



CIEE Warsaw, Poland

Course name:	History of Central Europe, 1871 to the Present
Course number:	HIST 3002 WRSW
Programs offering course:	Central European Studies
Language of instruction:	English
U.S. Semester Credits:	3
Contact Hours:	45
Term:	Spring 2020

Course Description

The purpose of this course is to supply students with basic knowledge of history of Poland and other Eastern and Central European nations, in the 19th and 20th centuries. The course will provide a broader explanation of historical roots of the recent developments in Poland and the neighboring countries allowing for a better understanding of contemporary events in the region. This course will include 14 contact hours of instruction of history of Poland and her neighbors prior to 1871 and 30 hrs of instructions of later history of Poland and the whole region. This course is designed so to answer an intriguing question why the past is such important factor in politics of the Central European Region ?

Learning Objectives

The Course is designed so to answer an intriguing question why the past is such important factor in politics in the Central Europe region

Course Prerequisites

Genuine interest in history and social issues.

Methods of Instruction

Lectures, class discussions

Assessment and Final Grade

The final course grade will be determined based on the following distribution:

1.	Mid-term test	(20%)
2.	Final essay	(30%)
3.	Active class participation	(15%)
4.	Quizzes	(15%)
5.	Presentation	(20%)



Course Requirements

Mid-term test:

In the middle of the semester there will be a written test checking the knowledge of the material covered.

Final essay:

Each student will be required to write an extended final essay on one of the topics covered throughout the semester. They will be assessed on the basis of the relevance, use of appropriate quotes and theories as well as their individual approach and interpretation of the topic.

Active class participation:

Students are required to prepare for every class (read the assigned chapters) and be able to actively participate in class discussions.

Quizzes:

During the course there will be two 15-minute quizzes checking the knowledge of the topics and readings covered in the course so far.

Presentation:

Each student will prepare one presentation during the course. They will be able to choose the topic from a number of issues covered during the course.

Week 1

- 1.1 Topic of Class: Early Poland
Description of content: 10th to 14th Century. Beginning of the Piast dynasty. Ambitious state- and nation-building. Decision to accept Christianity. Complicated geopolitics: between Rome and Saxon empire. Boleslaus the Brave as a main associate of the Saxon cesar in the imperial project. Gniezno and international summit in 1000 year. The relationships with Bohemia and Kievan Rus. Mongolian incursions into Central Europe.
- Readings: Norman Davies, vol.I, chapters 1-5
- 1.2 Topic of Class: Period of feudal fragmentation. Description of content: Boleslaus the Modest and The Grand Charter of Jewish Liberties. Conrad of Mazovia and inviting The Teutonic Order to Poland. The establishment of the Teutonic State with its main headquarter in Marienburg. Casimir The Great, the best Piast ruler.
- Readings: NormanDavies, vol.I, chapters 1-5

Week 2

2.1 Topic of Class: Death of Casimir and the constitutional dilemma

Description of content: The Hungarian link. Louis the Hungarian as the King of Poland. Hungarian tradition of nobility rights and liberties (The Golden Bull of Andreas II). Hungarian right to “rokosz”, armed confederacy against the King who breaks the law. Polish nobility awarded with Kosice Articles. Jadwiga coronated as Rex Poloniae. Marriage of Jadwiga and Jogaila: Jagiellonian dynasty. Lithuania accepts Christianity. Battle of Grunwald (1410) : the triumph of the “Slavs” over the Teutonic Order. Growth of the Jagiellonian empire.

Readings: Norman Davies, vol.I, chapters 6-13

2.2 Topic of Class: Death of the last Jagiellon (Sigismund II Augustus) and the constitutional dilemma again

Description of content: Lublin Union of 1569: forging a new federation based on a constitutional union: The Commonwealth of the Two Nations. Main principals of the Sarmatian republicanism. Virtues and vices of the Polish model of centrifugal monarchy: liberum veto, liberum regno electo. The Smuta period in Muscovy, Polish intervention in Kremlin of 1612 and its dire consequences. The Flood : XVIIth century and its destructive wars: Polish Swedish and Polish-Cosac.

Readings: Norman Davies, vol.I, chapters 17

Week 3

3.1. Topic of Class: Central-European religious wars

Description of content: The complicated history of Central-European religious strife and wars. Evolution from multireligious libertarian denominational order toward the equation of Polishness with Catholicism. The dark period of the Saxon rule. Decline of Poland-Lithuania.

Readings: Norman Davies, vol.I, chapters 14-16

3.2. Topic of Class: Two-camps politics

Description of content: Hetman’s party versus Familia, traditionalists versus reformers. The last Polish King: Stanisław August Poniatowski and his ambiguous policies. The Grand Sejm and the enactment of the first modern constitution in Europe: May 3rd Constitution 1791. Two opposite confederacies against the King and reforms: Bar and Targowica. Three

partitions of Poland-Lithania by Prussia, Austria and Russia. The Kościuszko resurrection. Poland erased from the map of Europe.

Readings: Norman Davies, vol. I, chapter 18, vol.II, chapter 1

Week 4

4.1 Topic of Class: Polish Legions of Dąbrowski and the Napoleonic myth.

Description of content: The establishment of the Duchy of Warsaw. Russian campaign and its tragic consequences. The Congress of Vienna and the establishment of the Polish Kingdom in a personal union with the Russian Tzar. Modernization processes.

Reading: Norman Davies, vol. II, chapters 2-10

4.2. Topic of Class: Formative forces of the XIXth century

Description of content: Society versus nation identities. Polish Uprisings.

