

HIST 199-02

History of Central Europe, 1848-present

MWF 2-2:50, Kauke 102

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119 Kauke

Office Hours: M 3-4, Th 2-4, and by appt.

This course is an examination of the history of Central Europe from the “springtime of the peoples” in 1848 to the contemporary situation of an expanded European Union. The Central European space will be expansively defined, but we will particularly focus on the areas of present-day Austria, Poland, Hungary, Slovakia, and the Czech Republic (and Germany where appropriate). We will examine many different issues: national, political, social, economic, cultural and intellectual. Similarly, the types of materials employed are varied: key secondary works, selections from monographs, novels, contemporary documents, images, music, and films. The intent is both to explore the problematic and fascinating history of the region and to expose you to a variety of approaches and materials.

REQUIRED READINGS

I have placed a number of articles on electronic reserve, or I will ask you to read them through the URL provided. I expect you to print these out and bring them to class with you with your comments and reactions. I will also assign the occasional source from the web, which I'll ask you to print out and bring to class.

I also ask you to purchase the following books (and bring them to the relevant classes), which I have ordered at the Wilson bookstore. You might also consider buying them at amazon.com or half.com, where you can find many of these used, and therefore less expensive.

Please do the reading before each class period, as I will conduct this class as a discussion as well as a lecture. I also ask you to bring the relevant book to class.

- Alan Sked, *The Decline and Fall of the Habsburg Empire, 1815-1918*, 2nd ed. Longman, 2001.
- Joseph Roth, *The Radetzky March*. Overlook Press, 1995.
- Carl Schorske, *Fin-de-Siècle Vienna*. Vintage, 1980.
- Imre Kertész, *Fateless*. Hydra, 1996.
- Nancy Wingfield and Joseph Rothschild, *Return to Diversity: A Political History of East Central Europe since World War II*. Oxford, 2000.
- Gale Stokes, *From Stalinism to Pluralism: A Documentary History of Eastern Europe since 1945*. Oxford, 1996.
- Milan Kundera, *The Joke*. Perennial, 1993.
- Padraic Kenney, *A Carnival of Revolution: Central Europe 1989*. Princeton, 2003.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

1. Class participation and attendance	10%
2. Weekly posting to online discussion board	10%
3. First paper (4-6 pages)	15%
4. Final paper (5-7 pages)	20%
5. Midterm exam	20%
6. Final exam	25%

Attendance is **MANDATORY**. I will take attendance, and I expect you to be here by 2 PM sharp; we have only 50 minutes and must start promptly. Please feel free to bring coffee if, like me, you're susceptible to the post-lunch food coma. I would appreciate it if you would not bring food to class, however. If you have more than two unexcused absences, you will not receive more than a "C" for your attendance/participation grade. For an excused absence, you must discuss the reason with me beforehand, or bring in a doctor's note after the fact.

You are also required to do the assigned readings before each class; this is **essential**. Again, please bring the book that we will be examining during that particular class period. This is both a lecture and a discussion class, and I expect you to participate in the discussions—every class we will talk about a secondary reading or a primary source, as well as images and music, and I welcome any and all comments. *No comment or question is unworthy or stupid!* I expect an atmosphere of respect and mutual consideration in the classroom.

I will hand out the paper assignments several weeks before the due dates of March 7 and May 6. Late papers will be penalized 1/3 grade per day late (ie., from an A- to a B+).

In addition to the film *The Promised Land*, to be shown during class in early February, I will schedule one or two other films, either during class time or in the evening. I expect you to be there and watch in a critical manner.

Blackboard Course Website

We will make extensive use of a course website through the Blackboard system to facilitate thinking and discussion outside of the classroom, as well as coordinate communication between you and me. If you have used Blackboard before, you can log in by going directly to <http://bcm.wooster.edu>, and this course will appear on your main page.

If you have never used Blackboard and don't have a password, go to <http://bcm.wooster.edu/webapps/blackboard/password>, and search for yourself with your first name, last name, and e-mail. Your first name may be a nickname or short form of your first name. If everything works, the database will find you and you will get an e-mail on how to change their password.

You may also find that your old login doesn't work. The only way this should happen is if you had a username that was different from your e-mail username. Such people should follow the steps for someone who has never used Blackboard before. They could also try "wooster" for a password as some were set up with "wooster" as the

password. After login you should use the Personal Information link on the left to change their password to something other than "wooster."

If you have trouble, please contact Jon Breitenbucher: jbreitenbuch@wooster.edu.

You will also find a discussion board at the course website; you are required to post a comment of at least 150 words (2 significant paragraphs) once a week by **8 PM Tuesday** to this forum. Please engage in a critical manner with one of the readings for that week. This posting should be well-written, critical, and thoughtful—treat it as a response paper, not a casual email. *I would strongly encourage you to write the posting in Word first, and then copy it into the Blackboard window.* I will often refer to your comments during class discussions, and will encourage you to expand on your posting or engage with fellow students; please read the postings of your colleagues for that week as well.

I will ask 2 or 3 of you per week to be a "featured discussant" and do a slightly longer posting of 250 words by 8 PM Monday. These postings should conclude with a question or two that should provoke discussion among the other students, whom I encourage to respond by forming discussion threads. I will also ask these "featured discussants" to do a very short presentation of 2-3 minutes in class sometime that week based on the posting, in order to spark class discussion.

I will post an interactive syllabus on the course website, with many links related to the lectures. I will also include other useful information and web links in the "Course Information" section of the website.

