

FACULTY OF ARTS

Linguistics, Languages & Cultures, The University of Calgary

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Winter 2014

SLAV 355-01 – Modern East-European Literature in Translation

Borderlands in Modern Literature of East Central Europe

Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, 14:00 – 14:50 in CH D419

Course Description:

This course introduces students to the literature in East Central Europe in the twentieth century. In approximate chronological order, texts by Polish, Lithuanian, Ukrainian, German, Austrian and Czech writers are presented in their historical, literary, cultural, social and political contexts. The main questions for our course are what East Central Europe means for the writers and how the writers deal with the experiences of border and living in a borderland. In addition to the study of primary texts, attention is paid to the major literary trends to which these texts belong (Realism, Expressionism, Post-Modernism et cetera). The course also considers the question of the relationship between literary and political activity in a region whose history has been shaped by the ideological currents of nationalism, communism, and now, of post-totalitarian societies.

Course Grading

Participation	20%
10-minute Presentations and Seminar Leadership	40%
Middle Exam	20%
Final Essay	20%

Seminar Participation (20%)

Contributions to weekly discussion will be evaluated by the depth of understanding and the coherency of argumentation. Speaking frequently does not guarantee a high mark for participation.

10-minute Presentation and Seminar Leadership (40%)

Each student will help to begin a class session by presenting a 10-minute report on the text from the reading list and another appropriate reading chosen in consultation with the instructor. Please do not read from a prepared text. Your presentation should summarize your reading and present an argument that will promote discussion. You must list three specific discussion points for the class to consider. You will be graded on your analysis of the readings, the usefulness of your discussion questions and your Leadership in the discussion.

Final Essay (20%)

Students will submit one Final Essay (at least 1500 words) that deals with one of the major themes of this course. This assignment requires students to draw on the relevant scholarly literature, to demonstrate an understanding of the topic. It must be properly footnoted and include a bibliography. Topics will be chosen by the student in consultation with the instructor. The final research paper is due on March 31. Late papers will be penalized 3% per day including weekends. The Final Essay may be submitted by email and/or printed.

Weekly Topics and Reading Assignments

Week	Class	Topic	Assignments
1: Introduction	1/8		
	1/10	What is East Central Europe?	Wóycicki
2. East Central Europe in the Turn of the Century	1/13	Between East and West: across the borderlands of Europe	Applebaum
	1/15	Austro-Hungarian Empire	
	1/17	Radetzky March	Roth
3. After World War I:	1/20	New borders, new states	Magocsi
	1/22	The Nobel Prize winner Czesław Miłosz	Miłosz
	1/24	The Native Realm	
4. East Central Europe and the WW II	1/27	The war in East Central Europe	James
	1/29	Jewish population	http://www.irena-sendler.org/
	1/31	„Shielding the Flame”	Krall
5. The End of the WW II	2/3	Politics in the General Government (Poland)	Gross
	2/5	„A Memoir of the Warsaw Uprising”	Białoszewski
	2/7	Midterm exam	
6. The Post-war period in Poland	2/10	The Oder-Neisse Line and the Population resettlement	Halicka
	2/12	The border between old and new homeland	
	2/14	“Two cities”	Zagajewski
7.	2/17	Reading Week – No Class	
	2/19		
	2/21		
8. The Post-war period in Hungary	2/24	The Post-war Hungary in new border	James
	2/26	„Harmonia Caelestis“	Estehazy

	2/28	Remembrance for Victims of the Totalitarian Regimes	http://www.terrorhaza.hu/
9. Socialist era: 1968 in Czecho-Slovakia	3/3	Czecho-Slovakia under communist rule	Mazower
	3/5	The boundary between freedom and serving his country	Kundera
	3/7	"The Unbearable Lightness of Being"	
10. Socialist era: East Germany/West Germany	3/10	German Expellees in the Soviet Zone of Occupation	Wille
	3/12	Every-day life in divided Germany	Wolf
	3/14	"Divided heaven"	
11. The turn of 1989	3/17	Film "Walesa. Man of Hope" (2013)	Wajda
	3/19	Polish trade union "Solidarity"	Ash
	3/21	Revolution of '89 Witnessed in Warsaw, Budapest, Berlin and Prague	
12. Post-socialist era: Lithuania	3/24	On the Polish-Lithuanian boundary	Lunden
	3/26	„Vilnius, Personal History“	Venclova
	3/28	„Vilnius, Personal History“	
13. Post-socialist era: Ukraine	3/31	The Orange Revolution	Ash and Snyder
	4/2	Depeche Mode"	Zhadan
	4/4	"Every-day life in Kharkiv in the 1990s	
14. The burden of history and the trap of memory	4/7	An exhibition at the German Historical Museum in Berlin	Ther
	4/9	The Foundation Flight, Expulsion, Reconciliation	http://www.sfvv.de
	4/11	The Museum of the Second World War in Gdańsk	http://www.museum1939.pl
15	4/14	Discussion	

