



Department of Cultural Studies

General information		
Name of the course	Central European Cultures	
Course instructor	Nikola Petković	
Study programme	Undergraduate	
Status of the course	Mandatory	
Year of study	2022-2023	
Language	English	
ECTS credits and manner of instruction	ECTS credits	5
	Number of class hours (Lectures + Exercises + Seminars)	30+0+15

1. COURSE DESCRIPTION

1.1. Course objectives

The aim of this course is to familiarize students with the contemporary concepts of both cultural and geo-strategic facets of Central Europe as seen in contexts postmodernism, postcommunism and postcolonialism.

1.2. Course enrolment requirements and entry competences required for the course

Enrolment in Graduate program of Cultural studies.

1.3. Expected course learning outcomes

After having attended the course and fulfil the requirements, students will be able to

- test their theoretical knowledge against a series of canonical Central European texts whose geocultural sphere reaches German, Slavic and Italian cultures and histories.
- trace the history of ideas whose grounds are genealogical (Nietzsche)
- employ counterhistory (Foucault); microhistory (Ginsburg); metahistory (White)
- and small-histories (*Les Annales*) in order to offer an inversion wherein: **students will be introduced to 'reversed model' of intellectual excavation reading literature as history and history as literature.**

With that in mind, reading mainly novels about the region written in the region (i.e.: J. Hašek F. Kafka, M. Krleža, C. Magris, N. Fabio, M. Rakovac, E. Villard...), we will look for textual testimonies claiming (using the aesthetics of empiricism) that **there is no great project worthy of and more precious than a single human life.**

1.4. Course content

Students will test their theoretical knowledge against a series of canonical Central European texts whose geocultural sphere reaches German, Slavic and Italian cultures and histories. Tracing the history of ideas whose grounds are genealogical (Nietzsche) we will employ counterhistory (Foucault); microhistory (Ginsburg); metahistory (White) and small-histories (Les Annales) in order to offer an inversion wherein students will be introduced to 'reversed model' of intellectual excavation reading literature as history and history as literature.

After all, both literature and history, to a large extent if not entirely, are 'just' modes of writing.

Using such apparatus and approach course participants guided by instructor for a large portion of the course, will examine the region as a metaphor of protest (Magris); against Eastern and Western European strata, as a Post Berlin Wall place of delusion—an 80s utopia turned millennial dystopia, great failure of great projects (Fascism, Communism, Nationalism...) with a clearly pronounced idea: seen from a close-up perspective, personalized, Central Europe has always been what Kundera used to say a set of 'small families of peoples': well, he meant it romantically forgetting the history of art where from Sophocles to Strindberg and Ibsen, via Shakespeare, all the worst atrocities took place inside families where the uncanny is very easy to unleash.

1.5. Manner of instruction

- ✓ Lectures
- ✓ Individual assignments
- ✓ Multimedia and network
- ✓ Mentorship
- ✓ Other: consultations