
TEACHING

Krista Harper, University of Massachusetts, Amherst

ANT 260: ETHNOGRAPHY OF EASTERN EUROPE **MW 1-2:30 pm, Seelye 101, Spring Semester 2003**

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Office hours: T 3-5 pm and by appt.

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

This course focuses on ethnographic accounts of state socialism and post-socialist transformations in Eastern Europe. Anthropologists working in the region focus on how individuals and communities experience cultural change, from the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989 to civil war in Yugoslavia in the 1990s to the projected European Union accession for Hungary, Poland, Slovakia, and the Czech Republic in 2004. Students will study how contemporary life in Eastern Europe is shaped by the past, exploring two key questions, "What was socialism, and what comes next?" The course will discuss three critical areas of anthropological research: 1) the political economy of state socialism and post-socialism, as experienced in everyday life; 2) Democratization and political cultures in transformation; and 3) nationalism and the conditions of ethnic minorities. The course integrates critical analyses of Eastern Europe cinema and documentaries with a close examination of ethnographic texts.

TEACHING AND LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

- To acquaint you with the diversity of peoples, places and cultures that make up eastern Europe.
- To learn some theories anthropologists have developed to explain and understand social and cultural phenomena in contemporary Eastern Europe.
- To develop research skills through group and individual research projects.
- To work on presenting ideas effectively as speakers and writers.
- To enjoy films, good books, and lively discussion!

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

In addition to completing the readings before class, keeping track of course announcements on the Blackboard site, and participating actively in discussion, students will be required to do the following assignments:

- 1) Country focus group: Small groups of 2-4 students will give a well-researched, 15-minute presentation on a specific country in the region. Throughout the course, they will act as resident "country specialists" as needed. (10%)
- 2) Weekly 1-page reading response papers, graded on a +/- scale. (20%)
- 3) A take-home midterm essay of 3-5 pages, reflecting on the themes covered in the first seven weeks of the semester. (15%)
- 4) A 1-page film review of a film from the class viewing list, due anytime before Friday, April 25. (10%)
- 5) An 8-10-page research paper on an approved topic, due Friday, May 2. (30%)
- 6) A scheduled final exam, including map, identifications, and short essay questions. (15%)

Details for each of the assignments will be distributed in class and posted on the Blackboard website.

All written work for the course should be neatly word-processed in 12-point, double-spaced type. Reread and revise your written work in accordance with the Jacobsen Center's *Writing Papers: A Handbook for Students at Smith College*. Spelling, punctuation, and grammatical errors will result in lower grade. At all times, try to write with precision, structure, and focus, and please, keep to the stated page limits for assignments.

Late policy: Assignments are due in class, unless otherwise stated. Unless you have received an extension in advance of the day the assignment is due because of some extenuating circumstance, assignments are penalized one full grade (ie, from an "A" to a "B") per class day past the assigned due date.

Office Hours and Communication: The professor is happy to meet with you during office hours to talk about your ideas for projects, reflections on course materials, and other topics of interest. Don't avoid office hours if you are feeling lost—that's exactly the time to check in! Also, if you are falling behind due to personal circumstances, please contact the professor and your Class Dean.

Special needs: Students with learning disabilities needing special accommodation for note-taking, etc. should inform Professor Harper during the first two weeks of class.

Religious holidays: Please inform the instructor by e-mail by the second week of class of any absences due to religious holidays.

Grading scale:

A= 93-100%	C= 73-76%
A- = 90-92%	C-=70-72%
B+= 87-89%	D+=67-69%
B = 83-86%	D=63-66%
B-=80-82%	D-=60-62%
C+=77-79%	F = less than 59%

TEXTS:

Required

Available at Greccourt Bookshop:

Hann, C.M., ed. *Postsocialism: Ideals, Ideologies, and Practices in Eurasia*. New York: Routledge. 2002.
Kubik, Jan. *The Power of Symbols Against the Symbols of Power*. University Park, PA: Penn State. 1994.
Stewart, Michael. *The Time of the Gypsies*. Boulder, CO: Westview. 1998.
Verdery, Katherine. *What was Socialism, and What Comes Next?* Princeton, NJ: Princeton. 1996.

A course reader, available from Copy Cat Print Shop on Pleasant Street, 586-1332.

Recommended reference books (also available at Greccourt Bookshop)

Crampton, R.J. *Eastern Europe in the Twentieth Century*. New York: Routledge. 1997.
Magosci, Paul. *Historical Atlas of Central Europe*. Seattle: Washington. 2002.

SCHEDULE OF TOPICS AND READINGS:

INTRODUCTION: WHAT WAS STATE SOCIALISM?

Week 1

M 1/27 **Introductions, overview of region, course requirements**

W 1/29 Anthropology in Eastern Europe before and after 1989

Read Verdery, "Introduction"; Drakulic, selections; and at least one of the following articles about 1989: Weschler on Poland, Brumberg on Czechoslovakia, Tismaneanu on Romania (articles distributed in class on M 1/27).

Prepare a 1-page reading response paper on Verdery.

