HISTORY 428 EASTERN EUROPE IN THE TWENTIETH CENTURY

MWF 11:00-11:50, 175 Lillis

Course description: This course is intended to provide an intensive introduction to the history of Eastern Europe in the twentieth century. The course has no prerequisites, and assumes no specific knowledge of Eastern Europe, but does presuppose some familiarity with European history. Themes for the quarter include the territorial settlements after World War I and the emergence of the new states; national minorities and nationalism; economic development in Eastern Europe; Soviet and Nazi occupation; the communist takeovers; Stalinism and destalinization in Eastern Europe; intellectual responses to communism; civil society in the Soviet bloc; the collapse of communism; the Yugoslav wars; Eastern Europe and the European Union.

Format: Lecture and discussion.

Grades will be based on:

- Map quiz, 5%; midterm, 20%; final exam, 30%; first paper 20%, second paper, 25%

Participation is also expected; active, thoughtful participation may raise your grade one notch.

Books available at bookstore:

- Edward D. Wynot, Jr., *Caldron of Conflict: Eastern Europe, 1918-1945*
- Mark Pittaway, *Eastern Europe, 1939-2000*
- Gale Stokes, *The Walls Came Tumbling Down*

All other required readings are posted on Blackboard.

TOPICS:

**Week 1. The legacy of World War I.** Reading: *Caldron of Conflict*, 1-27; Raymond Pearson, “A New Europe,” from his *National Minorities in Eastern Europe* (Blackboard); map of interwar Eastern Europe; Joseph Rothschild, “Hungary” (pp. 137-201 from his *East-Central Europe Between the Two World Wars*. Blackboard).

- Mon., Jan. 5 Introduction: themes, fissures, and constraints in interwar Eastern Europe
- Wed., Jan. 7 Nationalism and war in the Balkans, 1912-1918; postwar settlements and ethnic minorities. Discuss *Caldron of Conflict*, 1-27; Pearson, “A New Europe.”


**Week 3. Political turmoil in the 1930s.** Reading: Wynot, 56-80; Eugen Weber, “Romania”; Ezra Mendelsohn, “Interwar Poland: Good for the Jews or Bad for the Jews?”

- Mon., Jan. 19 No class: Martin Luther King Day
Fri., Jan. 23  Interwar Poland.  Lecture, plus discussion of Mendelsohn, “Interwar Poland: Good for the Jews or Bad for the Jews?”


Mon., Jan. 26  German occupation, collaboration, and genocide in Poland.  Discuss Gross, “Neighbors” and Ringelblum, “Polish-Jewish Relations.”


Fri., Jan. 30  World War II as civil war in Yugoslavia (lecture).  Prepare Wynot, 91-93.  **First paper due in class.**


Wed., Feb. 4  **Midterm exam**

Fri., Feb. 6  Special class period: 2-hour film by Vojtech Jasny, All My Good Countrymen.  First hour is as normal.  We will then move into Lillis 185 to watch the remainder of the film.  Students unable to stay will be expected to watch it at the library by Monday.


Mon., Feb. 9  Discuss film.


Fri., Feb. 13  Stalinist repression and political culture.  Discuss Stalinism documents and Pittaway.

**Week 7.  Stalinism.** Readings: Pittaway, 62-108, 133-154; From Stalinism to Pluralism 81-93 (Hungarian Revolution documents), 57-65 and 94-105 (Tito documents) (Blackboard).


Fri., Feb. 20  Yugoslavia in the Tito era: from Stalinism to federalism (lecture and discussion; prepare Tito documents and also read Pittaway, 133-154).

**Week 8.  Reading:** Pittaway, 109-131; From Stalinism to Pluralism, 122-36 (Prague Spring documents – Blackboard); Vaclav Havel, “The Power of the Powerless,” (Blackboard) (from his Open Letters 125-214); Slavenka Drakulic, How We Survived Communism and Even Laughed, pp 21-32, 82-92, 179-89 (Blackboard).

Mon., Feb. 23  Prague Spring: cultural revolution, controlled liberalization, intervention (lecture and discussion; prepare Prague Spring documents.


Fri., Feb. 27  Remaking the private sphere.  Discuss Pittaway, 109-131; Drakulic essays.

**Week 9.  From Solidarity to the revolutions of 1989.** Readings: Pittaway, 155-99; Stokes, The Walls Came Tumbling Down, 3-134; From Stalinism to Pluralism, 204-14 (Solidarity documents); 225-48 and 257-64 (1980s documents).

Mon., Mar. 2  Socialism in decay: stalled economies.  Lecture and discussion; prepare Pittaway, 155-76.  **Second paper due in class.**


**Final exam:** Monday, Mar. 16, at 10:15. Bring two exam booklets.