08.01.2014

I. Introduction

10.01.2014

What is East Central Europe?

Required Reading:

Kazimierz Wóycicki: Heritage for the future – Central European recent past in dispute. In: Heritage for the Future. International Conference. Hungarian National Assembly 25 November 2010. Office of Hungarian National Assembly 2011, p.37-42

Supplementary Reading:

Timothy Garton Ash: Where is Central Europe now? In: Timothy Garton Ash: History of the Present. Essays, Sketches and Despatches from Europe in the 1990s. New York 2000, p. 248-262

II. East Central Europe in the Turn of the Century

13.01.2014

Between East and West: across the borderlands of Europe

Required Reading:

*Anne Applebaum: Between East and West: across the borderlands of Europe, London [u.a.] 1995, Introduction

<http://www.anneapplebaum.com/between-east-and-west-across-the-borderlands-of-europe/>

15.01.2014

Austro-Hungarian Empire

17.01.2014

Required Reading:

*Joseph Roth: Radetzky March... Part II Chap.IX

Supplementary Reading:

Alexander V. Prusin: The Lands between. Conflict in the East European Borderlands, 1870-1992, New York 2010. Kap. 1

<http://ezproxy.lib.ucalgary.ca:2048/login?url=http://dx.doi.org/10.1093/acprof:oso/9780199297535.001.0001>

Anne Applebaum: Iron Curtain. The crushing of Eastern Europe 1944 - 56, London [u.a.] 2012

Oskar Halecki: Borderlands of Western civilization, New York 1952.

Oskar Halecki: The Limits and Divisions of European History, New York 1950.

III. After World War I

20.01.2014

New borders, new states

Required Reading:

*Paul R. Magocsi, Geoffrey J. Matthews: Historical Atlas of East Central Europe, University of Washington Press, 1995, p.104-110 and p.125-129.

22.01.2014

The Nobel Prize winner Czesław Miłosz

Required Reading:

Czesław Miłosz: The Native Realm – one chapter

24.01.2014

Czesław Miłosz: The Native Realm – one chapter

Supplementary Reading:

Timothy Snyder: The reconstruction of nations. Poland, Ukraine, Lithuania, Belarus, 1569 - 1999, New Haven, Conn. [u.a.] 2003. Chap. 3 and 7.

<http://site.ebrary.com.ezproxy.lib.ucalgary.ca/lib/ucalgary/docDetail.action?docID=10170067&page=69>

Peter D. Stachura: Poland between the Wars, 1918-1939, New York 1998.

LCR Database: Ebrary

<http://site.ebrary.com.ezproxy.lib.ucalgary.ca/lib/ucalgary/docDetail.action?docID=10041625>

Eberhardt, Piotr: Ethnic groups and population changes in twentieth-century Central-Eastern Europe 2003, p. 435-443 and p. 445-454.

Czesław Miłosz. In: Robert B. Pynsent: The everyman companion to East European literature. London 1993, p. 266-267.

IV. East Central Europe and the WW II

27.01.2014

The war in East Central Europe

Required Reading:

1. Harold James: Europe Reborn: A History 1914-2000. Pearson Longman, 2003 . Chap. 6

29.01.2014

Jewish population

1. Film: The Courageous Heart of Irena Sendler

31.01.2014

Required Reading:

Hanna Krall: Shielding the Flame - one chapter

V. The End of the WW II

03.02.2014

Politics in the General Government (Poland)

Required Reading:

* Jan Tomasz Gross: Polish Society under German Occupation. The Generalgouvernement, 1939-1944, Princeton, N.J. 1979, p. 184-203

05.02.2014

Required Reading:

*Miron Białoszewski: A Memoir of the Warsaw Uprising. - one chapter

Supplementary Reading:

Paul R. Magocsi, Geoffrey J. Matthews: Historical Atlas of East Central Europe, University of Washington Press, 1995, p.152-159.

