



COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Autumn semester, academic year 2022/2023

**Institute of Historical Studies
Faculty of Humanities
Eötvös Loránd University, Budapest
6-8 Múzeum krt.
ECTS: 6 credits for each course
For more information on courses, please contact the respective professors.**

**BARTHA, Eszter dr.
Stalinism and Nazism: Dictatorships in Comparison**

**Course code: BBN-ERA-187/10, BMA-ERAD-187:6
Language: English
Time: Wednesday, 10.00-11.30
Location: 6-8 Múzeum krt., II/236
Email: barthaeszter@hotmail.com**

The course gives an overview of the history of dictatorships in the Twentieth century, while challenging the simplistic notion of totalitarianism. We seek to explore the historical and social roots of Stalinism as well as place the state socialist regimes in a global context. Whereas both Stalinism and Nazism can be seen as products of the global crisis of capitalism (or a particular response to it), it is important to distinguish between the two regimes because of the unique character of the Nazi genocide. We study the history of both regimes, their social and political context as well as their functioning in the everyday life. Whereas terror escalated with the outbreak of the Second World War, the Soviet system could transform itself into a consolidated regime. We will give a brief overview of de-Stalinization and conclude with the discussion of economic reforms in Central Europe.

Skills:

the development of comparative skills and a deeper understanding of the political culture in the region.

Readings:

Applebaum, Anne: Gulag: A History of the Soviet camps. Penguin Books, London, 2014.
Arendt, Hannah: The Origins of Totalitarianism. Harcourt, Brace and Co., New York, 1951.
Berend, T. Iván: Central and Eastern Europe, 1944-1993: detour from the periphery to the periphery. Cambridge University Press, 1996.
Deutscher, Isaac: The great purges. Blackwell, Oxford – New York, 1984.
Deutscher, Isaac: Unfinished revolution: Russia, 1917-1967. Oxford University Press, New York, 1967.
Fitzpatrick, Sheila: The cultural front: power and culture in revolutionary Russia. Cornell University Press, Ithaca, N. Y., 1992.

Fitzpatrick, Sheila: Stalin's peasants. Resistance and survival in the Russian village after collectivization. Oxford University Press, New York, 1994.

Fitzpatrick Sheila: Everyday Stalinism. Ordinary life in extraordinary times. Soviet Russia in the 1930s. Oxford University Press, New York, 1999.

Geyer, Michael – Sheila Fitzpatrick (eds.): Beyond Totalitarianism: Stalinism and Nazism Compared. Cambridge University Press, New York, 2009.

Kenéz, Péter: The birth of the propaganda state: Soviet methods of mass mobilization, 1917-1929. New York, Cambridge University Press, 1985.

Kershaw, Ian - Moshe Lewin (eds.): Stalinism and Nazism. Dictatorships in Comparison. New York, Cambridge UP, 1997.

Kershaw, Ian: Hitler, 1936-1945. Nemesis. Penguin Books, London, 2000.

Kotkin, Stephen: Magnetic Mountain. Stalinism as a Civilization. University of California Press, Berkeley, 1997. 2

Krausz, Tamás: Reconstructing Lenin. An Intellectual Biography. Monthly Review Press, New York, 2015.

Krausz, Tamás: The Soviet and Hungarian Holocausts: A comparative essay. Social Science Monographs, Boulder, Colo., 2006.

Pittaway, Mark: Eastern Europe 1939-2000. Arnold, London, 2004.

Viola, Lynne (ed.): Contending with Stalinism: Soviet power and popular resistance in the 1930s. Cornell University Press, Ithaca, 2002.

Classes:

1. Totalitarianism versus revisionism: Theorizing State Socialism
2. The Bolshevik revolution
3. Stalinism in the Soviet Union
4. Repression and Terror in the Soviet Union
5. Hitler's rise to power
6. The Nazi terror and the persecution of Jews
7. The Soviet Union in the Second World War
8. Holocaust in Eastern Europe
9. The bipolar world order
10. Stalinist culture and society
11. The education of the masses in the Soviet Union
12. De-Stalinization

BARTHA, Eszter dr.
Women under State Socialism

Course code: BBN-ERA-187/? , BMA-ERAD-187:?

