

Syllabus: Germany and Central Europe Since 1815 – HIST 3335 01

Room: AB IV #305

T-TH 9:30-10:50 AM

Credit Hours: 3

Spring 2018

Instructor: Zachary Doleshal, Ph.D.

Office: AB IV #405

Office Hours: W 930-11 F 930-11 (and by appointment)

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Course Description:

“Tell me where Central Europe is, and I can tell you who you are.”¹

The above quote hints at the shifting boundaries of a geographical-cultural concept – the concept of Central Europe. Rooted in the former political territories of the Holy Roman Empire and the Habsburg Empire, Central Europe encompasses a wide range of languages, land, and ideas into a cultural zone linked by beer, architecture, artists, writers, musicians, food, and, most importantly, a shared history. The history we will examine here will be that of the region’s 20th. For it was in the 20th Century when Central Europe became one of the world’s foremost laboratories for political experimentation.

Our main task is to continue to follow the varied currents of the region in order to understand how it came to be a crucial site for the construction of the modern world. The uncertainty of the German Revolution of 1919, the elimination of one of the key cultures of the region during World War Two in what became known as the Holocaust, an attempt to break free from the grip of Moscow during 1968, and the architectural legacies of communism will comprise our four major areas of inquiry. Through these topics, we will locate the region as the cradle of the modern mentality, the laboratory of the ideas that decisively ushered in the age of ideology – and find a pockmarked landscape left in their execution.

In the end, this course will imprint upon students that the region of Central Europe is one in which a shared history of family and regional catastrophe intertwined with a history of individual and collective perseverance.

¹ Jacques Rupnik.

Reading:**Required:**

1. Horwitz, Gordon J. 2010. *Ghettostadt: Łódź and the making of a Nazi city*. Cambridge, Mass: Belknap.
2. Hatherley, Owen. 2016. *The Landscapes of Communism: a History Through Buildings*. Perseus.

Recommended:

1. *All Power to the Councils! : a Documentary History of the German Revolution of 1918-1919*. IPG. (Available through NGL as an ebook).
2. Bischof, Günter, Stefan Karner, and Peter Ruggenthaler. 2011. *The Prague Spring and the Warsaw Pact invasion of Czechoslovakia in 1968*. Lanham, Md: Lexington Books.

Other readings will be made available to you on BB. See Course Schedule for dates associated with each required reading.

Assignments:

Map Quiz x 2: 4% each (8%)

Lecture Quiz x 4: 3% each (12%)

SPPP (Speeches, Pamphlets, Participation and Propaganda) x4: Each activity will have a presentation grade. 10% each (40%)

Written Assignments x4: Each activity will have a written component. 10% each (40%)

Policies:

For a comprehensive overview of Sam's academic policies see:

<http://www.shsu.edu/syllabus/>

Late work:

You may turn in the assignment *up to two days late* – with each day incurring a 10% penalty. After that, it will not be accepted. If you have a legitimate (university accepted) excuse, no penalty will incur. A legitimate excuse must be accompanied with appropriate documentation. You also have the option of turning in some assignments early with no penalty.

Email:

All email should be conducted professionally, which means with a title, a name and a signature (your name). In other words, please begin all email correspondence with me with Dr. Doleshal (as in Hello Dr. Doleshal,) and end it with your name. I will not respond to email sent after 5pm or on the weekends until the next working day. I do not expect you to do so either.

RESIGNATION NOTE:

Students may resign with a "W" grade from the 13th class day until the deadline posted in the academic calendar. However, if a final exam has been given for any course or lab, you will NOT be permitted to resign.

Academic Dishonesty

Based on the Academic Policy Statement 810213 and the Faculty Handbook:

All tests and quizzes and written assignments will be submitted or taken online. Students should take their own quizzes online. Students found not to be submitting their own work will receive an F for the course. All students are expected to engage in all academic pursuits in a manner that is above reproach. Students are expected to maintain complete honesty and integrity in the academic experiences both in and out of the classroom. Any student found guilty of dishonesty in any phase of academic work will be subject to disciplinary action. The University and its official representatives may initiate disciplinary proceedings against a student accused of any form of academic dishonesty including, but not limited to, cheating on an examination or other academic work which is to be submitted, plagiarism, collusion and the abuse of resource materials.

Cheating will not be tolerated in this course. Students who are caught cheating on an examination will receive an F for that assignment and will not be allowed to make it up. If a student is caught cheating a second time, the student will receive an automatic F for the course. Students caught cheating on any assignment will be reported to the Dean of Students. Please see the following web address from the student guidelines at

<http://www.shsu.edu/students/guide/dean/codeofconduct.html>

Section 5.2.22 defines classroom disturbances and can be found in the Code of Student Conduct and Discipline at the following link:

<https://www.shsu.edu/students/guide/dean/codeofconduct.html>.

