europe under Occupation
- Lecture 20, 1 Apr.** Katyn vs. Khatyn
- Lecture 21, 3 Apr.** Teheran, the Warsaw Uprising, and Yalta
- Lecture 22, 8 Apr.** Poland: The Inconvenient Ally
- Lecture 23, 10 Apr.** Postwar Central Europe
- Lecture 24, 15 Apr.** A Chronicle of Missed Opportunities

**Lecture 25, 17 Apr.** U.S. Intelligence in Central Europe

**Lecture 26, 22 Apr.** Western Retreat from Central Europe

**Lecture 27, 29 Apr** The Cold War

**Lecture 28, 1 May** Conclusion

**LECTURE TOPICS AND READING ASSIGNMENTS**  
**CAS HI 278/CAS IR 341**  
**Spring Semester 2014**

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| Lecture 1 | <b>Introduction: Central Europe</b>   |
| Lecture 2 | <b>Broken Bohemia, Saved Vienna</b><br>Johnson, <i>Central Europe</i> , 87-102.<br>Wheatcroft, <i>The Enemy at the Gate</i> , 13-34, 177-187.     |
| Lecture 3 | <b>The Partitions of Poland</b><br>Johnson, <i>Central Europe</i> , 126-130.<br>Armour, <i>A History of Eastern Europe</i> , 60-75.               |
| Lecture 4 | <b>The French Revolution, Napoleon, and Poland</b><br>Soboul, <i>A Short History of the French Revolution</i> , 56-71, 126-133.                   |
| Lecture 5 | <b>The Congress of Vienna: Europe Without Borders</b><br>King, <i>Vienna 1814</i> , 53-121.   |
| Lecture 6 | <b>The Congress of Vienna and its Achievements</b><br>King, <i>Vienna 1814</i> , 166-227  |
| Lecture 7 | <b>The Congress of Vienna: Napoleon the Bandit</b><br>King, <i>Vienna 1814</i> , 228-276.   |
| Lecture 8 | <b>Diplomacy and Violence: 1848-1849</b><br>Johnson, <i>Central Europe</i> , 149-160.<br>Palmer, <i>Twilight of the Habsburgs</i> , 28-63.        |
| Lecture 9 | <b>The Crimean War &amp; the Breakdown of the Concert</b><br>Craig, <i>Europe</i> , 153-165.<br>Palmer, <i>Twilight of the Habsburgs</i> , 80-85. |

- Lecture 10      **The Decline of Austria, Rise of Prussia, and the *Ausgleich***  
 Craig, *Europe*, 210-234.  
 Palmer, *Twilight of the Habsburgs*, 130-164.
- Lecture 11      **The Franco-Prussian War and the Congress of Berlin**  
 Craig, *Europe*, 234-238, 248-256.  
 Palmer, *Twilight of the Habsburgs*, 195-213.
- Lecture 12      **The Bismarckian System of Alliances**  
 Craig, *Europe*, 256-261.  
 Taylor, *The Struggle for Mastery in Europe*, 255-280.
- Lecture 13      **A Habsburg Catastrophe: The Death of Prince Rudolf**  
 Palmer, *Twilight of the Habsburgs*, 214-227, 246-285.
- Lecture 14      **Franz Ferdinand, Sofie Chotek, and World War One**  
 Palmer, *Twilight of the Habsburgs*, 286-324.
- Lecture 15      **Midterm Examination, 6 March 2014**
- Lecture 16      **Central Europe Between Stalin and Hitler**  
 Olson and Cloud, *A Question of Honor*, 35-55.  
 Kochanski, *The Eagle Unbowed*, 34-58.
- Lecture 17      **The Enigma Machine**  
 Kozaczuk and Straszak, *Enigma*, 1-47.
- Lecture 18      **Central Europeans in World War Two**  
 Olson and Cloud, *A Question of Honor*, 127-167.  
 Kochanski, *The Eagle Unbowed*, 59-93.
- Lecture 19      **Central Europe Under Occupation**  
 Olson and Cloud, *A Question of Honor*, 200-209.



Kochanski, *The Eagle Unbowed*, 94-135.

Lecture 20

**Katyn vs. Khatyn**

Olson and Cloud, *A Question of Honor*, 254-272.

Kochanski, *The Eagle Unbowed*, 130-133, 338-343, 579-584.

Lecture 21

**Teheran, the Warsaw Uprising, and Yalta**

Olson and Cloud, *A Question of Honor*, 291-99, 313-53, 365-71.

Kochanski, *The Eagle Unbowed*, 349-357, 397-426, 501-512.

- Lecture 22      **Poland: The Inconvenient Ally**  
Olson and Cloud, *A Question of Honor*, 3-4.  
Kochanski, *The Eagle Unbowed*, 434-498, 562-563.
- Lecture 23      **Postwar Central Europe**  
Lukes, *On the Edge of the Cold War*, 32-66.
- Lecture 24      **A Chronicle of Missed Opportunities**  
Lukes, *On the Edge of the Cold War*, 67-111.
- Lecture 25      **U.S. Intelligence in Postwar Central Europe**  
Lukes, *On the Edge of the Cold War*, 142-182.
- Lecture 26      **Western Retreat From Central Europe**  
Lukes, *On the Edge of the Cold War*, 183-231.
- Lecture 27      **The Cold War**  
Lukes, *Rudolf Slansky: His Trial and Trials*.  
Lukes, "Kazan-Komarek: The Changing Patterns of Power in Cold War Politics."
- Lecture 28      **Conclusion**