

HIS 237 CENTRAL EUROPEAN HISTORY, ROOM 208

Instructor: Mgr. Martina Krocová

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This course offers an introduction to history of the East Central European region. It traces its political, social and cultural developments from the early middle ages to the collapse of the Communist regimes in 1989. There is an emphasis on comparing development in the various national states and on identifying the common aspects that shaped the history of this region.

6 weeks course, 2 lectures a week on Mondays and Wednesdays, 18:00 – 21:10.
From June 13 to July 25 2011 inclusive.

Reading:

P. S. Wandycz, *The Price of Freedom: A History of East Central Europe from the Middle Ages to the Present*, London and New York, 1992. Available in digital form.

Monday June 13

Defining East Central Europe. Prehistoric cultures; East Central Europe and the “Barbarian” migrations; encounters with the Roman and Byzantine Empires; Early States, coming of Christianity.

Wednesday June 15

Early medieval period: early states of the East Central Europe, coming of Christianity, encounters with Holy Roman Empire (10th – 13th century).

Monday June 20

East Central Europe in the High and Later Middle Ages (14th – 15th century).

Wednesday June 22

Visit of Vyšehrad (Medieval site with importance for Czech medieval and 19th century History), meeting at 16:30. Meeting time open to discussion.

Monday June 27

East Central Europe in the Early Modern Period: Formation of Habsburg Empire, Reformation, Counter-Reformation, Thirty Years War and Absolutism.

Wednesday June 29

Visit to Prague Castle, Exhibition ‘Story of Prague Castle’, meeting at 16:00.

Monday July 4

The impact of Enlightenment, French Revolution and of the Napoleonic era on East Central Europe.

Wednesday July 6

Public Holiday.

Monday July 11

East Central Europe from 1850 to the World War I.

Wednesday July 13

East Central Europe in the WWI and inter-war period.

Monday July 18

East Central Europe and the WWII.

Wednesday July 20

Visit of Vítkov Memorial (Exhibition ‘Crossroads of 20th century Czech History’), meeting at 16:00.

Monday July 25

Rise and fall of Communism in East Central Europe. Course overview.

Assessment:

Marks will be awarded for participation (10 percent), three short assignments (45 percent in total) and a final extended essay (45 percent). The textbook will be the principle source for these assignments, though you are welcome to consult other scholarly works also. Where appropriate, you may incorporate information gained from the field-trips (e.g. museum brochures). Sources used must be cited; essays containing plagiarism will fail. The submission date for all assignments is Friday 14 January; work submitted thereafter will be penalized.

Short Assignments (900 words max. each; 15 percent each)

1. Discuss the term “East Central Europe”. What geographical area does the term cover? What are the similarities and differences between the countries and nationalities in this region?
2. Assess the impact of the Battle of the White Mountain and the Thirty Years War on Bohemia.
3. Explain the collapse of the Czechoslovakian state in 1938-39.

Extended Assignment (2.000 words max; 45 percent)

A. Discuss the position of nationalities in the Habsburg monarchy. What was the role of the rise of nationalism within the empire in its crisis and final collapse in 1918?

or

B. Compare the collapse of Communism in Czechoslovakia, Poland and Hungary.

Grade Scale:

100 – 95%	A
95 – 90 %	A -
90 – 85%	B +
85 – 80%	B
80 – 75%	B -
75 – 70 %	C +
70 – 65%	C
65 – 60%	C -
60 – 55%	D
Below 55%	F