Timothy Snyder: Bloodlands. Europa zwischen Hitler und Stalin, Bonn 2011.

Timothy Snyder: The reconstruction of nations. Poland, Ukraine, Lithuania, Belarus, 1569 - 1999, New Haven, Conn. [u.a.] 2003. Chap. 4 and 8.

Norman Davies: Gods playground: a history of Poland; in two volumes. Vol 2: 1795 to the present. Oxford 2005, p. 435-453 (Poland 1939-45).

Miron Białoszewski. In: Robert B. Pynsent: The everyman companion to East European literature. London 1993, p. 45.

07.02.2014

Midterm exam

VI The Post-war period in Poland

10.02.2014

The Oder-Neisse Line and the Population resettlement

Required Reading:

*Beata Halicka: The Oder-Neisse Line as a place of remembrance for Germans and Poles. in: *Journal of Contemporary History (JCH)* 2013, Volume 49, Issue 1.

12.02.2014

The border between old and new homeland

14.02.2014

Required Reading:

*Adam Zagajewski: Two cities: on exile, history, and the imagination, p. 3-47.

Supplementary Reading:

Paul R. Magocsi, Geoffrey J. Matthews: Historical Atlas of East Central Europe, University of Washington Press, 1995, p.104-110 and p.160-163.

Peter Gatrell und Nick Baron: Warlands. Population resettlement and state reconstruction in the Soviet-East European borderlands, 1945 - 50, Basingstoke [u.a.] 2009.

Curp, T. David : A clean sweep? The politics of ethnic cleansing in western Poland, 1945 - 1960, Rochester, NY 2006

Sheldon Anderson: A Cold War in the Soviet Block. Polish-East German Relations 1945-1962. Boulder, Colo. [u.a.] 2001, p. 31-51 (Oder-Neisse 1945-49)

Stefan Chwin: Death in Danzig (1995)

VII Reading Week

VIII The Post-war period in Hungary

24.02.2014

The Post-war Hungary in new border

Required Reading:

*Harold James: Europe Reborn: A History 1914-2000. Pearson Longman, 2003. Chap. 8

26.02.2014

Required Reading:

Peter Esterházy: Harmonia Caelestis. part II, chap. 6

28.02.2014

Remembrance for Victims of the Totalitarian Regimes

<http://www.terrorhaza.hu/>

Supplementary Reading:

Piotr Eberhardt: The Ethnic Structure of Hungary. In: ders.: Ethnic Groups and Population Changes in Twentieth-Century Central-Eastern Europe. History, Data and Analysis. NY [u.a.] 2003, p. 265-276, 289-295, 310-314.

Paul R. Magocsi, Geoffrey J. Matthews: Historical Atlas of East Central Europe, University of Washington Press, 1995, p.104-110 and p.134-135.

Peter Esterházy. In: Robert B. Pynsent: The everyman companion to East European literature. London 1993, p. 106-107.

IX Socialist era: 1968 in Czecho-Slovakia

03.03.2014

Czecho-Slovakia under communist rule

Required Reading:

Mark Mazower: Dark continent. Europe's twentieth century, New York 1999. Kap. 8.

05.03.2014

The boundary between freedom and serving his country

Required Reading:

Milan Kundera: The Unbearable Lightness of Being, Chap. 5.

07.03.2014

Milan Kundera: The Unbearable Lightness of Being

Supplementary Reading:

Paul R. Magocsi, Geoffrey J. Matthews: Historical Atlas of East Central Europe, University of Washington Press, 1995, p.132-133.

Milan Kundera: The Tragedy of Central Europe. New York Review of Books Volume 31, Number 7 · April 26, 1984.

Zdeněk Radvanovský: The Social and Economic Consequences of Resettling Czechs into Northwestern Bohemia, 1945-1947, in: Philipp Ther and Ana Siljak (eds.): Redrawing Nations. Ethnic Cleansing in East-Central Europe, 1944 - 1948, Lanham 2001, p. 241-260.

