CET Syllabus of Record

Program: CET Prague
Course Title: Nationalism, Minorities and Migrations in Europe
Course Code: JSCE342
Total Hours: 45
Recommended Credits: 3
Suggested Cross Listings: Sociology, Political Science, History
Language of Instruction: English
Prerequisites/Requirements: Open to all students

Description
Since the French revolution, nationalism has become one of the leading forces in European politics and culture. It has progressively transformed all European states and societies into nation states and national societies. The core of the nationalist project lies at the intersection of two claims—the claim to self-government of a people and the claim to its distinct national identity. This course explores these two claims and delves deeper into historical conditions and the transformation of current European multiculturalism.

The Czech Republic, situated in the center of Europe, is a permanent intersection of cultures and concepts of the West and East. Originally one of the most heterogeneous places in Europe, the Czech Republic began the 1990’s as one of the most homogeneous ones. Currently, thanks to migration, EU membership and globalization, the Czech Republic is rapidly becoming diverse again. With these circumstances, the country serves as the ideal location from which to examine this course's topic.

Objectives
The course examines the various issues connected to processes that have formed contemporary European society (Czech society). Students are introduced to the complex phenomena of migration, nationalism, formation of ethnic minorities etc. via a range of perspectives including not only theoretical overviews but also practical illustrations and examples. Some semesters are more theoretically-oriented, while others use a theoretical overview to explore case studies and practical examples.

After completing this course, students are able to:

• Show similarities and differences in national consciousness and minority policies across Europe (e.g., eastern vs. western or ethnic vs. civic nations, small nations vs. colonial powers) and in different historical periods (e.g., from the spring of nations to the age of empire to the post-WWII period)
• Overview European attitudes and policies towards the Jews and Gypsies and responses of those minorities to them – from assimilation to dual identity to nationalism
• Discuss European policies towards immigration and immigrants in the post-WWII period including the recent redefinition of some European countries as the countries of immigration
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- Discuss following questions: Can we make analogies between past and present discriminations? Is still anti-Semitism Europe’s major problem, or are there new targets of xenophobia (e.g., Muslims, Africans)? What are the effects on these issues of the new international and global situation – e.g., enlargement of the EU, American “war on terror”, the Israeli-Palestinian conflict?

Course Requirements
Students are required to participate actively in class and involve themselves in class discussions.

Assigned readings average 50-100 pages per class session. Each week, students submit position papers of at least 300 words based on the assigned readings. Position papers should summarize and respond to the issues and important questions from the texts, and should demonstrate students’ understanding of relationship of the readings to the overall themes of the course. Students present their position paper to the class once over the course of the term. Presentations should be approximately 15 minutes in length and should launch a discussion about the topic at hand.

Students take comprehensive midterm and final examinations that test their mastery of the course material and readings. In some semesters, this class also requires a final paper.

Methods of Evaluation
The final grade is determined as follows:
- Attendance and participation 10%
- Weekly position papers 10%
- Midterm exam 20%
- Final exam 20%
- Final paper 40%

Primary Texts
Texts may vary from semester to semester, but usually include:

Barša, Pavel: Ethnocultural Justice in East European States and the Case of the Czech Roma.
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Slezkin, Yuri: Swann’s Nose: the Jews and other Moderns.


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Supplementary Texts


Early Emigrant Letter Stories. www.emigrantletters.com


Robert Schuman, Declaration, May 1950

50 years of the European Union. EU2007.de

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Mareš, M. Extremist Parties in East Central Europe during post-communist transformation process. Conference Paper, “Democracy and Extremism” – an international conference (Georgia State University, Atlanta, June 11-13, 2008)

Outline of Course Content

Note: Students cover approximately 1 topic per week.

Part I – Topics 1 - 3

Part one focuses upon historical conditions, varieties and phases of development of European nationalism and the development of it in Central Europe. It shows how different types of nationalisms entailed different attitudes and policies towards minorities.

Topic 1 – Central Europe, Europe and European Nationalism

Theoretical approaches
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Topic 2 – Central Europe in the Net of Global Capitalism
Consumerism as a cause for stereotypes
Labor migration
The new market

Topic 3 – Are the Czechs Forever “Ossis” in the Western European Eye?
Eastern Europe Vs. Western Europe
Cold War divide and stereotype

Part II - Topics 4 - 9
Part two shows the history of problematic relations of emerging European nations towards two atypical minorities – Jews and Gypsies (Roma). It points to similarities and differences in treating of these minorities

Topic 4 – Ethnic Stereotypes
Czech commercial culture
Minorities

Topic 5 - Understanding Visual Representations of “We" and the "Other" through Photographic Experiments
How the media and other symbolic vehicles reproduce general stereotypes about the "Other". How are individual and collective identities socially and culturally constructed?
Visual sociology: short historical overview, epistemological and methodological principals and methods, illustrations of several research results, visual literacy tool kit – avoiding error in analyzing photographs.

Topic 6 – Asylum and the Czechs in the Era of Communism.
Asylum and the Czechs in the era of freedom, democracy and prosperity

Topic 7 – Creation of a European Identity. Are the Czechs Eurosceptical?
European Union
Czech entry in the EU

Topic 8 – Roma – the Issue of Exclusion
Roma as the most foreign of foreigners in Czech lands.

Topic 9 – Jews and the History of the Czech Republic
Czechs – Germans – Jews
After the Second World War
During communism
Today

Part III - Topics 10-11
The third part focuses on the transformation of Europe into a continent of immigration after WWII and points to policies of immigration and integration which have been practiced so far by West European states. It also debates the current crisis of European multiculturalism, the growing presence of Muslims in Europe and the
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way European societies are coping, for better or worse, with this challenge.

Topic 10 – Migration and a New Role of Central Europe in the Enlarged European Union
Migration and the question of consolidation of democracy.

Topic 11 – Muslims in Today's Europe
The image of Muslims in European politics.
The Copenhagen School's theory of securitization