MULTICULTURALISM, ETHNICITY AND COLLECTIVE MEMORY IN CENTRAL EUROPE

Fall 2011

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OUTLINE OF THE COURSE:

The course will offer a set of conceptual tools for understanding multiculturalism, ethnicity and collective memory in Central and Eastern Europe from the 20th century to the present. From an anthropological perspective and the analysis of some relevant ethnographic case studies, some of the questions that will be discussed in class are: What is the relationship between ethnicity and other types of identity? What is collective memory? How do ethnic groups remain distinctive under different social, economic and political conditions? What is Multiculturalism and its relation to the process of Globalisation? In which ways can collective memory be important in the creation of ethnicity? Is nationalism always a form of ethnicity? What are ethnic conflicts in contemporary Central and Eastern Europe? What can be the roots of ethnic differentiations and therefore, potentially, ethnic conflicts: religious, political, economic, linguistic or “racial”? Memory, silences and forgetting; how we should deal with the past in order to advance with the project of Europe?

COURSE REQUIREMENTS/GRADING POLICY:

-Class preparation and participation: This must be the element most crucial to the student’s interest and therefore, the class’s success. Students need to read the text assigned prior to each class well. Students are expected to actively participate in all class discussions. The goal of the course is to develop analytical and critical thinking skills which enable students to understand the texts and lectures and to engage in provoking discussion and written analysis.
-Attendance policy: Students are required to attend class. An excused medical absence requires a written document the day of return to class. UPCES only allows one unexcused absence.

-Grading: Throughout the course students will have weekly assignments and readings, a mid-term exam and a final research project (see course schedule for due dates). The final research paper should be 12 pages in length and double-spaced. Guidelines will be given in class.

Participation/daily preparation: 20%  
Mid-term exam: 40%  
Final research paper and oral presentation: 40%

REQUIRED READINGS:

A package of readings classified by weeks will be available on-line and in paper. Additional readings, as any other resource as current documentaries, films or even music, will also be recommended throughout the course according to the needs and expectations of the class and any particular student’s interest.

PROGRAM:

WEEK 1 – Sept 27-29

Introduction to the course. A conceptual and theoretical approach  
Reading  
pp 3-31  

Week 2- Oct 4-6  
The collective memory and the collective identity  
Case study: the uses and sites of memory among Hungarian population in Southern Slovakia  
Reading  
- D. Torsello. "Memory, space, and time perceptions in a postsocialist village of Southern Slovakia". Anthropology of East Europe Review, 2005

Week 3- Oct 11-13  
Ethnic groups and ethnicity: “us” and “them”  
Case study: the Turkish population in contemporary Germany  
Reading  

Week 4- Oct 18-20  
Ethnicity and nation. Nationalities as “imagined communities”?  
Case study: the Czech nation throughout history  
Readings

**Week 5- Oct 25-27**

**Nation and the State. Collective memories & life stories**

**Case study: life before and after Communism and the split of Czechoslovakia**

**Reading**

**Week 6- Nov 1-3**

**Mid term Exam- Nov 1**

**Reading**

**Week 7- Nov 8-10**

**Ethnicity, history and culture**

**Case study: the role of religion in the creation of Polish national identity**


**Week 8- Nov 15- 17 National Holiday**

**“Minorities” and the State**

**Reading**

**Week 9 – Nov 22-24**

**From prejudice and discrimination to ethnocide and genocide.**

**Case study. Anti- Semitism and the the rise of neo-nazi groups in Central and Eastern Europe**

**Reading**

**Week 10- Nov 29-Dec 1**

**The transnationalization of the labour market. On the dialectic of
Europeisation and Globalisation

Reading

Documentary.-film *Osadné*. Dir. by Marko Skop

Week 11- Dec 6-8
The paradoxes of multiculturalism in contemporary Europe

Reading

Week 12- Dec
Dateline for Final Research Paper
Oral presentations

RECOMMENDED ADDITIONAL READINGS:

- Buchowski, M. ‘Coming to Terms with Capitalism: An Example of a Rural Community in Poland’, *Anthropology, Vol 27* :
- Hutchinson, J. *Nations as zones of conflict*. SAGE, 2005