

Slavic/History/Geography/Polisci 254
Lecture: Tues/Thurs with discussion section on Weds
Course website: <http://web.me.com/pes/254Dissent/>

Introduction to Central/Eastern Europe: The Culture of Dissent in Czechoslovakia, Poland, and Yugoslavia

Instructors.

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Teaching Assistant TBA

Course description.

The theme of the course will be the culture of dissent in Czechoslovakia, Poland, and Yugoslavia. That is, we will be looking at the "dissident" period in these countries through the lens of literature and film. Historical background will be provided as necessary, but the emphasis in this course will fall on a humanities reading of dissent. This approach will involve problematizing the notion of dissent by suggesting that it is not tied to one particular time and place (to one historical -ism). Ideally, we will be able to view the subject not so much as a historical curiosity (from a 21st-century American perspective), but as something relevant to our own lives that teaches us something about ourselves. A motif running throughout the course that will support a humanistic approach to dissent will be a focus on "faces of dissent" or the stories of individuals involved as "dissidents" in the countries under consideration.

A good number of the course lectures – particularly on Poland and Yugoslavia – will be presented by guest speakers from the UW and other universities.

Materials.

There are three required texts for the course: (1) Michael Long, *Making History: Czech Voices of Dissent and the Revolution of 1989*, 2005; (2) Bohumil Hrabal, *Too Loud a Solitude*; (3) Tom Stoppard, *Rock 'n' Roll: A New Play*, 2007.

Other materials will be available on e-reserve or as weblinks via our [Learn@UW](#) coursepage.

Assignments.

Attendance at lectures and **active participation in weekly discussion sections** will be required; this will comprise 20% of your grade. Students will take **weekly informational quizzes** (on the lecture and the readings) at the start of lecture each Thursday, which will combine to make up 10% of the course grade.

There will be **two exams**, the first after the Czechoslovakia section and the second after the Poland section, as well as **one test** on the Yugoslavia material. Exams comprise 20% of the final grade (10% each) and the final test 10%.

Students will complete **two essays/projects**, the first related to Czechoslovakia and the second to Poland. The essays/projects will represent an extension of a student's interest in the subject matter; possible topics or themes will be suggested during the course. Each essay/project will contribute 10% to the course grade.

One lecture for Czechoslovakia and one lecture for Poland will be devoted to answering **student questions about the culture of dissent** in each country, and students will submit a well-crafted and substantive question for each a week before, and each question will be graded to account for 5% of the final course grade (10% in total). It will obviously not be possible to answer all the questions in the respective lectures, but effort will be made to answer a representative sample.

Grading.

Final course grades will be distributed as follows:

Attendance at lectures and participation in weekly sections: 20%
 Essays (2): 20% (10% each)
 Weekly quizzes: 10%
 Exams on Czechoslovakia and Poland (2): 30% (15% each)
 Test on Yugoslavia: 10%
 Questions (2): 10% (5% each)

Grades will be given according to the following scale:

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| 92% and above | A |
| 89%-91% | AB |
| 82%-88% | B |
| 79%-81% | BC |
| 70%-78% | C |
| 60%-69% | D |
| 59% and below | F |

Semester schedule and course overview

Note: Readings should have been completed before or by the day of the lecture. For specific due-dates for all assignments, see individual syllabi for each part of the course.

Part I: Czechoslovakia

[Tuesday, Jan 19 through Tuesday, March 2]

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| T, 1-19 | What is dissent? Course overview. |
| W, 1-20 | Discussion of dissent. 1989 in Warsaw and Prague. |
| Th, 1-21 | Historical sketch: Czechoslovakia and Poland post WW II. |
| T, 1-26 | Havel's <i>Power of the Powerless</i> . |
| W, 1-27 | Havel's <i>Anticodes</i> . |
| Th, 1-28 | <i>Power</i> continued. |
| T, 2-2 | Speaker: Milan Hauner on Czechoslovak history of the dissident period. |
| W, 2-3 | Faces of dissent (1): <i>Making History</i> . |
| Th, 2-4 | The Plastic People of the Universe and the Jazz Section. |
| T, 2-9 | Speaker: Milan Hauner on Charter 77 and Czech dissidents. |
| W, 2-10 | Faces of dissent (2). |
| Th, 2-11 | Havel's plays <i>Audience</i> and <i>Unveiling</i> . |
| T, 2-16 | Film screening: Vera Chytilova's <i>Daisies</i> . |
| W, 2-17 | Discussion of the plays and the film. |
| Th, 2-18 | Hrabal's <i>Too Loud a Solitude</i> . |
| T, 2-23 | Stoppard's <i>Rock n Roll</i> . |
| W, 2-24 | Discussion of Hrabal and Stoppard. |
| Th 2-25 | Student questions on Czechoslovakia. |
| T, 3-2 | Exam 1. |
| W, 3-3 | No section: consultations for projects. |

Part II: Poland

[Thursday, March 4 through Tuesday, April 20]

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| Th, 3-4 | Speaker: Brian Porter-Szucs on Polish dissent and the Catholic Church. |
| T, 3-9 | Speaker: Jan Miernowski on Solidarity 1980-1989. |
| W, 3-10 | No section: Czechoslovak projects due by noon. |
| Th, 3-11 | Michnik and Havel: letters from prison. |
| T, 3-16 | Speaker: Kathleen Cioffi on Polish alternative theater. |
| W, 3-17 | Discussion of initial lectures on Poland. |
| Th, 3-18 | Speaker: Halina Filipowicz on Glowacki's <i>Hunting Cockroaches</i> (1). |
| T, 3-23 | Speaker: Halina Filipowicz on <i>Hunting Cockroaches</i> (2). |
| W, 3-24 | Film screening, part 1: Krzysztof Kieslowski's <i>Blind Chance</i> . |
| Th, 3-25 | Film screening, part 2. |

Spring break

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| T, 4-6 | Speaker: Tomasz Inglot on Polish student dissent. |
| W, 4-7 | Discussion of Kieslowski film and Inglot lecture. |
| Th, 4-8 | Speaker: Jonathan Bolton on the impasse of dissent. |
| T, 4-13 | Student questions on Poland. |
| W, 4-14 | Review for exam. |
| Th, 4-15 | No class: study for exam and prep projects on Poland. |
| T, 4-20 | Exam 2. |
| W, 4-21 | No section: Poland projects due by noon. |

Part III: Yugoslavia

[Thursday, April 22 through Thursday, May 6]

Yugoslavia speakers, themes, and topics TBA.

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| Th, 5-6 | Test. |
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This course will not have a final exam.