



STUDY PROGRAMME

European Interdisciplinary Studies, Natolin campus (Advanced Academic Master)

YEAR

2021-2022

COURSE TITLE

History of the Balkans

ACADEMIC ASSISTANT

KOLASINSKI Tadeusz

COURSE PROFESSOR(S)

LEWIS Mark A.

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

WOŁOWIEC Jacek

COURSE TYPE

Optional Specialist Course

MAJOR(S)

EPAP, EUW, EUN, EHC

ECTS CREDITS

4

SEMESTER

TEACHING HOURS

INDIVIDUAL & GROUP STUDY TIME

TUTORIAL(S)

COEFFICIENT

LANGUAGE(S)

2

20

80

1

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 (European History and Civilization Learning Outcome 1).
- 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.
- explain the causes of national revolts in the 19th century and main issues in the development of nation-states.
- 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 concepts such as “the Balkans,” “European Turkey,” and “Southeastern Europe,” and differentiated them from other regions of Europe or Europe as a whole. Students will therefore develop a broader understanding of the history of European construction. (Joint Learning Outcome A2).

- 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 and watch the videos of the introductory lecture and Lecture 1 before the first class. Students should try to do some of the reading *during* the course, as it will be necessary for meaningful discussions. Completing the readings are also necessary to write the final exam successfully. Library research will be required for the paper.

TEACHING METHOD(S)

Lectures, class discussions of concepts and debates, and individual student sessions. The lecture part of the course may be delivered through asynchronous, pre-recorded lectures.

ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA

1. Presentation: 15% of final mark. Questions will be distributed by the professor. The presentation should be twenty minutes maximum. It should include a written outline which provides a preliminary answer (based on course readings and some basic library research), explains how the student will expand the research for a written essay, and presents a bibliography of relevant works. The presentations will be individual sessions with the professor, outside the 20 contact hours for this course. Students must distribute their outlines in advance of the session.
2. Essay: 35% (2000 words minimum, 2500 words maximum, excluding footnotes and bibliography). The essay questions will be the same questions as the presentation topics. The essay will expand upon the presentation and require additional library research.
3. Final Written Exam: 50% of final mark. Take-home exam with 48 hours to complete, answering two questions from a choice of questions. Each essay must be 1000 words minimum, 1250 words maximum, including references, excluding bibliography.

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)

Scholarly articles, book chapters, and primary sources provided on the intranet; books from the Natolin Library. Photographs of material objects, architecture, and art shown in lectures.

