

Course descriptions

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

Academic year: 2026/2027	
University: Comenius University Bratislava	
Faculty: Faculty of Arts	
Course ID: FiF.KVD/A-boSE-002/12	Course title: Introduction into the History of Central Europe
Educational activities: Type of activities: lecture / seminar Number of hours: per week: 2 / 2 per level/semester: 28 / 28 Form of the course: on-site learning	
Number of credits: 10	
Recommended semester: 1., 15.	
Educational level: I.	
Prerequisites:	
Course requirements: Regular attendance and two oral presentations of chosen topics (according to the teacher's assignment) during semester, interpretation of sources in seminars, final exam consisting of a written test. Student has to achieve at least 60 percent success rate in all parts of the evaluation. Violation of academic ethics will be punished, and the student will lose all the received points in the relevant assessment. Grading scale: 0-59%-FX, 60-67%-E, 68-75%-D, 76-83%-C, 84-91%-B, 92-100%-A Scale of assessment (preliminary/final): 50/50	
Learning outcomes: Students are able to identify the main stages of historical development of Central Europe. They are able to locate, specify and describe the countries of this region on the basis of their historical, cultural and ethno-linguistic characteristics. They know the process of formation of Central European nations and the emergence of the political-geographical region of Central Europe. On the basis of interpretation of the most significant historical processes, events and actions of personages, they manage to understand the specific development of this part of Europe. Through a historical comparison, they can compare this knowledge with development in other parts of the continent. On the basis of work with period sources, they manage to interpret objectively the common controversial and conflicting historical issues which, even in the present, mark the level and nature of relations between Central European countries.	
Class syllabus: Central Europe – historical-political-geographical definition of the concept Arrival of Slavs and Hungarians in Central Europe Emergence of medieval Christianized monarchies –Hungary, Poland, Kingdom of Bohemia Turkish threat in Central Europe The Habsburgs – the origins and rise of Central European dynasty Reformation and Counter-Reformation in Central Europe Humanism and Renaissance in Central Europe (cultural development)	

Distasters and three partitions of Poland (17th and 18th centuries) – the beginnings of Prussian hegemony Formation of modern nations in the multinational Habsburg monarchy Theresian and Josephine reforms, French Revolution and Napoleonic era in Central Europe The century of revolutions: events in 1830, 1848/49, 1861, 1867 World War I and the consequences of the Versailles system on Central Europe The Interwar period (1918-1939) – the international situation World War II and reorganisation of Europe in the bipolar world after 1945 The Cold War and the fall of the Iron Curtain after 1989					
Recommended literature: CURTA, Florin. Slavs in the making history, linguistics, and archaeology in Eastern Europe (ca. 500-ca. 700). London: New York: Routledge Taylor & Francis Group, 2021 ISBN 9781138574144. DAVIES , Norman. Europe: a History. Oxford : University Press, 1996. ISBN 9780712666336. DVORNIK, Francis. The making of Central and Eastern Europe. London : Polish Research Centre Ltd, 1949. ISBN 9780875690230. TRÁVNÍČEK, Jiří. V kleštích dějin. Střední Evropa jako pojem a problém. Brno : Host, 2009. ISBN 9788072943234. WANDY CZ, Piotr. The Price of Freedom. A History of East Central Europe from the Middle Ages to the Present. London: Routledge Chapman & Hall, 2001. ISBN 0415254914.					
Languages necessary to complete the course: English					
Notes:					
Past grade distribution Total number of evaluated students: 295					
A	B	C	D	E	FX
31,19	21,02	16,61	12,2	15,93	3,05
Lecturers: doc. Mgr. Dušan Zupka, PhD.					
Last change: 11.06.2022					
Approved by:					

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Academic year: 2026/2027	
University: Comenius University Bratislava	
Faculty: Faculty of Arts	
Course ID: FiF.KVD/A-moHI-054/24	Course title: Negotiating the Postcommunist Transition. Political Thought and Memory in East-Central Europe after 1989
Educational activities: Type of activities: lecture Number of hours: per week: 2 per level/semester: 28 Form of the course: on-site learning	
Number of credits: 4	
Recommended semester: 2., 4., 16.	
Educational level: II.	
Prerequisites:	
Course requirements: Active participation will be assessed. The evaluation will fully take place during the course. Scale of assessment (preliminary/final): 100/0	
Learning outcomes: Students will acquire in-depth knowledge about the development and history of thought, memory politics, and collective, group, or individual memory as expressions and means of shaping post-communist societies. The course is designed to equip students with competencies in methodologies of the history of political thought and intellectual history, memory politics, and the creation of different forms and levels of memory, allowing them to understand and learn how to historically analyze and interpret texts, contexts, and correlations of different thought currents or intellectual milieus. Rather than a static, predominantly psychological perception of democracy, economic transformation, and democratic transition, the course emphasizes agency and the subjects involved in the production of thought, enabling students to anchor thought and memory in the specific historical, political, and geographical conditions of Central and Eastern Europe. Upon completing the course, students will be able to work dynamically with the underpinnings of contemporary discourses, allowing them to navigate the public sphere with a well-grounded understanding.	
Class syllabus: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Memory as a historical problem 2. Conceptualizing Postcommunism – Methodological approaches to transition and transformation 3. Economic thought and transformation 4. Memory of the neoliberal turn, socialist nostalgia 5. Memory and cultural history 6. Memory and public space, political utilization of history 7. „Coming to terms with the past“ in East-Central Europe 8. Thinking the postcommunist democracy 9. Gender and democratic transition, postcommunist memory 10. The midwives of the long change – depolitisation of the public space/sphere 11. Nation – a return or a long hatching of the nationalist imagination 	

