

NATIONALISM IN CENTRAL EUROPE: CULTURAL ROOTS AND LITERARY RESPONSES COURSE SYLLABUS

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Description: The course traces the emergence of modern nationalism in nineteenth-century Central Europe and compares it to developments in other countries, including the U.S. It points out the decisive influence of Romanticism on the shaping of modern ideas of national and cultural identity and shows how the upsurge of nationalism gave birth to grand narratives of national history, and created sharp divides in multilingual and multiethnic societies. The outcome was a deep crisis culminating in the rise of Nazism, and affecting many representative works of Central European literatures.

The course is divided into two parts. The first part focuses on the origins and different forms of nationalism in Central European cultures (Czech, Slovak, and partially also Austrian, German, Polish, and Hungarian), and the influence of Romanticism (especially its organic models of community based on the affinities between nature, culture and language) on the rise of nationalism. It also discusses critical responses of Romantic writers to nationalist ideologies. The main objective understanding basic cultural notions and paradigms, such as *multiculturalism*, *ethnocentrism*, *patriotism*, *nationalism*, the *invention of tradition*, *cultural translation*, or *imagined community* and the explanation of difficult, culturally specific terms, namely *antiquarianism*, *philology*, *national revival* or *Biedermeier*. Central European notions of *ethnocentric nationality* are compared with the U.S. and British concepts of the nation and national identity.

The second part concentrates on some representative works of twentieth-century Central European literatures (see below under “Fiction, Poetry, and Drama”) reflecting chief Romantic themes or cultural paradigms, and responding to the questions and dilemmas of national identity. The main purpose is to understand the transformations and destructive effects of nationalism in context of major political and economic developments and events of the twentieth-century (World War II, the expansion of Communism, globalization and consumerism).

The presentation of individual topics combines the form of lecture (explaining selected topics in the course book or reference texts, or important features of social, historical or literary context of the discussed book), and the form of discussion. Discussions will be introduced by short talks (3-5 min.) given by all students in the class.

Literature:

Course book (compulsory):

Procházka, Martin, *In Search of National Identity* (included in the course reader and available from the CERGE server) **01 SEARCH.doc**

Fiction, Poetry, Drama (compulsory):

Books by Čapek, Havel and Kundera are available from the CERGE Library. Kafka’s short stories can be downloaded from the web. Other texts are in the Course Reader and can be downloaded from the CERGE Server (the filename is given in bold letters after each reference).

Čapek, Karel, *War with the Newts*, trans. R. Weatherall (Harmondsworth: Penguin, 1998).

Havel, Václav, *The Garden Party*, in *Selected Plays*, trans. Vera Blackwell et al. (London: Faber & Faber, 1992).

Kafka, Franz, "The Judgement", "Singer Josephine", in: *The Complete Short Stories* (New York: Vintage, 1992)

_____, *The Castle*, in *The Complete Novels* (New York: Vintage, 1992).

Kundera, Milan, *Immortality*, trans. Peter Kussi (London: Faber & Faber, 1992)

Mácha, Karel Hynek, *May*, trans. Edith Pargeter (Prague: Orbis, 1967) **15 May**

Poems from *The Queen's Court and Zelená Hora Manuscripts*: John Bowring, "Ancient Bohemian

Ballads," *The Westminster Review*, 12.24 (April 1830):304-317 ; "Zaboy, Slawoy, and Ludeck,"

Blackwood's Edinburgh Magazine, 10.55 (September 1821):149-150; "Oldrich and Boleslaw,"

"Libussa's Judgement," in *The Queen's Court Manuscript*, trans. A.H. Wratislaw (Oxford, 1856), 3-7,

95-100; **11 Forged Manuscripts 1, 12 Forged Manuscripts 2, 13 Forged Manuscripts 3**

Reference:

Recommended texts are marked with an asterisk, **unmarked texts are compulsory**. These are in the Course Reader and can be downloaded from the CERGE Server (the filename is given in bold letters after each reference).

Abrams, M.H., *The Mirror and the Lamp* (New York: Norton, 1958) (VII.ii. Coleridge's

Mechanical Fancy and Romantic Imagination) **06 The Mirror and the Lamp**

Anderson, Benedict, *Imagined Communities. Reflections on the Origin and Spread of*

Nationalism (London: Verso, 1983) (chapter 1-3) **02 Imagined Communities 1, 03**

Imagined Communities 2, 04 Imagined Communities 3

*Bhabha, Homi K., *The Location of Culture* (London: Routledge, 1994)

*Brock, Peter, Skilling, Gordon H. (eds.), *The Czech Renaissance of the Nineteenth Century* (Toronto:University of Toronto Press, 1970)

Deleuze, Gilles, Guattari, Félix, *Kafka: Toward a Minor Literature*, trans. Dana Polan

(Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press 1986) (chapter 3) **16 Minor Literature**

Hobsbawm, Eric J., Ranger, Terence (eds.), *The Invention of Tradition* (Cambridge:

