

MAPPING EASTERN EUROPE GEOGRAPHY OF CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE

EUS 4930 section 7631 and GEO 4938 section 5342*

Fall 2008 - 3 credits

*) *The course meets the regional requirement in Geography.*

Instructor: Anna Szyniszewska [*shee-nee-chef-ska*]
Department of Geography
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(You can also use E-Learning to contact me)

Office hours

2-3pm on Tuesdays and 2pm-4pm on in Thursdays in Turlington 3126B. If I am not there you can find me in the room No. 3014.

Lectures

Tuesdays period 5-6 (11:45-1:40 PM) and Thursdays period 6 (12:50-1:40 PM).
MCCA 1142

Course goal and objectives

The course will cover selected topics in geography to enhance students' understanding of the evolving physical, demographic, economic and cultural environment in countries of former East Block in a broad European setting.

Course description

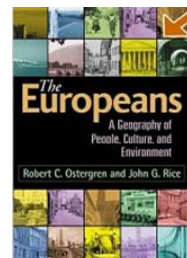
The course will use the geographic analysis of contemporary Europe to present it as a diverse region in terms of natural landscapes, resources, economic systems and cultures. Although the program will be focused on Central and Eastern Europe, and specifically on the area of former Eastern Block, the material will be presented in a broad European context.

E-Learning System

Go to <http://lss.at.ufl.edu/> to access the syllabus and other announcements. You will need your GatorLinkID to log in. If you experience problems trying to log in, go to the GatorLink website <http://gatorlink.ufl.edu> or to the UF Computing Help Desk: The Hub, 392-HELP for assistance.

Reading materials

- Recommended textbook:
The Europeans – A Geography of People, Culture, and Environment.
Robert C. Ostergen and John G. Rice, The Guilford Press.
- *Goode's World Atlas*, Howard Veregin
- Copy of the syllabus, lectures and additional reading assignments will be posted online at E-Learning course website.



Course outline

Part I. People and Environment

- Intro to the regional geography of Europe
- Physical setting of Europe
- Physical landscapes of East and Central Europe
- Water bodies

- Climate and vegetation
- Population
- Human-Environment Interaction
- Protected areas in East and Central Europe

Part II. Culture and Identity

- Language
- Religion
- Political geography

Part III. Towns and Cities

- Cities and Urban Life to WWII
- Modern and postmodern urbanism
- Transportation

Part IV. Work and Leisure

- Making a living
- Consumption and leisure
- Tourism
- Popular culture

Throughout the semester we will have additional movie screenings and guest lectures.

Important dates:

9/18 Physical Map Test
 10/9 Midterm Exam
 10/30 Political Map Test
 11/11 Veterans Day - no classes
 11/25 No classes
 11/20 Final Exam
 11/27 Thanksgiving – no classes

Assessment and Grades

There will be two course tests, a midterm exam and a final exam. There will be an in class presentation and no extra credit assignments.

- *Physical Map Test* will be worth 10% of your grade. I will ask about the main components of the landscape in Europe and in more details about the regions and components of the physical landscape in the Central and Eastern Europe. The test will be given on September 18th.

- *Midterm Exam* on October 9th will be worth 30% of your final grade. The exam will be a combination of short answer, multiple-choice, and fill in the blank questions. They will be based on course lectures and on class discussion and readings.

- *Political Map Test* will be worth 10% of your grade. I will ask about the Central and Eastern Europe countries names, capitals, regions and cities. The test will be given on October 30th.

- *Final Exam* will be worth 30% of your grade. As with the midterms, the questions on the final exam will be a combination of short answer, multiple-choice, and fill in the blank questions. The final exam will be held on Thursday, November 20th.

- *Attendance and Class Participation:* I will regularly circulate an attendance sheet, which you should sign. If you sign for others, it will be considered academic dishonesty. Attendance will constitute 5% of your grade. You are allowed 2 unexcused absences without any penalty. After that, you lose 1 attendance point for each unexcused absence.

- *Final Project* will be worth 15% of your grade. You will be divided in group of 2 students and ask to present a chosen topic in front of the class. I will distribute a sign up sheet with choice of topics to cover with the guidelines on Thursday, September 25th.

Exam rules

Don't be late! You will have only the normal class time for your tests.

There will be NO make up exams/tests/quizzes given. However, if an unavoidable event arises and causes you to miss, or anticipate missing an exam please come and see me. Bring any formal documentation that supports the absence. You *must* have some written form validating your absence, for example a doctor's receipt. At that time it will be totally up to my discretion to decide if any make up exam can be scheduled.

Grading Scale

A	90-100%		
B+	86-89.9%	B	80-85.9%
C+	76-79.9%	C	70-75.9%
D+	66-69.9%	D	60-65.9%
F	Less than 60%		

I do not curve grades. Everyone in the class has the potential to receive A.

Attendance

In this class attendance is mandatory. You are allowed to miss 2 class periods without any excuse. Please note that it will be crucial for you to attend the class regularly if you would like to obtain a good grade. Please show respect to your fellow students by allowing them to hear the lecture material without disrupting them. I will only accept documented excuses of your absence and only up to 1 week after missed class period.

How to contact me

Please contact me at aniasz@ufl.edu address or E-Learning e-mail only. I encourage you to come to the office hours and talk to me in person. Any relevant questions about the class will be answered on the course website: <http://lss.at.ufl.edu/>. Please check the website or your Webmail address for any last-minute announcements. Also, please don't ask me about the lecture material if you missed a class. All lectures will be posted on-line.

Classroom Etiquette

Cell phones (including text messaging) must be turned off while you are in the classroom. All music playing devices must be turned off and earphones must be removed during class. Computers are not to be used for non class-related purposes during class time. Please do not talk to your classmates unless you are asked to. If you wish to ask a question, raise your hand.

UF Honor Code

The University of Florida Honor Code states: "We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honesty and integrity." As such, cheating of any kind (copying homework, plagiarism, cheating on a test, etc.) will not be tolerated and if caught you will be treated according the UF policies, and a grade of 'F' will be recorded for the course.

Special Accommodation

Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office. The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the instructor when requesting accommodation.

The instructor reserves the right to make changes to this syllabus at any time for any reason.