



## Winter School Central Europe 2021: History & Culture

### General Syllabus

#### **Topic 1: Christianity and Formation of the European East and West**

- topics: geographical divisions of Europe; coming of Christianity, missionaries, Christianity and early states; specifics of Western and Eastern Europe; specifics of the middle region of Central Europe; early Christian architecture; Romanesque and Gothic churches

#### **Topic 2: Greek and Roman Legacy; Renaissance in European intellectual tradition**

- topics: Greek and Roman Antiquity; tradition and transmission of knowledge of the Antiquity; medieval traditions; Renaissance and the re-birth of the Antiquity; Italian Renaissance; spreading of Renaissance and Humanism from Italy to Central Europe; Renaissance architecture; development of cities

#### **Topic 3: Hungarians in Central Europe: a phenomenon**

- topics: coming of Hungarians to Central Europe and their settlement; special linguistic conditions; special religious conditions; acceptance of Christianity; creation of the medieval state; contacts with neighbours; medieval castles of Hungary (reasons and conditions) – Devín; medieval cities of Hungary – Bratislava; modern development of Hungary and Slovakia

#### **Topic 4: Crusades: Uses and Abuses of the Christian Pilgrimage**

- topics: what is a crusade; who are crusaders; religious warfare, holy war, just war; influence of crusades on European society; crusading ideology in and outside of Europe; military religious orders and their castles

#### **Topic 5: Baroque culture and spirituality**

- topics: The Reformation and religious developments of Central Europe in early modern period; Baroque religious culture; representations of different religious groups; Catholic revival and the Council of Trent, cult of saints, pilgrimage practice, magic and witchcraft

#### **Topic 6: Birth of modern nations in Central Europe**

- topics: what are modern nations and how they were formed; Romanticism and nationalism; ethnicity in Central Europe; specifics of the formation of Czech, Slovak (and Czechoslovak) nations; Polish and Hungarian nations; Central European nationalism in the twentieth century

#### **Topic 7: Gender roles in modern history (incl. communist regime)**

- topics: family models and transformation of gender roles in modern society; phenomenon of private and public spheres; specifics of Czech women's movement in the nineteenth century and women in the First Czechoslovak Republic; woman, family and gender roles under the communist regime



### Topic 8: Contemporary History of Central Europe

- topics: Changing role of Europe in a global area from 1900 to present. Massive shift occurred in this era from supremacy of European colonial powers prior to WWI and decline of it all in its aftermath. Whole set of processes led to decomposition of Old Continent's dominant position in the world. It will be analysed how these processes developed from perspectives of different European political powers as well as how former exploited territories worked on dwindling Europe's influence. European reflections of retreat from the World leader no. One to an almost peripheral player in confrontation to rising powers of the 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> centuries will be discussed too. Course focuses on four main periods: 1. Beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup>; 2. Two World Wars and their impact on Europe's retreat from global dominance; 3. Europe in the shadow of bipolar supremacy; 4. Multipolar world of present.

### Topic 9: Dissident groups and opposition in CE under communist regimes

- topics: World War II and its impact on political, social, economic and ethnic development of Central Europe; Causes and consequences of Cold War in Europe; Europe divided: sovietisation of Central Europe and East European Politics under the influence of Soviet Union. Key moments in Central European politics under communism (1948, 1956, 1968). Downfall of communist rule in Central Europe and its roots. Main aspects of post-transition since 1989. Central Europe in 2020: Historical lessons learned or is Central European politics heading to authoritarian past?

### Topic 10: Europe and the world since 1900: from global leadership to periphery?

- topics: Limited opposition in Central Europe at the beginning of communist regime. Reform communism and idea of opposition in communist Europe. Helsinki Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe and the birth of human rights agenda in 1970s. Case studies: opposition during Prague Spring; "Heydays" of dissident movements in 1970s and 1980s: Committee for Defence of Workers (KOR) and Solidarity in Poland, Charter 77 in Czechoslovakia, Aspects of dissidence in Hungary (protection of environment and a new social contract). Story of a dissident: Václav Havel.

Palacký University Olomouc reserves the right to make changes to the course syllabus.

### STUDY LITERATURE

Baker, Catherine, ed. *Gender in 20<sup>th</sup> Century Eastern Europe and the USSR*. Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan, 2017.

Brown, Peter. *The Rise of Western Christendom: Triumph and Diversity, A.D. 200–1000*. rev. ed. Oxford: Wiley-Blackwell, 2013.

Evans, R J W. *The Making of the Habsburg Monarchy 1550–1700: an Interpretation*. Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1979.

Fuchs, Rachel G. and Victoria E. Thompson. *Women in Nineteenth-Century Europe*. Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan, 2005.

Grzymala-Busse, Anna. *Redeeming the Communist Past: The Regeneration of Communist Parties in East Central Europe*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2002.

Hroch, Miroslav. *European Nations: Explaining Their Formation*. London and New York: Verso, 2015.



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- Latawski, Paul, ed. *Contemporary Nationalism in East Central Europe*. New York: St. Martin's Press, 1995.
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- Paletschek, Sylvia and Bianka Pietrow-Ennker, eds. *Women's Emancipation Movements in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century: A European Perspective*. Stanford: Stanford University Press, 2004.
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- Rietbergen, Peter. *Europe: A Cultural History*. 3d ed. London and New York: Routledge, 2015.
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