I would suggest using the Mozilla or Firefox browsers as they are cross platform and standards compliant. Many students are switching to these browsers to avoid all of the Internet Explorer vulnerabilities. Both are available at <http://www.mozilla.org/> for free download.

STATEMENT ON ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

Cheating in any of your academic work is a serious breach of the Code of Academic Integrity and is grounds for an F for the entire course. Such violations include turning in another person's work as your own, copying from any source without proper citation, and lying in connection with your academic work. Particular attention should be directed to the appropriate use of materials available on-line through the Internet. You will be held responsible for your actions. You are expected to know and abide by the rules of the College as described in *The Scot's Key* and the *Handbook of the Selected College Policies* <<http://www.wooster.edu/policies>>. If you are unsure as to what is permissible, please do not hesitate to contact me.

LEARNING DISABILITIES

If you are a student with a documented disability, please register with Pam Rose, Director of the Learning Center. The Learning Center is located in the Rubbermaid Student Services Building (ext. 2595) and is the office that will assist you in developing a plan to address your academic needs.

Week 1. Nationalism and Central Europe before 1848

Jan 17: Introduction to the course

Jan 19: The Central European context

Charles Ingrao, "Ten Untaught Lessons about Central Europe: An Historical Perspective."

(<http://www.h-net.org/~habsweb/occasionalpapers/untaughtlessons.html>)

Jan 21: Central Europe to 1848: Sked, Ch 1 (1-38)

Week 2. The "Springtime of the Peoples": Central Europe in 1848-49

Jan 24: 1848, Part I: Sked, Ch 2 (42-85)

Hans H. Hahn, "The Polish Nation in the Revolution of 1846-1849." [e-res]

Jan 26: 1848, Part II: Jiri Koralka, "Revolutions in the Habsburg Monarchy." [e-res]

Heinz-Gerhard Haupt and Dieter Langewiesche, "The European Revolution of 1848: Its Political and Social Reforms, its Politics of Nationalism, and its Short- and Long-Term Consequences." [e-res]

Jan 28: The failure of the revolutions: Sked, Ch 3 (91-136)

Week 3. Austria-Hungary: neo-absolutism, the *Ausgleich* of 1867; economic developments; anti-semitism and the Jews of Central Europe

Jan 31: Sked, Ch 4 (140-186)

Feb 2: Read Part I (1-125) of *The Radetzky March*.

Film: *The Promised Land*, Part I (Andrzej Wajda, dir.)
[* *stay in class an extra 15 minutes!]

Feb 4: Sked, Ch 5 (191-240)

Week 4. The fin-de-siècle in Central Europe

Feb 7: Read Part II (126-226) of *The Radetzky March*

Film: *The Promised Land*, Part II
[* *stay in class an extra 15 minutes!]

Feb 9: Schorske, Ch 2, "The Ringstrasse, Its Critics, and the Birth of Urban Modernism."

Feb 11: Schorske, Ch 3, "Politics in a New Key: An Austrian Trio."

Week 5. The fin-de-siècle (cont.)

Feb 14: Schorske, Ch 5, "Gustav Klimt: Painting and the Crisis of the Liberal Ego."

Feb 16: Schorske, Ch 7, "Explosion in the Garden: Kokoschka and Schoenberg."

Feb 18: Sked, Ch 6 (244-274)

Week 6. World War I and its aftermath: Central Europe in turmoil, and reshaped

Feb 21: Finish *The Radetzky March* (Part III, 227-331)

Feb 23: Sked, Ch 7 (278-323)

Feb 25: Midterm Exam

Week 7. Interwar Central Europe

Feb 28: Wingfield/Rothschild, Ch 1 (1-21)

Mar 2: Rothschild reading [e-res]

Mar 4: Reading TBA [e-res]

Week 8. World War II and the Holocaust

Mar 7: Wingfield/Rothschild, Ch 2 (23-73)

First paper due

Mar 9: Start *Fateless*

Mar 11: Finish *Fateless* for discussion

SPRING BREAK

(take Kundera's *The Joke* along with you!)

Week 9. The aftermath of war and the transition to communism, 1945-1948

Mar 28: Wingfield/Rothschild, Ch 3 (75-123)

Mar 30: Wingfield/Rothschild, Ch 4 (125-146)

Apr 1: Stokes, Part I (selections)

Week 10. Stalinism in Central Europe

Apr 4: Stokes, Part I (selections); continue *The Joke*

Apr 6: Stokes, Part I (selections); continue *The Joke*

Film: *Man of Marble*

Apr 8: Finish *The Joke* for discussion

Week 11. Reform Communism, 1956-1968

Apr 11: Wingfield/Rothschild, Ch 4 (147-173)

Apr 13: Stokes, Part II (selections)

Apr 15: Stokes, Part II (selections)

Week 12. Central Europe in the 1970s and 1980s

Apr 18: Wingfield/Rothschild, Ch 6 (191-226)

Apr 20: Stokes, Part III (selections)

Apr 22: Stokes, Parts III and IV (selections)

Week 13. The Revolutions of 1989

Apr 25: Kenney, *A Carnival of Revolution* (selections)

Apr 27: Stokes, Part IV (selections)

Apr 29: Kenney, *Carnival* (selections)

Week 14. The "new" Europe joins "old" Europe and NATO; Central Europe in the 21st century

May 2: Kenney, *Carnival* (selections)

May 4: Stokes, Part V (selections)

May 6: Review

Final Paper Due

Wednesday, May 11, 2 PM: FINAL EXAM