Language: English

Time: Wednesday, 12.00-13.30

Location: 6-8 Múzeum krt., II/236

Email: barthaeszter@hotmail.com

Course description

We will attempt to explore how women's policy was understood in different parts of the socialist bloc and in different phases of state socialism. In the Soviet Union the 1920s was an era of gender emancipation and experimentation with various family forms. The high Stalinism of the 1930s put an end to this relative liberalization while extensive industrialization created a fresh demand for female labor force, thus leading to the mass employment of women throughout Eastern Europe as a result of the "export" of the Stalinist regime. The 1960s saw the "thaw" under Khrushchev and the beginning of economic reforms, which reoriented industry and socialist thinking towards an increased level of consumerism. We will examine how women's policy changed in this new context, and how the propagated emancipation worked (or partly failed to work) in education, politics and household. By studying women's history under state socialism, we will get acquainted with the history of an era, which is considered to be even today a contested terrain of competing ideologies and paradigms.

The course demonstrates that looking at state socialism through the lens of gender develops our knowledge on crucial themes of social history: the relationship of paid and unpaid work, need and welfare under state socialism, social stratification and its related theories as well as the opportunities and limits of gender equality in the examined countries. Finally, we will take a closer look at the postsocialist era and the complex ways in which it impacted on women's social and economic position within Eastern Europe. We examine how the category of gender is entangled with other categories such as class, the urban-rural divide and ethnicity.

A critical investigation of the history of state socialism also allows us to identify major narratives and paradigms in the study of the postwar history in Central Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union. The course will attempt to introduce competing paradigms to the interpretation of state socialism ranging from Western left-wing perspectives on the Soviet Union to the Eastern European critics of "actually existing" socialism. We will also interrogate the question of what ways social history can be interpreted and studied under state socialism, and we will examine case studies, which contributed towards the reorientation of the ideological discourse, which influenced history-writing during the Cold War.

Format of the course

Class sessions, with introductory lectures and an emphasis on class discussion.

Learning goals and outcomes

The course has two goals. First, students will become acquainted with recent, more global and comparative as well as historicizing perspectives on state socialism in Central Eastern Europe. They will develop a knowledge of the key historical and theoretical debates around the notion of "actually existing" socialism, and they practice the skills of assessing historical controversies surrounding the interpretation of state socialism. They will become familiar both with Western critics and the Eastern European debates on the nature and functioning of these regimes.

Second, students will develop a critical understanding of how the so called women's policy functioned under state socialism, and the complex ways in which these regimes influenced class and gender relations as well as other dimensions of social and cultural difference throughout Eastern Europe. By the end of this course, students will have familiarized themselves with literature that approaches state socialism in Central Eastern Europe from a comparative and intersectional perspective. Students will be able to apply critical analysis to the material covered in class, and demonstrate their ability to such analysis in verbal commentary and written work. They will make original arguments with appropriate support and analysis.

Topics:

Week 1. Introduction

Introduction to the course (an outline of the themes, the overall aims and major concepts framing the course, an introduction into the history of state socialism)

Week 2. Research paradigms in the study of state socialist Eastern Europe

The totalitarian, revisionist and post-revisionist paradigms
Week 3. Class and gender reconsidered
Week 4. Industrialization and gender struggles
Week 5. Rural transformation
Week 6. Politics of social reproduction
Week 7. The construction of need and welfare
Week 8. Consumption and consumer goods
Week 9. Sexuality and domestic violence
Week 10. Political mobilization
Week 11. Postsocialism: Emancipation or retreat?
Week 12. Pulling strings together

Recommended readings:

