History 645
Historiography of Eastern Europe
Wednesdays, 7-9PM, Ballantine 335

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The purpose of this course is to survey major themes in the history of Eastern Europe since the mid-18th century, and to become familiar with how scholars are approaching that history. Neither of these tasks can be accomplished fully in one semester, but you should gain a solid understanding of the field, whether or not you will be taking exams in the East European field.

There are three components to your work in the course:

* responses to the readings: please submit, via OnCourse (to the entire class), critical questions provoked by your encounter with the text(s). “Critical” does not mean “finding fault with”; your questions may relate to comparative implications of the text, or how the text sheds light on your understanding of your own interests in Eastern Europe; you may want to draw comparisons with other readings, or point to issues that the reading neglects, drawing upon other methodologies or disciplines. Please submit these by 9PM on Tuesday, so that your classmates (and myself) to consider these questions well before class. Note that I will often suggest you “review” other readings; as I will explain in class, I mean to encourage you to find ways of familiarizing yourself with other important works.

* participation in class itself. Be prepared to engage with the issues that your classmates have raised, and others that may come up during class.

* two historiographical essays, of 12-15 pages. Choose from among the topics in weeks 3-14; I do ask that you submit one paper in the first 6 weeks. By September 5, please email me with your chosen topics, listing also a third choice just in case. A historiographical essay will review the approach to the topic in 6-8 scholarly works; I will ask you to prepare a preliminary bibliography, and suggest changes or additions to that list; your paper may diverge from the course’s themes, but please discuss this thoroughly with me. Paper topics may bridge themes discussed in more than one week. Papers are due in class on the day of discussion; I may invite you to rewrite the paper, but only if you have turned in a complete version on time. Be prepared, on that day, to offer a short presentation on the literature you have surveyed, in response to issues raised in class.

These three components will be weighted roughly 2-1.2 in your grade for the semester.

Class meetings
1. September 3. Introductions and definitions.
   Read: Larry Wolff, “Teaching Eastern Europe,” AHA Perspectives, 1993;
   Stokes, “Eastern Europe’s Defining Fault Lines”; Mossman, “From the Editor”

   Read: Wolff, Venice and the Slavs, chs. 1-4, 6, conclusion.
   Review: Todorova, Wolff
read: Chirot, ed., *The Origins of Backwardness*
also: Barrington Moore, *Social Origins of Dictatorship and Democracy*, chs. 7-9 (pp. 413-83)

Read: a selection of Blobaum’s work, to be placed on OnCourse.

5. October 1. Nationalism
Read: Gellner.
Read also: Cooper and Brubaker, “Beyond ‘Identity’” (OnCourse)

6. October 8. National politics
Read: Judson
Please also read: one chapter in Sugar and Lederer (library reserve)

7. October 15. National States and Revolution
read: Roshwald

8. October 22. The Interwar Years
read: Berend, *Decades of Crisis*.

Read: Polonsky, ed., *The Neighbors Respond*

read: Naimark and Gibianskii, selections

11. November 12. The Communist States
read: Scott, *Seeing Like a State*.

read Kubik: *The Power of Culture against the Culture of Power*

**Thanksgiving Break**

read: Miller, *The Nonconformists*.

reading TBA