The November Uprising of 1830-31, The January Uprising of 1863-1864. The art of clandestine activities. The Underground State experience. Abolishment of the Polish Kingdom, Poland-Lithuania incorporated into the Tsarist empire.

Reading: Norman Davies, vol. II, chapters 10-16

Quiz

Week 5

5.1. Topic of Class: Early history of East and Central European Nations

Description of content: Socio-economic backwardness and foreign domination

Reading: Wojciech Roszkowski, chapters 1-6

5.2. Topic of Class: Main Currents of Marxism

Description of content: Complicated ideological structure of the region: religious and ethnic identities; rise of nationalist ideologies, infiltration by Marxism

Reading: Excerpts from L. Kołakowski, Main Currents of Marxism

Week 6

6.1. Topic of Class: The Spring of the Nations: 1848

Description of content: Disintegration processes within the imperial multiethnic regimes. Liberation of the new nations begins

Reading: Wojciech Roszkowski, chapters 3-7

6.2. Topic of Class: First World War

Description of content: First World War in the region: its causes, dynamics and consequences. Domino process of war declarations: from a local into international war. Domestic conflicts around the decision to join the war: communist/ social-democratic divide. First experience of mass extermination of the civilians. Geopolitical consequences of war and peace: after-war hangover. The Versailles Treaty.

Reading: Wojciech Roszkowski, chapters 8-9

Mid-term test due on this date

Week 7

7.1. Topic of Class: Independent nation-state building

Description of content: Two contradicting illustrations of the process of independent nation-state building: Poland versus Ukraine. Woodrow Wilson and his 14th Points Program. The League of Nations. Polish success versus Ukrainian short-lived experience in independence.

Reading: Wojciech Roszkowski, chapter 9

7.2. Topic of Class: Polish-Bolshevik War

Description of content: Interwar geopolitics in the region. Formidable ramifications of the Bolshevik Revolution. Case of Polish-Ukrainian military and political alliance. Polish-Bolshevik War of 1920 and its pan-European significance.

Reading: Wojciech Roszkowski, chapter 9

Week 8

8.1. Topic of Class: Vicious circle of socio-economic stagnation

Description of content: Escape from democracy: political systems of the new states in the region. Nationalist ideology of the nation-state and the great challenge of ethnic minorities: separatism, sabotage, refusal to assimilate. The grave problem of anti-Semitism.

Reading: Wojciech Roszkowski, chapter 10-12

8.2. Topic of Class: The Nazi-Soviet Pact

Description of content: Consolidation of Nazi-regime in Germany and Stalinist regime in Soviet Union. Complicated geopolitics of the 30ties. The Nazi-Soviet Pact. The Road to the Second World War

Reading: Wojciech Roszkowski, chapter 13

Presentations due on this date

Week 9

9.1. Topic of Class: The Blitzkrieg

Description of content: Invasion of Poland. September campaign. Nazi-Soviet cooperation 1939-1941. Soviet invasion of the Baltic states. The resistance movement in Poland.

Reading: Wojciech Roszkowski, chapter 14.

9.2. Topic of Class: : Poland as Devil's playground

Description of content: The Final Solution. Death camps system in Poland. Uprising in the Warsaw ghetto. Soviet mass murders and deportations. Polish Underground State and Home Army. The Warsaw Uprising of 1944.

Wojciech Roszkowski, chapter 15-16.

Quiz

Week 10

10.1 Topic of Class: Nazi Germany versus Big Three

Description of content: Teheran, Yalta, Potsdam. The Soviet takeover.

Readings: Wojciech Roszkowski, chapters 15-118; and Josef Rothschild, chapter 2-3

10.2 Topic of Class: The installment of the communist regimes in the region

Description of content: Violation of the Yalta agreement provisions. From a short-lived multiparty systems into one party Soviet style regimes. 1947: Cominform condemns “coalition politics” and “nationalism”, Truman presents Two camp policy. The Cold War begins.

Readings; Wojciech Roszkowski, chapter 19; Josef Rothschild, chapter 4.

Final essay due on this date

Week 11

11.1 Topic of Class: Heart of Europe

Description of content: One communism or more? Slow return to diversity. The Fall of the Nations: 1989. Poland sets up precedent for The Round Table Talks. Disintegration of the Soviet Union. Reunion of Germany. Free electoral politics begins. Roszkowski, chapters 20-23.

Reading: Wojciech Roszkowski Chapters 20-23 11.2 Topic of Class: Czas to pieniądz. (Time is money) II

Description of content(What are you doing here?) Meeting someone. Habbits. The verbs of all 4 conjugations.

Course Materials

Basic textbooks:

- ***Wojciech Roszkowski, Short History of East Central Europe, Manuscript, 186 pp.;***



- **Norman Davies, *God's Playground. A History of Poland*, 2 vols, Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1981;**
- **Norman Davies, *Heart of Europe. A Short History of Poland*, Oxford University Press, New York 1986;**
- **Joseph Rothschild, *Return to Diversity, A Political History of East Central Europe since World War II*. New York, Oxford University Press 1989**
- **G. Stokes (ed) *From Stalinism to Pluralism. A Documentary History of Eastern Europe since 1945*, New York, Oxford University Press, 1996**

Optional Readings

- **Lawrence Weschler, *Solidarity. Poland in the Season of its Passion*, New York: Simon and Schuster, 1982;**
- **David Ost, *The Defeat of Solidarity. Anger and Politics in Postcommunist Europe*, Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 2005;**
- ***The Roundtable Talks and the Breakdown of Communism*, ed.J.Elster, Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 1996**