Fidelis, Malgorzata: Women, Communism and Industrialization in Postwar Poland. New York, Cambridge University Press.
Fitzpatrick, Sheila and Michael Geyer (eds.): Beyond Totalitarianism: Stalinism and Nazism Compared. New York: Cambridge University Press, 2009.
Fitzpatrick, S., Rabinowitch, A. and Stites, R. (eds). Russia in the Era of NEP: Explorations in Soviet Society and Culture. Bloomington and Indianapolis, Indiana University Press, 1991.
Gleason, Abbott: Totalitarianism. The Inner History of the Cold War. New York: Oxford University Press, 1995, 121-142.
Goldman, Wendy: Women at the gates: gender and identity in Stalin's Russia. Cambridge, 2002.
Goldman, W.Z. Women, the State, and Revolution: Soviet Family Policy and Social Life, 1917-1936. Cambridge, New York: Cambridge University Press, 1993.
Haney, Lynne. Inventing the Needy: Gender and the Politics of Welfare in Hungary. Berkeley: University of California Press, 2002, pp. 1-62; 237-248.
Kirschenbaum, Lisa A. Small Comrades: Revolutionizing Childhood in Soviet Russia, 1917-1932. New York, London: Routledge, Falmer, 2001.
Lutz, Helma: The New Maids: Transnational women and the care economy, New York, Zed Books, 2011.
Lynne, Viola: "The Second Coming: Class Enemies in the Soviet Countryside 1927-1935", In: J. Arch Getty and Roberta Manning (eds.): Stalinist Terror: New Perspectives. Cambridge, Cambridge University Press, 1993, 65-98.
Muravyeva, Marianna: "Bytovukha: Family Violence in Soviet Russia", *Aspasia*, vol. 8. (2014): 90-124.
Oldenziel, R. and Zachmann, K. (eds). Cold War Kitchen: Americanization, Technology, and European Users. Cambridge, MS and London, England: The MIT Press, 2009
Siegelbaum, Lewis (ed.): Borders of Socialism: Private Spheres of Soviet Russia. New York, Palgrave, 2006.
Stitiel, J. Fashioning Socialism: Clothing, Politics and Consumer Culture in East Germany.

BYRAPPA, Ramachandra dr.
Geopolitical Debating Exercises

Course code: BBN-ERA-185/32
Language: English
Time: Tuesday, 14.00-15.30
Location: 6-8 Múzeum krt., II/221.
Email: byrappa.ramachandra@btk.elte.hu

Today's events are not islands in an ocean. Most of the current happenings have geopolitical origins in the century before or even earlier. To get a good understanding of today's world affairs, one needs an analytical perspective of the geopolitical and historic developments. To know and analyse these events

is one thing but being able to convey them to others verbally is another thing. The true extent of your understanding of a situation or event very much depends upon your ability to convey it to others, and the rational defense of your interpretation of it. This seminar can be an excellent arena for testing and developing your intellectual capabilities.

BYRAPPA, Ramachandra dr.
Central Europe in a globalized world

Course code: BBN-ERA-185/33
Language: English
Time: Tuesday, 16.00-17.30
Location: 6-8 Múzeum krt., II/221.
Email: byrappa.ramachandra@btk.elte.hu

The course provides students with an insight into the global position of Central and Eastern Europe. Always wanting to grow beyond its borders, the region is regularly cut back and annexed to local or global power alliances. Students should explore the geopolitics of Central and Eastern Europe and get to grips with the factors that act as driving forces behind the region and its motivations. The impacts of globalisation on this vital region should be apprehended. This should help students to see how the region will cope with new players such as China, a country which is keen to shape the world order. Students get a deeper insight into the matrix of regional and global relations and world politics. The course will introduce students to key concepts and theoretical frameworks for the Central and Eastern European region; it also provides a useful picture of inter-regional relations and their system of relations. The course also provides geopolitical analysis to decipher structural crises and conflicts in the region. The student knows the place of Central Europe in European history, the changes in the relationship between the region and the great powers, the threads connecting and separating the region, the peculiarities of the region, the differences in development, and why.

