Fall 2005
History 221:
The Revolutions of 1989

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Course Description:

Seemingly overnight (or at least within the span of a few short months), a series of mostly peaceful revolutions overturned the post-war order in Central and Eastern Europe. The revolutions of 1989 were truly revolutionary, changing the economic, political, and legal structures of society, while also deeply impacting the social order. This course will begin with an exploration of how the revolutions of 1989 came about. We will then turn to the reassertion of nationalism that accompanied the end of Communist hegemony, focusing on both the integrative effects of this nationalism (the reunification of Germany) and its disintegrative effects, both non-violent (in the case of Czechoslovakia) and violent (in Yugoslavia). The middle section of the course will examine some of the social and economic implications of political change in the region. Finally, we will address the issue of memory, examining both the problem of dispensing justice and memorializing the Communist past, and also the reassertion of other memories, in particular the memory of the Holocaust and World War II.

The format of this class will be a combination of lecture and discussion. The success of this class will depend on your preparation and willingness to engage with the texts we read and with one another.

Assignments & Grading

First, a Warning: This course is explicitly designed as a research-oriented class. This means that you will spend most of the semester devising an original research project, researching it, and finally writing it up. Although the final paper is worth only 30% of your grade, in total 70% of your grade is dependent on the paper you write and the feedback you give your classmates on their papers. Before committing to this class, think about how you feel about such an intensive project.

Assignments:

5% Timeline
-- September 26: Initial Informal Proposal, 1p.
5% October 7: Initial Formal Proposal, 2pp.
15% November 1: Literature Review (4-6 pp.)
5% November 28: Draft (check, check-plus, check-minus)
5% December 12: Paper Abstract
30% Reading Period: Final Paper (12-15 pp.)
10% Your Feedback
10% Discussion Papers (4)
15% Discussion

All written work must be turned in to receive credit for this class.

All work for this class is governed by the honor code. You must write and sign the honor code pledge at the end of each assignment. We will talk briefly about the honor code in class, but if you have further questions, please go to: http://www.oberlin.edu/students/links-life/rules-regs.html#honor.

Please follow the following citation form: http://www.oberlin.edu/faculty/svolk/citation.htm.

The paper that you write must reflect original research using primary sources. These primary sources include (but are not limited to): films, government documents, manifestos, posters & cartoons, novels, memoirs, newspapers (from the region), etc. Reflecting the various backgrounds and interests you each bring to the class, you are given a fair amount of freedom in choosing your topic. The only requirement is that your paper is a history paper. We will discuss the specific requirements of a history paper (versus one for a literature or a political science class, for example) in class. Although it is never required, I am more than happy to meet with you at any stage of this project.

On November 3rd, you will turn in a literature review that is worth 15% of your grade. This should be a review of one monograph (in English or any other language you are using for your work) that is relevant to your topic. Your review will evaluate this book and also should explain how it is relevant for your own work. As the monographic literature on post-1989 Central Europe can be a bit thin, if you are having trouble finding a monograph, meet with me as early as possible so that we can develop another strategy for this paper.

After you submit your initial, unofficial proposals, you will be divided into reading groups which will remain the same throughout the semester. 10% of your grade is based on the feedback that you give your fellow classmates on their work throughout the semester. Several times throughout the semester, we will take class time in order for you to consult with your group members; however, it is expected that you look at your group members as a resource to use for feedback at other times as well. I have set up separate discussion boards on blackboard for each group to assist in this process.

In the final week of class, you will submit a 1-2 page abstract of your paper. These abstracts will be collected and distributed to everyone in the class to serve as the basis for our concluding discussion.

When you turn in your final paper, you are expected to turn in all drafts that you submitted to your group, the graded copy of your literature review as well as all feedback you received from your group members (including formal comment sheets, comments they wrote on earlier drafts, as well as any emails they may have sent you apart from the group blackboard forum).

5% of your grade is based on a timeline. This timeline will cover a series of events that we are studying over the course of the semester. The timeline should be between 1-3 pages. You will choose which timeline you will work on and should turn in your timeline by 5pm before the due date marked on the syllabus. I will make copies of your timeline and distribute them to the rest of the class.
10% of your grade is based on four discussion papers you will write over the course of the semester. These papers can be written before any day’s discussion for which we have a reading assignment but two of the four must be written before fall break. Your discussion paper should discuss some issues raised by the reading for that class and must end with at least two questions for that day’s discussion. Discussion papers must be submitted by 9pm of the day before any given discussion, can be submitted online, and will be graded in a √-, √, √+ format.

All written work should be double-spaced, in 12-point Times New Roman font on paper with 1” margins. Unless otherwise directed, you MAY NOT turn in papers online but rather, must drop them off at my office or in class on the day it is due. Papers must be stapled. Also, while your grade for any paper is primarily based on their content, errors in grammar or citation style can figure into the grade, especially if such errors are egregious.

ALL late assignments will be downgraded 1/3 of a grade at the start of every twenty-four hour period that they are late. This includes any and all feedback that you give your classmates. In the case of your feedback and the draft, this downgrade will affect your grade on the final paper. If you miss or are late to class on the day that a paper/feedback is due, that paper is automatically counted as 1 day late.

