

ANTHROP 2CE3
ANTHROPOLOGY OF CONTEMPORARY EUROPE

Wed 7:00-10PM, KTH 109

Instructor: Valentina Tomov

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Office Hours: Wednesday 10am-12pm or by
appointment

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Course Website: avenue.mcmaster.ca

Overview: Since the momentous historical events of 1989, the anthropology of Europe has emerged as a significant area of anthropological research and knowledge. In this course you will become acquainted with how the prevailing constructs of East and West/Eastern and Western Europe shape European lifeworlds. We will discuss cultural practices, political activism, work, art, and pay attention to issues surrounding constructs of gender, ethnicity, nationalism, immigration, and race. We will discuss more recent development such as the rise of nationalist and anarchist movements, as well as the treatment of refugees to think through the construct of the European Union. The course will encourage you to both unpack the construct of Europe and to see beyond it.

Objectives:

- You will become familiar with historical and current anthropological studies and approaches to the study of the construct of Europe.
- You will work through often varied and complex empirical and theoretical material that looks at developments and issues from an anthropological perspective, while learning to develop interesting questions that challenge common knowledge
- You will improve your academic reading and polish your academic writing.

Course Requirements:

Attendance and Participation:

20% of your final mark will reflect your class attendance and participation in classroom discussion. One classroom presentation of a course reading will be required from each student in the class. Students should choose the reading/class material they would like to present on during the first meeting of the class.

20% of your final mark will be based on three short writing assignments before class sessions. The writings should be between 150-300 words long and should respond to or comment on the assigned readings for the class and the prompts given by the instructor. You may also choose to add questions for discussion for the next class session for bonus points. You are required to submit three short writing pieces that will be due the day before the class meets. Timely posts

that engage with course material will ensure that you receive the maximum mark for this course requirement. You may be asked to share your comment or post during a class session.

Midterm Essay:

25% of your mark will be based on a midterm paper that analyzes course material, asks insightful questions and produces a thoughtful argument. You will be given three questions to choose from. The paper should be between 5-7 pages.

Final Paper:

35% of your mark will be based on the argument, insights and writing quality of your final paper. In this paper you will be asked to apply what you have learned from the course materials to analyze empirical material. You might choose to analyze a news article, film, event, photograph, art piece, website post or else on a contemporary issue in a European setting by using insights, theories, ideas or questions posed by course materials. Please, consult with the course instructor on whether the material/topic is relevant before the last day of class.

Required Readings:

Required readings will be posted on Avenue to Learn and some will be available at the library.

Schedule:

January 10: Introduction

January 17: *What is Europe?*

Lecture & Film

We will watch the documentary *The Big Picture: The Making and Breaking of Europe* - Featured Documentary

Recommended Reading:

Balibar, Étienne. 2004. *We, The People of Europe: Reflections on Transnational Citizenship*. Princeton University Press.

-Read Chapter 5: Europe After Communism

-Read Chapter 9: Difficult Europe: Democracy under Construction.

Chakrabarty, Dipesh: A Europe in the world? Twenty years after 1989: Essay. In: *Europa Regional* 17.2009 (2011), 4, pp. 181-183.

January 31: Socialism and Europe

Film & Discussion

We will watch the film “Good Bye Lenin!”

Required Reading:

Ghodsee, Kristen. 2005. *The Red Riviera*. Durham: Duke University Press.

-Read Introduction

-Read Chapter 1

February 7: Nationalism, Ethnicity and Violence

Guest Lecture: Dr. Petra Rethmann

Required Readings:

Aretxaga, B., & University of Nevada, Reno. (2004). *Empire & terror: Nationalism/postnationalism in the new millennium*. Reno: Center for Basque Studies, University of Nevada. Read “Out of their minds?: on political madness in the Basque Country”.

Lyons, Laura. (2003). Hand-to-hand history: Ephemera and Irish Republicanism. *Interventions*. 5. 407-425.

Recommended Readings:

Bowman, Glenn. 2005. “Constitutive Violence and the Nationalist Imaginary” in Panizza (ed). *Populism and the Mirror of Democracy*.