G. ETÉNYI, Nóra dr. – FAZEKAS, István dr.
Staat und Gesellschaft im Mitteleuropa in der Frühen Neuzeit

Course code: BBN-ERA-182/3
Language: German
Time: Thursday, 8.30-10.00
Location: 6-8 Múzeum krt., I/128
Email: etenyi.nora@btk.elte.hu, fazekas.istvan@btk.elte.hu

Das Königreich Ungarn wurde 1526 der Teil des formierenden zusammengesetzten Staates der Habsburger im Mitteleuropa. Die Lehrveranstaltung versucht zu bearbeiten, dass diese neue Situation welche Veränderungen mitbrachte, welche neue Institutionen entstanden waren, wie die Beziehung zwischen dem Herrscher, der Zentralverwaltung und den Ständen gestaltet wurde bzw. wie sich der ungarische Adel mit der neuer Situation abfinden konnte.

Geschichte Ungarns. Hrsg. von István György Tóth. Budapest 2005.
Die weltliche und kirchliche Elite aus dem Königreich Böhmen und Königreich Ungarn am Wiener Kaiserhof im 16.–17. Jahrhundert. Hrsg. von Anna Fundárková, István Fazekas. Wien 2013 (Publikationen der ungarischen Geschichtsforschung in Wien, 8)
Pálffy, Géza: Der Wiener Hof und die ungarischen Stände im 16. Jahrhundert, Mitteilungen des Instituts für Österreichische Geschichtsforschung 109 (2001), 346-381.

MÁTAY, Mónika dr.

Film and History: visual representation of the past

Course code: BBN-ERA 186

Language: English

Time: Thursday 14.00-15.30

Location: Múzeum krt. 6-8. II. 262.

Email: matay.monika@btk.elte.hu

How can historians use films as historical sources? Can we only incorporate documentaries into our research, or films in general are worth of historical analysis? Visual sources have been integral to social memory since the early times of human history, cave drawings had been important ways of expressing feelings and ideas. Since that ancient time period, the human being had produced immense amounts of visual traces which are supposed to be read as texts and interpreted as objectifications of human behavior and thoughts.

Since the beginning of the 20th century the moving picture became even more integral part of human history. Paraphrasing John Austin' seminal question, *How to do things with words?*, we can pose the question: How to do things with films? To understand the influences and manipulative potentials, techniques of films are possible analytical ways to approach this unique set of sources, but beyond that, we can turn to films in many other ways. How did electronic visual image change the perception of reality? How did films influence historical, geographic, etc. knowledge in general? How did values transmitted via films shape social life, communication, social behavior? During the seminars we watch and analyze a selection of important and influential European films in order to understand the relationship between modern social world and the moving picture more deeply. The goal of class discussions is to put the films into their original political and cultural context in order to get a better understanding of their impacts.

Lesson 1

Introduction: films as historical sources

Lesson 2

Ideas on Film and History

Lesson 3

The Virgin: symbol of a nation

Lesson 4

The Microscope, Filmmaking and Making History

Lesson 5

The Return of Martin Guerre

Lesson 6

Film and Revolution

Lesson 7

The Birth of Modernity

Lesson 8

Ancient Times on Film

Lesson 9
The Nazi propaganda machine

Lesson 10
Hitler's Favorite Director

Lesson 11
The documentary film

Lesson 12
History and Film

Selected readings:

- Rosenstone, Robert, *History on Film*. New York: Longman, 2006. 1–36, 125–186.
- Bell, Desmond, Documentary film and the poetics of history. *Journal of Media Practice*, vol. 12, n. 1.
- Bartov, Omer, The distortion of reality. In *Hitler's Army. Soldiers, Nazis, and War in the Third Reich*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1992. 106–178.
- Davis, Natalie Temon, *The return of Martin Guerre*. 1983.
- Levi, Giovanni, On Microhistory. In Burke, Peter Ed. *New Perspectives on Historical Writing*. Cambridge: Polity Press, 1991.
- Hughes-Warrington, Marnie, Introduction. In *History Goes to the Movies*. London, New York, 2007. 1–15.
- Schama, Simon, New Men. In *Citizens. A Chronicle of the French Revolution*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1989. 21–50.
- Darnton, Robert, Film: Danton and the Double Entendre. In *The Kiss of Lamourette. Reflections in Cultural History*. New York: Norton and Company, 1982. 37–52.

