



College of Europe
Collège d'Europe



Natolin

ECTS CARD

STUDY PROGRAMME

European Interdisciplinary Studies, Natolin campus (Advanced Academic Master)

YEAR

2023-2024

COURSE TITLE

History of the Balkans

SEMESTER

2

COURSE PROFESSOR(S)

LEWIS Mark A.

ACADEMIC ASSISTANT(S)

KOLASINSKI Tadeusz

COURSE TYPE

Specialist Course

MAJOR(S)

EPAP, EUW, EUN, EHC

ECTS CREDITS

4

TEACHING HOURS

20

INDIVIDUAL & GROUP 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 long- and medium-term social, economic, and political changes.

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).
- articulate some of the main legacies of Ottoman and Habsburg rule in the region.
- explain debates about "Ottoman decline," the spread of Islam in the region, and the nature of nationalism in 19th century.
- explain the basic causes and consequences of World War I as they relate to the region, and the consequences of the war concerning economies, state-building, and minorities.
- describe the native fascist movements in the region in the 1930s-40s.
- explain the different policies of state socialism in Southeastern Europe between 1948-1989.
- describe a typology of cases for the collapse of state socialism after 1989.
- 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 and complete the assigned readings prior to each class. The required reading averages 77 pages per session; sometimes it is more, sometimes less. Doing some of the recommended readings will enhance your exam grade.

TEACHING METHOD(S)

Lectures, student presentations, and discussions.

ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA

1. Presentation: 25% of final mark. Each student will give a 15-minute presentation during a 30-minute feedback session with the professor outside of class. Each student will choose one of the primary texts on the outline (one text per person). The presentation should explain the author, the audience, the context, and your hypothesis about the historical meaning of the text. What does it show about the main developments or issues of the period?

You should provide an outline, no more than one page, prior before your presentation (The exact interval will be determined). This should contain bullet points/main ideas only, not paragraphs of what you will say. You should read the recommended readings for the week in addition to the assigned readings. Additional library research, based on at least 3 secondary sources (historical monographs or articles from peer-reviewed historical journals) is required. Please ensure you are using works of history, not political science, law, sociology, journalism/media, or encyclopedias found on the internet. The additional works should be listed in a bibliography on the back of the one-page outline.

2. Final Written Exam: 75% of final mark. In-person, written, closed-book, 2-hour exam (essay questions).

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.

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.

COURSE CONTENTS

This 20-hour course is a thought-provoking introductory survey of the history of the southeastern Europe (including the Balkan Peninsula) from the Ottoman and Habsburg periods through the end of communism. No prior knowledge of the region is assumed. It stresses patterns and developments over the long and medium terms and therefore is neither teleological nor presentist in orientation. The course is structured as a series of lectures that present an overview of key topics. It includes student presentations on primary texts, promoting group discussion.

COURSE MATERIALS (readings and other learning resources/tools)

Historical surveys, scholarly articles, and primary sources provided via the library's databases and on the intranet; books from the Natolin Library. Photographs of material objects, architecture, and art shown in lectures.