Brubaker, R. (2017). Between nationalism and civilizationism: The European populist moment in comparative perspective. *Ethnic and Racial Studies*, 40(8), 1191-1226.

February 14: Nostalgia and Political Depression

Lecture & Discussion

Required Readings:

Ghodsee, Kristen. *Lost in Transition: Ethnographies of Everyday Life after Communism*.

-Read Afterward: Lost in Transition

Boyer, Dominic. (2006). Ostalgic and the Politics of the Future in Eastern Germany. *Public Culture*. 18.

Greenberg, Jessica. (2014). *After the Revolution: Youth, Democracy, and the Politics of Disappointment in Serbia*. Stanford: Stanford University Press.

-Read Introduction

Midterm Paper Prompts Distributed

February 21: Midterm Recess

February 28: Gender & Ethnicity

Lecture & Discussion

Required Readings:

Ghodsee, Kristen. 2005. *The Red Riviera*. Durham: Duke University Press.

-Read Chapter 3

-Read Chapter 5

Ghodsee, Kristen. *Lost in Transition: Ethnographies of Everyday Life after Communism*.

-Read Chapter 4.

Recommended Readings:

Yanagisako, Sylvia Junko. 2000. Patriarchal Desire: Law and Sentiments of Succession in Italian Capitalist Families. In *Elites: Choice, Leadership and Succession*. Joao de Pina Cabral and Antonia Pedroso de Lima, eds. Oxford: Berg. 53-72.

Bunzl, Matti. 2000. The Prague Experience: Gay Male Sex Tourism and the Neocolonial Invention of an Embodied Border. In *Ethnographies of Transition in Eastern Europe and the Former Soviet Union*. Daphne Berdhal, Matti Bunzl, and Martha Lapland, eds. Ann Arbor: The University of Michigan Press. 70-95.

Verdery, Katherine. 1996. *What Was Socialism and What Comes Next*. Princeton: Princeton University Press. Chapter 3: From Parent-State to Family Patriarchs: Gender and Nation in Contemporary Eastern Europe.

Midterm Paper Due

March 7: Refugees and the Fortress of Europe I

Film & Discussion

We will watch the documentary “Fire at Sea”

March 14: Refugees and the Fortress of Europe II

Lecture & Discussion

Required Reading:

Fernando, Mayanthi and Giordano, Cristiana. "Introduction: Refugees and the Crisis of Europe." Hot Spots, Cultural Anthropology website, June 28, 2016. <https://culanth.org/fieldsights/900-introduction-refugees-and-the-crisis-of-europe>

Vacchiano, Francesco. "On Frequent Flyers and Boat People: Notes on Europe, Crisis, and Human Mobility." Hot Spots, Cultural Anthropology website, June 28, 2016.

<https://culanth.org/fieldsights/905-on-frequent-flyers-and-boat-people-notes-on-europe-crisis-and-human-mobility>

Welch, Rhiannon. "Time Out of Joint: Larsen’s End of Dreams and Italy’s Colonial Unconscious." Hot Spots, Cultural Anthropology website, June 28, 2016.

<https://culanth.org/fieldsights/896-time-out-of-joint-larsen-s-end-of-dreams-and-italy-s-colonial-unconscious>

March 21: Protest and Resistance in Contemporary Europe I

Lecture & Discussion

Required Reading:

Greenberg, Jessica. 2014. *After the Revolution: Youth, Democracy, and Disappointment in Serbia*. Stanford: Stanford University Press. (Select Chapters)

Recommended Reading:

Yurchak, A. (2008). Necro-Utopia: The Politics of Indistinction and the Aesthetics of the Non-Soviet. *Current Anthropology*, 49(2), 199-224.

Szemere, Anna. (2000). “We’ve Kicked the Habit”: (Anti)Politics of Art’s Autonomy and Transition in Hungary. In *Ethnographies of Transition in Eastern Europe and the Former Soviet Union*. Daphne Berdhal, Matti Bunzl, and Martha Lapland, eds. Ann Arbor: The University of Michigan Press. 158-180.

