

Course title: Introduction to Central European Identity	Credit number: 4
Type of lessons: lecture/seminar format	
Number of lectures/seminars: 1+1 (=2) hours per week	
Type of evaluation: in-class tests	
Place in curriculum: spring term	
Course prerequisites: none	
Course description:	
<p>Course content:</p> <p>The course is designed to provide competences in understanding the basic facts of Central European history in the 20th century. The Central European region from the Baltic to the Adriatic Sea was destined by two world wars and two totalitarian systems to become the victim of both. Both wars and both regimes (Fascist and communist) left the region in a desperate state that was not followed by anything similar to the post-WW II economic boom of the western European region. The traumatic first half of the 20th century makes its legacy a must for anyone who wants to understand the rest of the century in this diverse region of smaller and bigger nationalities, smaller and bigger minority groups. Both Estonia and Denmark were occupied by German troops during World War II, but as Timothy Snyder observes in his book (<i>Bloodlands: Europe between Hitler and Stalin</i>): 99% of the Jewish population of Estonia perished in the Holocaust while 99% of that of Denmark survived it. What makes the horrendous difference? Why were western European societies so much more resistant to the destructive effects of totalitarian regimes? And conversely, why were our Central European societies so prone to be victimized? How do these issues add to what we call contemporary central European identity? The course aims at inviting students to addressing these questions.</p>	
<p>Learning objectives:</p> <p>Students will learn the basic facts of the geography and the history of the countries in the region. By gaining a knowledge of the basic facts of the region students will acquire a better understanding of the elements Central European Identity.</p>	
<p>Required and optional reading (The 3-5 most important required and optional pieces):</p>	
<p>Required reading:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Held, Joseph (ed.), <i>The Columbia History of Eastern Europe in the Twentieth Century</i>, New York: Columbia University Press, 1992. 2. Rothschild, Joseph and Wingfield, Nancy, <i>Return to Diversity: A Political History of East-Central Europe since World War II</i>, New York, Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2000. 3. Snyder, Timothy, <i>Bloodlands: Europe between Hitler and Stalin</i>, New York: Basic Books, 2010. 	
<p>Optional reading:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Dahrendorf, Ralf, <i>After 1989: Morals, Revolution, and Civil Society</i>, New York: Palgrave MacMillan, 1997. 2. Rothschild, Joseph, <i>East Central Europe between the Two World Wars</i>, Seattle: University of Washington Press, 1977. 	
<p>Course syllabus:</p> <p>Week 1 – Introduction: Central European Identity</p>	

Week 2 – Countries in the Central European region (basic facts)
Week 3 – Pre-WW I Central Europe
Week 4 – WW I in Central Europe
Week 5 – Central Europe between the world wars
Week 6 – Central Europe and WW II (1)
Week 7 – Central Europe and WW II (2)
Week 8 – Tehran & Jalta: Consequences of WW II in Central Europe
Week 9 – Post WW II alliances and the Cold War (1)
Week 10 – Post WW II alliances and the Cold War (2)
Week 11 – Post-1989 Central Europe (1)
Week 12 – Post-1989 Central Europe (2)
Week 13 – End-Term Test

Course instructor in charge: Attila Kőszeghy, assistant lecturer

Additional course instructor(s): –