Week 2

M 2/3 **What was State Socialism? A Satirical Look**

Film: *The Witness* (1968, Hungary)

W 2/5

Finish viewing *The Witness*, discussion

Read Verdery, Ch. 1.

Prepare a 1-page reading response paper on the reading.

EXTRA CREDIT OPPORTUNITY (2 points): Attend the SOYUZ conference on Postsocialist Cultural Studies (Feb. 7-8, Amherst College) and turn in a 1-page write-up of your favorite paper or panel (Due in class W 2/12).

PART I: POLITICAL ECONOMY, MARKETS, AND EVERYDAY LIFE

Week 3

M 2/10 **Library Orientation: Resources on Eastern European Societies**
Class meets at Neilson Library classroom.

W 2/12 State Socialist and Post-Socialist Economies

Guest scholar: Anita Dancs, PhD

Reading assignment TBA

Week 4

M 2/17 **Rural Communities and Economies**

Country Group Presentation: Bulgaria

Read: Lampland; Creed (both articles in Hann)

Prepare a 1-page reading response paper.

W 2/19 Rally Day—no class

Week 5
M 2/24

New Markets, New Identities

Country Group Presentation: Romania

Read Dunn (reader), Kideckel (in Hann, *Postsocialism*)

You have the option to prepare a 1-page reading response for EITHER Monday or Wednesday's readings this week, due on the day of the reading assignment.

W 2/26 New Markets, New Identities, cont'd

Country Group Presentation: East Germany

Read Kaneff, Berdahl (reader).

If you did not prepare a reading response on Monday, you must turn one in today in class.

PART II: POLITICAL CULTURES OF DISSIDENCE AND DEMOCRATIZATION

Week 6
M 3/3

Prelude to Solidarity

Country Group Presentation: Poland

Read Kubik, *Power*, Introduction, Ch. 1-2

You have the option to prepare a 1-page reading response for EITHER Monday or Wednesday's readings this week, due on the day of the reading assignment.

W 3/5

Religion and Polish Political Discourse

Country Group Presentation: Czech Republic and Slovakia

Read Kubik, Ch. 4-5.

If you did not prepare a reading response on Monday, you must turn one in today in class.

Week 7
M 3/10

Symbols of Solidarity

Read Kubik, Ch. 6-7

You have the option to prepare a 1-page reading response for EITHER Monday or Wednesday's readings this week, due on the day of the reading assignment.

W 3/12 Symbolic Analysis of Official and Dissident Politics

Country Group Presentation: Hungary

Read Kubik, Ch. 8.

If you did not prepare a reading response on Monday, you must turn one in today in class.

Week 8 SPRING BREAK—no classes!

Week 9
M 3/24

Postsocialist Public Spheres and Democratization

Country Group Presentation: former Yugoslavia

Read Beck; Harper "Citizens or Consumers?" (reader).

You have the option to prepare a 1-page reading response for EITHER Monday or Wednesday's readings this week, due on the day of the reading assignment.

W 3/26 Gender, the Family and Democratization

Read Verdery, Ch. 3, and Harper, "Chernobyl Stories" (reader)

If you did not prepare a reading response on Monday, you must turn one in today in class.

Week 10
M 3/31

Gender in Transition

Read Pine (in Hann), Dölling (reader).

You have the option to prepare a 1-page reading response for EITHER Monday or Wednesday's readings this week, due on the day of the reading assignment.

W 4/2 Gender in Transition
Read Goven, Dashkalova (reader)
If you did not prepare a reading response on Monday, you must turn one in today in class.

PART III: NATIONALISM AND ETHNICITY

Week 10

M 4/7 Competing discourses: "Nation" and "Europe"
Read Gal (reader) and Verdery, Ch. 4.
You have the option to prepare a 1-page reading response for EITHER Monday or Wednesday's readings this week, due on the day of the reading assignment.

W 4/9 Roma Outside
Diaspora Group Presentation: Roma
Read Stewart, Ch. 1-3.
If you did not prepare a reading response on Monday, you must turn one in today in class.

Week 11

M 4/14 Roma Under State Socialism
Film: *Across the Tracks*
Read Stewart, Ch. 4-7.
You have the option to prepare a 1-page reading response for EITHER Monday or Wednesday's readings this week, due on the day of the reading assignment.

W 4/16 Vlach Roma Identity
Read Stewart, Ch. 8-10.
If you did not prepare a reading response on Monday, you must turn one in today in class.

Week 12

M 4/21 Vlach Roma Identity after Socialism
Read Stewart, Ch. 11-13, and *optional* Stewart (in Hann).
You have the option to prepare a 1-page reading response for EITHER Monday or Wednesday's readings this week, due on the day of the reading assignment.

W 4/23 Nationalism and War in Yugoslavia
Film: *We Are All Neighbors*
Read Hayden (in Hann) and Zivkovic (in reader).
If you did not prepare a reading response on Monday, you must turn one in today in class.

Week 13

M 4/28 Reviving Jewish Culture and Communities
Film: *At the crossroads*
Diaspora Group Presentation: Eastern European Jews
Read Bohlmann (reader)

CONCLUSION: WHAT COMES NEXT?

W 5/ From postsocialism to globalization
Read: Verdery, Kalb (in Hann).