



STUDY PROGRAMME

European Interdisciplinary Studies, Natolin campus (Advanced Academic Master)

YEAR

2020-2021

COURSE TITLE

History of the Balkans

SEMESTER

2

COURSE PROFESSOR(S)

LEWIS Mark A.

ACADEMIC ASSISTANT(S)

KUBICA Jakub

COURSE TYPE

Optional Specialist Course

MAJOR(S)

EPAP, EUW, EUN, EHC

ECTS CREDITS

4

CONTACT HOURS

20

INDIVIDUAL STUDY TIME

80

TUTORIAL(S)

COEFFICIENT

1

LANGUAGE(S)

EN

COURSE OBJECTIVE

To introduce students to major concepts and debates in the history of southeastern Europe (the Balkans) in the early modern and modern periods, emphasizing cultural, social, and political transformations.

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES

Students are able to:

- explain and discuss the basic cultural, social, and political transformations in Southeastern Europe from 1800 to the present.
- explain the differences in religion and household structure in the region.
- articulate some of the main legacies of Ottoman and Habsburg rule in the region and causes of national revolts in the 19th century.
- explain the causes of World War I as they relate to the region, and the consequences of the war concerning economies, state-building, and minorities.
- discuss and debate the nature of the native fascist movements and civil wars in the region in the 1930s-40s.
- discuss and debate the different forms and policies of state socialism in Southeastern Europe between 1948-1989.
- explain a typology of cases for the revolutions/transitions that followed in 1989 and after.
- analyse and evaluate critically how historians, publicists, and political actors created a self-definition of “Europe” that sometimes drew contrasts with “the Balkans,” “European Turkey,” and “Southeastern Europe,” and sometimes included these concepts. Students will therefore develop a broader understanding of the history of European construction. (Joint Learning Outcome A2).

Students develop the ability to evaluate relevant primary and secondary sources relating to some of the aforementioned historical problems and to arrive at their own reasoned interpretations of them (European History and Civilization Learning Outcome 4).

RECOMMENDED PREPARATION

Students should do the reading for Session 1 before the first class.

TEACHING METHOD(S)

Lectures followed by discussion of concepts and issues. Part of the course will be delivered through asynchronous, pre-recorded lectures providing fuel for live discussions.

ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA

1. Presentation: 25% (addressing an assigned question based on the assigned course readings. The presentation should be twenty minutes maximum. It must also include a one-page hand-out for fellow students and two discussion questions which the class will address. Presentations will be assigned before the first day. Presentations will be individual or group, depending on enrolment number. Should the course happen entirely online, the presentations will take place as individual sessions with the professor, outside the 20 contact hours for this course. The students will still distribute their handouts and questions to the class in advance. They will be used as the basis for discussion in the live sessions.)

2. Final Written Exam: 75% (3-hour take-home, open-book exam, answering two essay questions based on a choice of questions. There is no page limit for the written exam.)

Retake examinations, i.e. exams passed in the second examination session, will have the same format as those taken during the first exam session. When a student takes an examination during the second session, the final mark for the course is based solely on the result of the retake examination. No other element of evaluation which would have been taken into consideration in the calculation of the final mark during the first examination session will be considered in the second session. (art. 28 of the Specific Provisions).

The College of Europe reserves the right to change the delivery and assessment of the course in case of circumstances beyond the reasonable control of the College (*force majeure*). Any communication from the campus administration in this regard takes precedence over the information provided in this ECTS card.

COURSE CONTENTS

This course provides a stimulating introduction to the history of the Balkan Peninsula since the 19th century. Topics include religions and household structures; 19th century national movements to achieve independence from the Ottoman and Habsburg Empires; the origins and course of World War I; fascism and genocide during World War II; and the implementation and effects of state socialism from 1945-1989. It concludes with an introduction to four major types of post-communist transformation: a “changing of the guard” in Bulgaria, a semi-peaceful transition in Albania, a violent revolution in Romania, and a series of civil wars in the former Yugoslavia.

COURSE MATERIALS (readings and other learning resources/tools)

Articles and chapters provided on the intranet; books from the Natolin Library. Photographs of material objects, architecture, and art shown in class.