Family in Transition
(Postsocialism and Eastern European Family)

Lecturer: Petra Ezzeddine PhD.

Course Details:
This course will lead students to understand what is new and what is old in contemporary accounts of family in the dynamic region of Eastern Europe. Students will be able to study family approaches which have been central to anthropology’s disciplinary identity – and how they can help us to analyze postsocialistic forms of family relationships, gender and family. The course will combine reading classes, workshops, study visits and film screenings.

The aim of the course:
- to be aware of the major theoretical debates of family studies
- to be capable of critical analysis of those debates and their significance for family studies in the region of Eastern Europe
- to be aware of important linkage between family, ideology, migration and ethnicity

Assignments:
a.) All students are required to complete assigned readings and to participate actively in seminar discussions.
b.) To prepare for seminars, you are required to complete a one-page summary of the week’s readings to be turned in on the day of class. The purpose of this assignment is to ensure that students come to class prepared to engage in discussion.
Exam:

Take home exam:
Students are asked to identify a focus for a paper that explores a particular theme discussed throughout the semester (minimum 10 pages). You are asked to produce a power point presentation based on your paper (maximum 15 minutes long). Students will present it in our final meeting.

Paper: 60 percent of final grade
Presentation: 40 percent of final grade

Week I: Introduction

Week II: Transition process in Eastern Europe

Week III: Family in Transition

Week IV: Family in transition - case of Eastern European Jews
Workshop in audiovisual history databaze Melach.

Week V: State, Gender and Family


Week VI: Postsocialism and Motherhood
Haney. L. 1999.: "But We Are Still Mothers": Gender, the State, and the Construction of Need in Postsocialist Hungary: eds. Burawoy M., Verdery K. *Uncertain Transition (Ethnographies*

-film screening I.

Week VII: Postsocialism and Fatherhood


-film screening II.

Week VIII: Family in transition and materiality I.
Food and Materiality

West B. 2000. Personhood on a Plate: Gender and Food in the Construction of Proper Hungarian Woman. The Anthropology of East Europe Review, Vol.8,No.2.: 103-114

Week IX: Family in transition and materiality II.
Family, Ideology and Housing

Study visit of typical socialistic urban settlement in Prague.

Week X: Family in Move (Family and Migration)
Solari, C. 2010. „Drain vs Constitutive Circularity: Comparing the Gendered Effects of Post Soviet Migration Patterns in Ukraine", Anthropology of East Europe Review 28 (1)

Week XI. Family and Ageing

Week XII. Final Meeting

Final presentation of essays