Milan Kundera. In: Robert B. Pynsent: The everyman companion to East European literature. London 1993, p. 221-222.

X Socialist era: East Germany/West Germany

10.03.2014

German Expellees in the Soviet Zone of Occupation

Required Reading:

Manfred Wille: Compelling the Assimilation of Expellees in the Soviet Zone of Occupation and the GDR, in: Philipp Ther and Ana Siljak (eds.): Redrawing Nations. Ethnic Cleansing in East-Central Europe, 1944 - 1948, Lanham 2001, p. 263-283.

12.03.2014

Every-day life in divided Germany

Required Reading:

Christa Wolf: Divided heaven. Since Chap. 22

14.03.2014

Christa Wolf: Divided heaven.

Supplementary Reading:

Sheldon Anderson: A Cold War in the Soviet Block. Polish-East German Relations 1945-1962. Boulder, Colo. [u.a.] 2001, p.259-282 (Berlin Wall 1961-62)

Timothy Garton Ash: The uses of adversity : essays on the fate of Central Europe. Cambridge 1989, Chap. Sketches from another Germany

XI The turn of 1989

17.03.2014

Film "Walesa. Man of Hope" (2013)

19.03.2014

Polish trade union "Solidarity"

Required Reading:

Timothy Garton Ash: The uses of adversity : essays on the fate of Central Europe. Cambridge 1989, Chap. The Pope in Poland

21.03.2014

Revolution of '89 Witnessed in Warsaw, Budapest, Berlin and Prague

Supplementary Reading:

Timothy Garton Ash: We the People: Revolution of '89 Witnessed in Warsaw, Budapest, Berlin and Prague. New York 1990

Timothy Garton Ash: The Polish Revolution: Solidarity. London 1999

XII Post-socialist era: Lithuania

24.03.2014

On the Polish-Lithuanian boundary

Required Reading:

Thomas Lundén: On the boundary. About humans at the end of territory. Stockholm 2004, p. 203-212.

26.03.2014

Required Reading:

Tomas Venclova, Vilnius, Personal History. Chap.8

28.03.2014

Tomas Venclova, Vilnius, Personal History.

Supplementary Reading

Tomas Venclova: Vilnius: The city as object of nostalgia, in: Eurozine from 2010-07-27

<http://www.eurozine.com/articles/2010-07-27-venclova-en.html>

Piotr Eberhardt: The Contemporary Ethnic Situation in Central-Eastern Europe. In: Ethnic Groups and Population Changes in Twentieth-Century Central-Eastern Europe. History, Data and Analysis. NY [u.a.] 2003, p. 455-484.

XIII Post-socialist era: Ukraine

31.03.2014

The Orange Revolution

Required Reading:

Timothy Garton Ash und Timothy Snyder: The Orange Revolution, in: Transit, 2005, 14-30.

<http://www.nybooks.com/articles/archives/2005/apr/28/the-orange-revolution/?pagination=false>

02.04.2014

Required Reading:

Serhiy Zhadan: Depeche Mode. – one chapter

04.04.2014

Every-day life in Kharkiv in the 1990s

Supplementary Reading:

Omer Bartov: Erased. Vanishing traces of Jewish Galicia in present-day Ukraine, Princeton, NJ [u.a.] 2007.

Piotr Eberhardt: The Ethnic Structure of Ukraine. In: ders.: Ethnic Groups and Population Changes in Twentieth-Century Central-Eastern Europe. History, Data and Analysis. NY [u.a.] 2003, p. 238-264.

XIV The burden of history and the trap of memory

07.04.2014

An exhibition at the German Historical Museum in Berlin

Required Reading:

Philipp Ther: The burden of history and the trap of memory. In: *Transit* 30 2005/2006 (about *Erzwungene Wege* ["Forced journeys"] an exhibition at the German Historical Museum in Berlin) <http://www.eurozine.com/articles/2006-08-21-ther-en.html>

09.04.2014

The Foundation Flight, Expulsion, Reconciliation

<http://www.sfvv.de>

11.04.2014

The Museum of the Second World War in Gdańsk

<http://www.muzeum1939.pl>

14.04.2014

Discussion