Cambridge University Press, 1983) (Introduction) **09 Invention of Tradition**

Hrbata Zdeněk, Procházka, Martin, "European Romanticism and Czech National Revival",

in *Český romantismus v evropském kontextu* (Prague: Ústav pro českou a světovou literaturu, 1993), 203-26 **07 Czech Romanticism**

*Johnston, William, *The Austrian Mind: An Intellectual and Social History* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1974)

*Lass, Andrew, "Romantic Documents and Political Monuments: the Meaning-Fulfillment of History in 19th-Century Czech Nationalism," *American Ethnologist*, 15

(1988): 456-471

*McGann, Jerome, *The Romantic Ideology* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press 1983)

*Nemoianu, Virgil, *The Taming of Romanticism. European Literature in the Age of Biedermeier* (Cambridge, Mass. and London: Harvard University Press,

1984)

Porter, Roy, Teich, Mikuláš (eds.), *Romanticism in National Context* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1988) (chapter "Romanticism in England" by Marilyn

Butler) **08 Romanticism in National Context**

Procházka, Martin, "Romantic Revivals: Cultural Translations, Universalism, and

Nationalism", in Susan Bassnett and Martin Procházka (eds.), *Cultural Learning:*

Language Learning, Selected Papers from the Second International British

Studies Conference (Prague: The British Council and Charles University, 1997),

75-89. **10 Romantic Revivals**

_____, "Byron's Reputation in Bohemia and Czech Nineteenth Century

Nationalism", *The Byron Journal*, 28 (2000): 37-48 **14 Byron's Reputation**

_____, "Prisoner's Predicament: Public Privacy in Havel's *Letters to Olga*",
Representations (University of California Press), 43 (summer
 1993):126-154. **17 On Havel's Prison Letters**

Smith, Anthony D., *The Nation in History. Historiographical Debates about Ethnicity and
 Nationalism* (Cambridge: Polity, 2000) (Introduction, Voluntarism and Organic
 Nation) **05 Nation in History**

*Wellek, René, *Essays on Czech Literature* (The Hague: Mouton 1963)

Exam: The final exam will be cumulative and will have a form of an in-class essay (3 handwritten pages maximum). No re-sit will be allowed. Students will draw specific exam topics at the beginning of the exam. Exams are closed-book; consulting books, materials or notes will not be permitted.

Homework: For the in-class discussions students will prepare short introductory talks (3-5 min.). In addition, they will submit an essay of 2000-3000 words on a topic of their choice. The topic of this essay must be discussed with the instructor. The submission deadline for essays is the last but one class in the semester. One resubmission is allowed.

Grading: Class Participation, Short Talks 30%, Homework 30 %, Final 40%.

Outline of the Course:

Week	Topic	Readings
1.	Introduction	
2.	Central European Notions of Nation and Nationality	Coursebook, chapter 1
3.	Natural, Organic and Imagined Communities	Coursebook, chapter 2 (intro); Anderson, <i>Imagined Communities</i> (chapters 1-3); Abrams, <i>The Mirror and the Lamp</i> , chapter 7, part 2 (extract); Smith, <i>The Nation in History</i> , chapter 1
4.	What Is a National Revival?	Coursebook, chapter 2 (1-7); Hrbata, Procházka, "European Romanticism and Czech National Revival"; Butler, "Romanticism in England", in Porter, Teich, <i>Romanticism in a National Context</i>
5.	Invention of Tradition, Cultural Translation	Coursebook, chapters 3 to 5; Hobsbawm, Ranger (eds.), <i>The Invention of Tradition</i> (Introduction) <i>Queen's Court Manuscript</i> (selected poems); Procházka, "Romantic Revivals"
6.	Romantic Individualism and National Revival	Coursebook, chapter 7; Procházka, "Byron's Reputation in Bohemia", Mácha, <i>May</i>

7.	Kafka: 1. Legacy of Romantic Nationalism and "Minor Culture"	Kafka, "Singer Josephine", "The Judgement"; Deleuze and Guattari, <i>Kafka: Toward a Minor Literature</i> , chap. 3
8.	Kafka: 2. Organic Community and Bureaucratic State	Kafka, <i>The Castle</i>
9.	Čapek: Practical Humanism versus Ethnocentrism	<i>War with the Newts</i>
10.	Havel: Search of Identity and Absurdity of Totalitarianism	<i>The Garden Party</i> ; Procházka, "Prisoner's Predicament"
11.	Kundera: Global Civilization, Consumerism, and the Decline of Romanticism	<i>Immortality</i>
12.	<i>Final Exam</i>	

Globalization and nationalism have often been evoked as the two defining features of the modern world. The former represents rising deterritorialization, integration and universal interconnectedness while the latter arguably represents fragmentation, localization and isolation. The coexistence of these two, arguably opposing, tendencies became particularly problematic in the aftermath of the Cold War, when the world seemed to be struggling with the contradictory processes of nationalist fragm...Â

- 1 Ian Clark (1997) *Globalization and Fragmentation*, Oxford: Oxford University Press, p. 4.
- 2 Michael Ignatieff (1994) *Blood and Belonging*, London: Vintage, p. 2.
- 3 Stuart Hall (1992) "The Question of Cultural Identity" in *Modernity and Its Futures*, Stuart Hall