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

Gender and Minorities in Post-Socialist Europe

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OUTLINE OF THE COURSE:
This course aims to introduce students with historical and contemporary issues of gender and “minorities” in post-socialist Central/Eastern Europe. In recent years the territorial frontiers of the European community towards the outside and the internal political frontiers between the community and its member states have been shifting significantly. Based on ethnographic work, among other sources, we will analyze how the complex project of Europe is trying to guarantee the coexistence of different ethnic, religious and political forms across national borders based on the principle of cultural diversity and cosmopolitan tolerance.

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. Excuse medical absence requires a written document the day of return to class. UPCES program only allows one un-excuse 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 on-line and in paper. Additional readings, as any other resource as current documentaries, doc-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.
WEEKLY 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. The construction of minorities in Central and Eastern Europe
Reading
- Peter Vermeersch and Melanie H. Ram. The Roma in B. Rechel, Minority rights in Central and Eastern Europe. Routledge 2009

WEEK 3
The Jews, The Roma and other minorities under the Nazi regime
Reading

WEEK 4
Minorities under State Socialism
Reading

WEEK 5
Transition to Democracy and the socio-economic impact on minorities. The cycle of poverty and social exclusion.
Reading

WEEK 6
The policies of the labour market. Gender, Class and the “underclass”
Reading

**Week 7**

**Mid-term Exam**

Reading:

**Week 8**

**Housing and Roma settlements. Can we talk of a process of Ghettoization?**

Reading:

**Week 9**

**Education and language minority rights**

Reading:
- *Alternative secondary schools in Hungary*. Orson and others, 3000, OSCE 2000

**Week 10**

**Islam and women’s rights in the new construction of Europe**

Readings:

**Week 11**

**Roots of ethnic conflict and the increase of Neo-nazi groups**

Reading:

**Week 12**

**Social movements. Towards new policies of multicultural integration in the process of Europeanization and Globalization.**

Reading:
RECOMMENDED ADDITIONAL READINGS

- Hutchinson, J. *Nations as zones of conflict*. SAGE, 2005
- Soler, E and Calvo (eds) *Transiciones culturales. Perspectivas desde Europa Central y del Este (Cultural transitions. Perspectives from Central and Eastern Europe)* Madrid: Consejo Superior de Investigaciones Científicas (CSIC), 2016 (chapers in English and in Spanish)