March 28: *Protest and Resistance in Contemporary Europe II*

Lecture & Film

We will watch the film “Bastards of Utopia”

April 4: *Dreaming Other European Futures*

Class Discussion & Instructions for Final Paper

Required Reading:

RAZSA, M. (2015). THE OCCUPY MOVEMENT: DIRECT DEMOCRACY AND A POLITICS OF BECOMING. In *Bastards of Utopia: Living Radical Politics after Socialism* (pp. 174-203). Indiana University Press.

Ghodsee, Kristen. *Lost in Transition: Ethnographies of Everyday Life after Communism*.

-Read Chapter 7

Recommended Reading:

Rethmann, P. (2016). Internationalism, Temporality and Hope: a View from Eastern Europe and the Left”

Biehl, Joao and Ramah McKay. “Ethnography as Political Critique”

April 17: Final Paper Due by 5pm. Please, submit via Avenue Dropbox.

The instructor and university reserve the right to modify elements of the course during the term. The university may change the dates and deadlines for any or all courses in extreme circumstances. If either type of modification becomes necessary, reasonable notice and communication with the students will be given with explanation and the opportunity to comment on changes. It is the responsibility of the student to check his/her McMaster email and course websites weekly during the term and to note any changes.

USE OF COMPUTERS: Computer use in the classroom is intended to facilitate learning in that particular lecture or tutorial. At the discretion of the instructor, students using a computer for any other purpose may be required to turn the computer off for the remainder of the lecture or tutorial.

McMaster Student Absence Form (MSAF) policy

In the event of an absence for medical or other reasons, students should review and follow the Academic Regulation in the Undergraduate Calendar “Requests for Relief for Missed Academic Term Work”. Please note these regulations have changed beginning Spring/Summer 2015.

If you have any questions about the MSAF, please contact your Associate Dean’s office.

http://academiccalendars.romcmaster.ca/content.php?catoid=11&navoid=1698#Requests_for_Relief_for_Missed_Academic_Term_Work

Academic Skills Counselling and Services for Students with Disabilities are available through the Student Accessibility Services (SAS)

Tel: 905-525-9140 x28652 Email: sas@mcmaster.ca Website: <http://sas.mcmaster.ca>

Academic Dishonesty

Academic dishonesty consists of misrepresentation by deception or by other fraudulent means and can result in serious consequences, e.g., the grade of zero on an assignment, loss of credit with a notation on the transcript (notation reads: “Grade of F assigned for academic dishonesty”), and/or suspension or expulsion from the university.

It is your responsibility to understand what constitutes academic dishonesty. For information on the various kinds of academic dishonesty please refer to the Academic Integrity Policy, Appendix 3, www.mcmaster.ca/senate/academic/ac_integrity.htm

The following illustrates only three forms of academic dishonesty:

1. Plagiarism, e.g., the submission of work that is not one’s own for which other credit has been obtained.
2. Improper collaboration in group work.
3. Copying or using unauthorized aids in tests and examinations.

In this course we will be using a software package designed to reveal plagiarism. Students will be required to submit their work electronically so that it can be checked for academic dishonesty.

FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES E-MAIL COMMUNICATION POLICY

Effective September 1, 2010, it is the policy of the Faculty of Social Sciences that all e-mail communication sent from students to instructors (including TAs), and from students to staff, must originate from the student's own McMaster University e-mail account. This policy protects confidentiality and confirms the identity of the student. It is the student's responsibility to ensure that communication is sent to the university from a McMaster account. If an instructor becomes aware that a communication has come from an alternate address, the instructor may not reply at his or her discretion.

Email Forwarding in MUGSI:

<http://www.mcmaster.ca/uts/support/email/emailforward.html>

*Forwarding will take effect 24-hours after students complete the process at the above link

(Approved at the Faculty of Social Sciences meeting on Tues. May 25, 2010)

AODA

If you require this information in an alternate/accessible format, please contact Marcia Furtado at 905-525-9140 extension 24423 or email furtam1@mcmaster.ca