CERGE-EI and the Faculty of Humanities (FHS) at Charles University

Collective Memory in Central Europe

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Office Hours: upon request

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 since 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 ethnic conflicts do we face 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, silence 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 well the text assigned prior to each class. Students are expected to actively participate in all class discussions. The goal of the course is to develop analytical and critical thinking skills that 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. Excused medical absences require a written document the day of return to class. UPCES program 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 date). Final research paper should be 12 pages 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:
Package of readings classified by weeks will be available online 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
UPCES Orientation Lecture Series
Lectures and site visits on subjects of history, culture, politics, and the economies of the Czech Republic and Central Europe in order to establish a common interdisciplinary background and vocabulary for all courses.

Week 2
Introduction to the course
A conceptual and theoretical approach

Week 3
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 4
Ethnic groups and ethnicity: “us” and “them” Case study: the Turkish population in contemporary Germany

Week 5
Ethnicity and nation. Nationalities as “imagined communities”? Case study: the Czech nation throughout history

Week 6
Nation and the State. Collective memories & life stories Case study: life before and after Communism and the split of Czechoslovakia

Week 7
Mid-term Exam

**Week 8**

**Ethnicity, history and culture**

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

**Week 9**

**“Minorities” and the State**


**Week 10**

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

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


**Week 11**

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

-Film: *Osadné*. Dir. by Marko Skop

**Week 12**

**The paradoxes of multiculturalism in contemporary Europe**

Reading -M. Muhic. Multiculturalism in Central and Eastern Europe:Challenge or threat? *Anthropology of East Europe Review*, 2004

**Week 13**

**Deadline 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*, 2003, 27, 1
- Hutchinson, J. *Nations as zones of conflict*. SAGE, 2005
- Sznaider, N *Jewish memory and the cosmopolitan order*. Polity Press, 2011