NAGY, Balázs dr. – NOVÁK, Veronika dr. – VADAS, András dr.
Towns and their Spaces in Medieval and Early Modern Europe (Society, economy and civilisation in Medieval and Early Modern Europe)

Course code: BBN-ERA-231/3

Language: English

Time: Wednesday, 16.00-17.30

Location: 6-8 Múzeum krt., I/136

Email: novak.veronika@btk.elte.hu, vadas.andras@btk.elte.hu

Towns in the Middle Ages represent a distinct group of settlements. However they are very varied in their physical appearance, topography as well as their societies. The course aims to explore the development of some urban centers in medieval Europe from the early medieval period up to the Seventeenth century. Three problems will be discussed in details. On the one hand, the problem of defining towns in the Middle Ages: how much legal, topographic, functional approaches can be fruitful in the study of medieval towns. Second, the topographic development of some towns, both in medieval Western and Central Europe, will be analyzed. Amongst the case studies Buda, Prague, Cracow as well as Paris and London will be discussed. Thirdly, the course looks at the problem of the use of space in medieval towns. Based on these problems, the last section of the seminar will analyse the impact of early modern trends, such as the making of princely courts as centralising institutions of power and the advent of Reformation and Catholic Reform, on the uses of urban space, especially in Central Europe.

SZIJÁRTÓ, István dr.
From Robin Hood to Shakespeare. Chapters from the microhistory of England

Course code: BBN-ERA-186/X
Time: Wednesday, 14.00-15.30
Location: 6-8 Múzeum krt., 268.
Email: szijarto.istvan@btk.elte.hu
Course homepage: www.szijarto.elte.hu/RobinHood.htm
Maximum number of students admitted: 7

Educational objectives

The course will present the outlines of the history of late medieval and early modern England through the prism of microhistory. In a series of episodes, the most important problems of the age will be discussed through deep-going historical investigations.

Course content

1. 7 September 2022: Introduction
2. 14 September 2022: The microhistory of medieval England I.
3. 21 September 2022: The microhistory of medieval England II.
4. 28 September 2022: The microhistory of medieval England III.
5. 5 October 2022: Reformation in England I.
6. 12 October 2022: Reformation in England II.
7. 19 October 2022: Shakespeare's England I.
8. 2 November 2022: Shakespeare's England II.
9. 9 November 2020: Shakespeare's England III.
10. 16 November 2022: Everyday life and exceptional scandals in the 17th-18th centuries I.
11. 23 November 2022: Everyday life and exceptional scandals in the 17th-18th centuries II.
12. 30 November 2022: Everyday life and exceptional scandals in the 17th-18th centuries III.
13. 7 December 2022: Summary

Course requirements

As a minimum, two thirds of the courses are to be attended. Students should read the books or chapters required. For each class, a book in English is to be read in full. For several classes, the prescribed reading will be selected by the participants of the course at the first class from the options offered. For missed classes, readings should be made up to by 7 December May 2022 the latest. No essay is to be submitted.

Prescribed reading

2. Andrew Miller: *Patronage, Power, and Masculinity in Medieval England: A Microhistory of a Bishop's and Knight's Violent Contest over the Church of Thame*. London – New York, 2022.
3. J. C. Holt: *Robin Hood*. Cambridge, 1982.
4. H. S. Bennett: *The Pastons and their England: Studies in an age of transition*. Cambridge, 1922.