Americans with Disabilities Act It is the policy of Sam Houston State University that individuals otherwise qualified shall not be excluded, solely

by reason of their disability, from participation in any academic program of the university. Further, they shall not be denied the benefits of these programs nor shall they be subjected to discrimination. Students with disabilities that might affect their academic performance are expected to visit with the Office of Services for Students with Disabilities located in the Counseling Center. They should then make arrangements with their individual instructors so that appropriate strategies can be considered and helpful procedures can be developed to ensure that participation and achievement opportunities are not impaired.

SHSU adheres to all applicable federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and guidelines with respect to providing reasonable accommodations for students with disabilities. If a student has a disability that may affect adversely his/her work in this class, then the student is encouraged to register with the SHSU Counseling Center and to talk with the instructor about how best to deal with the situation. All disclosures of disabilities will be kept strictly confidential. NOTE: no accommodation can be made until the student registers with the Counseling Center.

Religious Holidays Section 51.911(b) of the Texas Education Code requires that an institution of higher education excuse a student from attending classes or other required activities, including examinations, for the observance of a religious holy day, including travel for that purpose. A student whose absence is excused under this subsection may not be penalized for that absence and shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment from which the student is excused within a reasonable time after the absence.

"Religious holy day" means a holy day observed by a religion whose places of worship are exempt from property taxation under Section 11.20, Tax Code.

An institution of higher education shall excuse a student from attending classes or other required activities, including examinations, for the observance of a religious holy day, including travel for that purpose. A student whose absence is excused under this subsection may not be penalized for that absence and shall be allowed to take an examination or complete an assignment from which the student is excused within a reasonable time after the absence. A student who plans to miss a class or required activity to observe a religious holy day should inform the professor in writing prior to planned absence.

VISITORS IN THE CLASSROOM:

Only registered students may attend class. Exceptions can be made on a case-by-case basis by the professor. In all cases, visitors must not present a

disruption to the class by their attendance. Students wishing to audit a class must apply to do so through the Registrar's Office.

Course Schedule

Week 1: 1/17

Course Introduction.

What is Central Europe? What is Germany? Introduce Sonderweg Hypothesis.

Read:

Milan Kundera, "The Tragedy of Central Europe" (Available on Blackboard)

Week 2: 1/23 1/25

World War One.

Lecture Quiz, 1/25. 1/25: Role Assignment for *Berlin, 1919*.

Reading: Lenin, *Imperialism* (selections on BB)

Week 3: 1/30 2/1

Map Quiz: Central Europe and WWI, 1/30.

Research and preparation, *Berlin, 1919*.

Meet in Groups and with Professor.

(Crowd Biographies Due 2/1 by Midnight)

Read Selections on Blackboard from *All Power to the Councils!*

Week 4: 2/6 2/8

Berlin 1919, 2/6 and 2/8.

Week 5: 2/13 2/15

Berlin 1919 continued 2/13.

2/15: Postmortem Discussion. Berlin 1919: All Other Writing Assignments due 2/15 by midnight.

Week 6: 2/20 2/22

Lecture Week: The Interwar Era and The Rise of National Socialism

Lecture Quiz: 2/22

Read Horwitz, Pgs 1-90.

Week 7: 2/27 3/1

Preparation for Lodz Ghetto: Lecture on the History of European Jewry.

3/1: Role Assignment and review for The Lodz Ghetto Activity.

Read Horwitz, to end.

Week 8: 3/6 3/8

Lodz Ghetto Activity

Week 9: 3/13 3/15 Spring Break

Week 10: 3/20 3/22

3/20: Lodz Activity Continues.

3/22: Postmortem Discussion of Lodz Activity. Lecture: The Postwar World.

Week 11: 3/27 3/29

3/27: **Map Quiz**, Central Europe in 1968. Lecture.

3/29: Assign Teams for ***Prague, 1968***. **Lecture Quiz**, the Central European Response to Communism.

Week 12: 4/3 4/5

4/3: Prepare for ***Prague, 1968***.

4/5: ***Prague, 1968***.

Week 13: 4/10 4/12

Prague, 1968 continued.

Week 14: 4/17 4/19

4/17: Postmortem Discussion. The architecture of socialism and the history of architecture.

4/19: Assign Roles for the activity, *Building Socialism*. Introduction to activity.

Read: *Landscapes of Communism*, Introduction, Chapter One and Two.

Week 15: 4/24 4/26

Activity: *Building Socialism*.

Week 16: 5/2 5/4

5/2: *Building Socialism* continued.

5/4: Postmortem discussion and course wrap-up.

Final: Take home final that will count as your final lecture quiz grade.