Books Available for Purchase

Required

Recommended (NOT Required)

Films (on reserve)
Człowiek z marmuru/Man of Marble (Poland, 1977)
Underground (Yugoslavia, 1995)
Goodbye Lenin (Germany, 2003)

Schedule of Readings and Assignments

Key to symbols:
* = Reading Posted on Blackboard
# = Reading Available in an Online Journal

September 6: Introduction: 1989 & Central Europe
September 8: Establishing Socialism in Eastern Europe
   * Return to Diversity, 75-126 (read 1-74 for pre-1945 background if you need it)

September 13: The Rebellions of 1953, 1956 & 1968
   * Imre Nagy, “Reform Communism,” From Stalinism to Pluralism, 82-87
   * Milovan Djilas, “The New Class,” From Stalinism to Pluralism, 101-106
   * Ludvík Vaculík, “Two Thousand Words to Workers, Farmers, Scientists, Artists, and Everyone,” From Stalinism to Pluralism, 126-130
   * Return to Diversity, 147-190

September 15: Library Session #1
   Led by Jessica Grim. NOTE ROOM CHANGE: Science Library Mac Computer Lab
   Start reading the Kenney for next week

September 20: 1970s: Stagnation & Dissidence
   * Kenney, A Carnival of Revolution, 1-56
   * Václav Havel, “Power of the Powerless,” From Stalinism to Pluralism, 168-174
   * György Konrád, “Antipolitics,” From Stalinism to Pluralism, 175-180
   * KOR’s Appeal to Society, From Stalinism to Pluralism, 194-199
   * Film: Man of Marble (Screening, September 14, 7:00-9:45, King 239)
   * Timelines 1-9 Due

September 22: 1980s: Solidarnosc & Gorby!
   * Solidarity’s Program, From Stalinism to Pluralism, 209-213
   * Declaration of Martial Law, From Stalinism to Pluralism, 214-215
   * Adam Michnik, “Letter from Gdánsk Prison,” From Stalinism to Pluralism, 225-228
   * Timelines 10-12 Due

September 26: UNOFFICIAL PAPER PROPOSALS DUE, 1p.

September 27: 1989
   * Rothschild & Wingfield, 227-264
   * Ash, Magic Lantern, 47-156 (skim)
   * Minutes from an expanded meeting of the PZPR CC Secretariat held on June 5, 1989: http://www2.gwu.edu/~nsarchiv/news/19991105/Doc-57.htm
   * Excerpt From the Diary of Anatoly Chernyaev, November 10, 1989: http://www2.gwu.edu/~nsarchiv/news/19991105/891110.htm
   * Speech by Premier Ladislav Adamec at an extraordinary session of the CPCz CC, November 24, 1989: http://www2.gwu.edu/~nsarchiv/news/19991105/24nov89.htm
   * Timelines 13-19 Due

September 29: 1989
The Resurgence of the Nation-State

October 4: Ossis & Wessis
  **Timeline 20 Due**

October 6: German Reunification

October 7: **OFFICIAL PAPER PROPOSAL/BIBLIOGRAPHY/RESEARCH STRATEGY DUE,** 2pp.

October 11: Czecho/slovakia: The Velvet Divorce
  **Timeline 21-23 Due**

October 13: No class (Yom Kippur)

October 18: Tragedy of the Nation-State: Yugoslavia
  * SANU Memorandum, From Stalinism to Pluralism, 275-280
  * Dimitrij Rupel, “The Slovene National Question,” From Stalinism to Pluralism, 281-284
  **Timelines 24-25**

October 20: Tragedy of the Nation-State: Yugoslavia
  * Film: Underground (Screening: October 19, 7-9:45pm, King 239)

FALL BREAK

November 1: **Literature Reviews DUE to me and group**
  Start reading Rosenberg for next week’s discussion

November 3: Library Session #2
  Led by Jessica Grim. NOTE ROOM CHANGE: Science Library Mac Computer Lab
  Continue reading Rosenberg for next week’s discussion

Remaking Society

November 8: Trying Communism
November 10: Trying Communism
* Haunted Land, Part III (pp. 261-394)

November 15: Privatization

November 17: Urban Transition
* Dirk Verheyen, "What's in a name? Street Name Politics and Urban Identity in Berlin"
  * Distant Lights* (Screening, November 16, 7-9pm, location: tba)

November 22: Minorities in the New Europe
  Articles about Jews in contemporary Poland (to be distributed in class)

November 24: THANKSGIVING (no class)

NOVEMBER 28—**DRAFTS DUE TO GROUPS & ME**

November 29: Visiting Speaker: Ulf Lippitz

Memory

December 1: Memory & Nostalgia
* Goodbye Lenin* (2003) (Screening, November 30, 7-9pm, location tba)

December 6: Memory, pt. 2

December 8: Holocaust Memory in the New Europe

**DECEMBER 12: PAPER ABSTRACT DUE, 1-2 pp.**

  # Grzegorz Ekiert, “Ten Years After: An Optimistic View,” *Eastern European Politics &*
December 15: Final Discussion of Your Abstracts

FINAL PAPER (and all drafts, feedback, proposals and literature review) Due December 20\textsuperscript{th}, 9:00am