5. Gary G Gibbs: *Five Parishes in Late Medieval and Tudor London: Communities and Reforms*. Routledge: London – New York, 2019.
6. Peter Lake: *The Boxmaker's revenge: 'Orthodoxy', 'heterodoxy' and the politics of parish in early Stuart England*. Stanford, CA, 2001. OR Eamon Duffy: *The voices of Morebath: Reformation and rebellion in an English village*. New Haven, CT, 2001. OR Keith Wrightson – David Levine: *Poverty and piety in an English village. Terling, 1525 – 1700*. Oxford, 1979.
7. James Sharpe: *The bewitching of Anne Gunter: A horrible and true story of football, witchcraft, murder and the King of England*. London, 1999. OR Chris Skidmore: *Death and the Virgin: Elizabeth, Dudley and the mysterious death of Amy Robsart*. London, 2010.
- 8–9. James Shapiro: *A year in the life of William Shakespeare: 1599*. London, 2005.
10. Alan Macfarlane: *The private life of Ralph Josselin: A seventeenth-century clergyman*. Cambridge, 1970. OR Alan Macfarlane: *The Mare's Ale. Law and disorder in seventeenth-century England*. Oxford, 1981.
11. Alan Marshall: *The strange death of Edmund Godfrey: Plots and politics in Restoration London*. Stroud, 1999. OR Paul Kléber Monod: *The murder of Mr. Grebell: Madness and civility in an English town*. New Haven – London, 2003.
12. Paul Chambers: *The Cock Lane ghost: Murder, sex and haunting in Dr. Johnson's London*. Stroud, 2006. OR John Brewer: *Sentimental murder: Love and madness in the eighteenth century*. New York, 2004.

SZÍVÓS, Erika dr.

Cities of Central Europe in the 20-21st Century: Identities, Politics, and Memory

Course codes: BBN-ERA-186; BMA-ERAD-186

Time: Thursday, 10:00–11:30 (autumn semester, 2022)

Location: Múzeum krt. 6–8. II/266. (Location may change depending on the availability of classrooms. Please check always check Neptun for current information.)

E-mail: szivos.erika@btk.elte.hu

The seminar aims to introduce students into the 20th- and 21st-century histories of major Central European cities. Besides capital cities such as Budapest, Vienna, and Prague, other cities and regional centers will be featured as well. Classes will explore the ways various political visions and ideologies have shaped the physical space, architecture, society, and culture in Central European cities throughout the past century (including the post-Communist era), and discuss the responses of urban societies to regime changes and new challenges during successive political periods.

Special emphasis will be placed on memory and heritage; seminar readings will reveal the ways collective identities – of nations, minorities, or local communities - have been represented in the changing urban space, e. g. in the form of memorials, festivals, or place names. Classroom comparisons will highlight the discussed cities' special characteristics, but will also reflect on the ways cities' identities and urban heritage have been exploited by city marketing and the tourist industry in recent decades.

VADAS, András dr.

Climate Catastrophe, Pandemic and the Kangaroo Island: Environmental History of the Pre-Modern World

Course code: BBN-ERA-182

Time: Tuesday, 10:00–11:30

Location: Múzeum krt. 6–8. II/336.

E-mail: vadas.andras@btk.elte.hu

The course introduces the key concepts and problems in global environmental history. By the end of the course, students should have a basic understanding of fundamental themes in environmental history and relate these, critically and comparatively, to other branches of historical research. The topics covered include climate and disease history, environment and warfare, disasters, urban hygiene and ecological consequences of great geographical discoveries.

The course goal is to offer some insights to how climate and environment affect various parts of the human experience such as agriculture and subsistence, disease and health, etc. and conversely, to address, how human agricultural, industrial or military activities changed the landscapes, setting in motion possibly unanticipated actions and reactions that triggered significant environmental change.

The course is designed to provide a deeper understanding of the interactions of nature and societies to show that human impacts on the different spheres of the Earth were fundamental well before the beginning of the so-called Anthropocene. The case studies are chosen to provide a balanced view of historical environmental processes from the American through Europe to East Asia.

VARGA, Zsuzsanna dr.

Everyday Socialism in Hungary

Course code: BBN-ERA-184/3, BMA-ERAD-184/3

Language: English

Time: Thursday, 16.00-17.30

Location: Múzeum krt. 6-8. II/219.

Email: varga.zsuzsanna@btk.elte.hu

The focus of most historical research into the recent past of Hungary has been and still continues to be on the processes of high politics. Much less attention has been paid to the issue of how socialism was experienced by the Hungarian population. This course gives an overview on the relationship between state projects (forced industrialization, collectivization, etc.) and social groups. However, the main focus is on everyday experience of the society from a bottom-up perspective. It concentrates on topics such as socialist consumerism, private and public spheres, leisure time activities, youth culture, etc.