12. „A return to Europe?“ 13. Fukuyama, or CODA?					
Recommended literature: Kopeček, M. – Wciślik, P. (eds.) Thinking Through Transition. Liberal Democracy, Authoritarian Pasts, and Intellectual History in East Central Europe After 1989. Budapest – New York: CEU Press, 2015. Assmann, A. Introduction to Cultural Studies Topis, Concepts, Issues. Berlin: Erich Schmidt, 2012. Krapfl, J. Revolution with a Human Face. Politics, Culture, and Community in Czechoslovakia, 1989 – 1992. New York: Cornell University Press, 2013. Ypi, L. Free. Coming of Age at the End of History. London: Penguin, 2022.					
Languages necessary to complete the course: English					
Notes:					
Past grade distribution Total number of evaluated students: 13					
A	B	C	D	E	FX
100,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0
Lecturers: Mgr. Matej Ivančík, PhD.					
Last change: 14.05.2024					
Approved by:					

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Academic year: 2026/2027	
University: Comenius University Bratislava	
Faculty: Faculty of Arts	
Course ID: FiF.KVD/A-boHI-030/26	Course title: The Public Sphere and Civil Society in the 19th Century
Educational activities: Type of activities: seminar Number of hours: per week: 2 per level/semester: 28 Form of the course: on-site learning	
Number of credits: 3	
Recommended semester: 15.	
Educational level: I.	
Prerequisites:	
Course requirements: Completion of the course to the minimum prescribed extent, i.e., attending at least 75% of the total course time allocation. A maximum of 3 absences are permitted, of which no more than one may be unexcused. Throughout the semester, students will be assessed on their active class participation and a presentation on a selected topic at the end of the seminar. The grading is weighted 50/50. Grading scale 0-59%-FX, 60-67%-E, 68-75%-D, 76-83%-C, 84-91%-B, 92-100%-A Scale of assessment (preliminary/final): 100/0	
Learning outcomes: Upon completion of the course, students will acquire comprehensive knowledge of the dynamic development of the public sphere in the 19th century – from exclusive coffeehouses, salons, and reading clubs to the emergence of mass political movements. They will understand the phenomenon of public opinion, the process of shaping the "voice of the people," and its impact on the political decision-making of monarchs and governments of the era. They will gain an overview of how period media and propaganda functioned. Additionally, they will become familiar with the mechanisms of state information control, understanding the operations of censorship and the secret police. Furthermore, by completing the course, students will deepen their methodological skills. They will be capable of conducting independent heuristic research, critically evaluating relevant academic literature, and synthesizing acquired knowledge. They will be able to search for historical primary sources, and subsequently analyze and interpret them. They will be able to logically structure their findings in the form of an original written or oral academic output at the level of a bachelor's degree student.	
Class syllabus: Course Outline: 1. Introduction 2. The role of coffeehouses, literary salons, reading cabinets, and learned societies in shaping the public sphere	

3. The printed word as a weapon
4. State control of information and the fight against censorship
5. The secret police and the surveillance of citizens
6. From banquet campaigns through revolutionary barricades to mass demonstrations
7. From secret brotherhoods to the formation of mass political movements, trade unions, and the first modern political parties
8. The influence of public opinion on the political decision-making of monarchs
9. – 12. Student presentations

Recommended literature:

ANDERSON, Benedict. Imagined Communities. London: Verso, 2006, s. 256, ISBN 978-1-84467-086-4

HUBERMAS, Jurgen. The Structural Transformation of the Public Sphere. Canbridge: MIT Press, 1991, 326 s. ISBN 9780262081801

RAPORT, Michael. 1848: Year of Revolution. New York: Basic Books, 2009, 496 s. ISBN 978-0465014361

TILLY, Charles. Social Movements, 1768-2004. London: Routledge, 2004, 204 s. ISBN 978-1594510434.

ZAMOYSKI, Adam. Phantom Terror: The Threat Of Revolution And The Repression Of Liberty 1789-1848, London: HarperCollins Publishers, 2013, 569 s. , ISBN 978-0007282760

Languages necessary to complete the course:

English

Notes:

Past grade distribution

Total number of evaluated students: 0

A	B	C	D	E	FX
0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0	0,0

Lecturers: Mgr. Zuzana Kudzbelová, PhD.

Last change: 09.05.2026

Approved by: