Charles University, Faculty of Arts
East and Central European Studies

Spring 2015
The Peoples of Europe – Their Origins, Histories, Contacts

CUFA HIST 312

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Prerequisites:

Course Description
The course focuses on the processes and events that have been making the ethnical and political borders of Europe since the arrival of Indo-Europeans until present times. It follows the formations, expansions and differentiations of the Celtic, Germanic, Romance, Slavic and other peoples, the formation of medieval nations or changes in the political map of Europe in the last centuries. It also explains how and when peoples like Basques, Albanians, Hungarians, Turks appeared in Europe. Due to its comprehensive character, the course is suitable for students interested in history, politics, geography, ethnology or linguistics.

Course Goals and Student Learning Objectives
- to give students an outline of the political history of Europe
- to show which factors are decisive for the formation of nations and states
- to make student think about the history in a broader context of geography, ethnology and linguistics

Required Readings
The course reader with texts and maps for reading and discussion will be available at the ECES office before the course starts.

Recommended Readings
The Times Guide to the Peoples of Europe, London, 1997.

Classroom Procedures
Students are expected to take an active part in the classes, to fulfill their class work and home work. Eating and drinking is allowed during the classes (unless it negatively affects class work). Notebooks and cell phones should be used only in special cases.

Assignments and Grading Policy
Grades based on letters A through F will be given. ECES does not provide courses with pass/fail grades.

Participation	25 %
Midterm Test	25 %
Final test	25 %
Essay	25 %

Attendance
Regular and punctual class attendance is mandatory for all students. Absence of 180 minutes is allowed. Three or more absences (90 minutes each) lower the grade automatically (A to A-, A to B+ in case of 4 absences etc.)

Presentation Policy: Missing the presentation will result in an F (when applicable). If the student wants to switch the date, he/she must find someone to do it and both students must confirm the change in e-mails to the professor at least 10 days in advance. If the student is sick and has a medical note, then the professor must agree with the student on how the work will be made up for.

Final Test or Paper Policy: Completing the final test or paper is required. Failure to submit the final test or paper according to the deadline will result in a letter grade F for the entire course.

For further details, please see the Attendance Policy at the ECES website under "*Academic Policies and Procedures*" : http://eces.ff.cuni.cz/

Student Responsibility and Code of Conduct (required)
Students are subject to the general standards and requirements of Charles University in regard to attendance, examinations, and conduct, as well as to the specific requirements of the program. The student is expected to assume the initiative in completing all requirements at the time specified.

Weekly Schedule

(the schedule is subject to change with a prior notice).

Week 1
The introduction to the course.
The agenda of the course. The terms peoples, nation, state, Europe etc. in the historical context. Ethnic map of Europe.

Greeks as the first attested Europeans
The arrival of Indo-Europeans – questions of their homeland and expansion. Aegean area in the Bronze Age and Old Iron Age. Mycenaean Greece (linear script B). Dark Ages and Homer. Greek colonization. City-states, Macedonian and Hellenistic periods.

Reader: Geary, 1-11; Drews, 197-201

Week 2
Celts
Iron Age Hallstatt culture (cca 800-450 B.C.) as the core of Celtic territory. A large expansion in the La Tène period. Romanization of continental Celts. Insular Celts – division to Goidelic and Brythonic branches.

R: Powell, 45-58

Romans
The ethnic situation in the Apennine peninsula in the middle of the 1st millennium B.C. Rome and Latium as a nucleus of the prospective empire and its growth. The territorial peak of the Empire in the first centuries A.D. The decline and the division of the Empire to the Eastern and Western parts.

R: Geary, 63-79

Week 3
Early Germans. Huns and the Migration Period.
The homeland of the Germans and their expansion to the south. The attacks of Roman Empire. The Germans in the Central and Eastern Europe. The invasion of the Huns and the Migration Period. The Goths and other East Germanic peoples.

R: Todd, 1-14; Geary, 93-99

Slavs and their expansion
Ethnogenesis of Slavs and their expansion from their homeland to the West and South. The temporary domination over the most of Central and Eastern Europe. The division of Slavs to three major groups. The first Slavic states.

R: Geary, 144-149, Chropovský, 14-23

Week 4
Hungarians (Magyars) and their remote northern relatives (Finns, Estonians)
The arrival of Hungarians, their aggressions and settling in Pannonia. The admission of Christianity and the formation of a regular Central European state. The autochthonic origin of northern Finno-Ugric peoples and their further existence in the shadow of more powerful neighbors.

R: Engel, 8-27

Vikings and the northern Europe
Viking era and the beginning of the differentiation of North Germanic peoples. Colonization of Iceland. Shifts of power between Denmark, Norway and Sweden. The Kalmar Union. The rise of the Swedish power in the 16th and 17th centuries.

R: Anderson, 15-23; Norway, 123-130

Week 5
The English and their Celtic neighbors
The arrival of Anglo-Saxons to the Celtic Britain. Scandinavian influence (Danelaw). The Norman conquest and the formation of the English nation. The coexistence with the Celtic population (Welsh, Scottish, Irish).

R: Kiernan, 1-15

France
The Roman Gaul as the basis of future France. Frankish rule and the adoption of Romance language. Centralization and growth after the Verdun Treaty. Occitanian (Provençal) and other minor languages on the territory of France

R: Johnson, 35-47

Week 6

Germans and the Holy Roman Empire. Italy.
West Germanic peoples in the 2nd half of the 1st millennium. Franks and Saxons. Charlemagne's empire. Verdun Treaty and the division of the empire to three parts. The Holy Roman Empire (since 962) as a political union of many (mostly German) principalities and other domains. The disintegration and decentralization in Italy.

R: Averkorn, 177-192

The ethnic situation in the Pyrenean peninsula. Basques.
Celts, Romans and Visigoths. Arabic occupation of Hispania, the "reconquista" and unification of Christian kingdoms. Portugal and Catalonia. Basques as a unique European nation. The problem of their origin and relatives.

R: Collins, 1-16; Barton, 112-121

Week 7
Midterm test

The Balkans as a melting pot. Albanians
The ethnic situation in Balkan in the 2nd half of the 1st millennium. The origin of Albanians. The rise of Rumanian (and Moldavian) as a Romance language. Slavs and Greeks. Mutual coexistence of the Balkan peoples.

R: Brătianu, 173-177; Vekony, 217-220

Week 8
Czechs and Slovaks
The development after the collapse of Great Moravia Empire. The formation of the Czech statehood and nationhood, the rise in the 13th and 14th centuries, Hussite period, accession of Habsburgs and the loss of sovereignty after 1620. A delayed formation of the Slovak nation.

R: Čornej, 3-30

Poles and other West Slavic peoples. The Balts.
The Slavs in the territory of today's Germany (Polabians, Sorbs). The formation of the Polish state. The Balts and their late Christianization. Polish-Lithuanian personal union and its decline in the 18th century.

R: Davies, 279-311

Week 9
East Slavs and the Russian expansion
Kievan Rus' and its disintegration by Mongol invasion. Grand Duchy of Moscow and the fights with Tatars. Ivan the Horrible and the destruction of Tatar khanates. The expansion to the East. The modernization of the empire under Peter I. and Catherine II.

R: Lantzeff, 321-332

The Turks and their invasion to Europe.
The rise of the Ottoman Empire. The invasion to the Balkan. The battle of Mohács (1526) and the culmination of the Turkish power. The defeat at Vienna (1683) and the following stagnation.

R: Sugar, 14-23

Week 10
The peoples in diaspora – the Jews and Gypsies (the Roma).
Jews in medieval Europe. Poland as the new centre of the Jewish community. Arrival of the Gypsies to the Balkans and their situation in Europe.

R: Stow, 231-235, 302-308; Halwachs, 192-199

On the border of the Empire – the Austrians and Swiss
Early history of March of Austria. Habsburgs. Why Austrians are not Germans. Old Swiss Confederacy and its development. The ethno-linguistic composition and the question of the Swiss nation.

R: Bruckmüller, 206-221

Week 11
On the border of the Empire – the Dutch and Belgians
"Low Countries" as buffer territories between France and Holy Roman Empire. Frisians. The rise of Belgium. Luxemburg.

Vos 128-143

Europe in the 19th century
Europe after Napoleon wars. National revivals and the rise of modern nations. Emancipation processes and fights for independence. The unification of Germany and Italy.

R: Banti, 15-23; Barmayer, 41-51

Week 12
20th century and the world wars
World War I and the post-war shape of Europe. New ethnical and political problems. WW II and its influence on the map of Europe. The Iron Curtain and the invariability of European borders for almost 50 years.

R: Rotschild, 2-25

The turn of millennia – disintegration and integration
The collapse of the "socialist" block and its disintegration (the Soviet Union, Czechoslovakia, Yugoslavia). The destructive war in Yugoslavia and the rise of "new" nations. Other disintegration tendencies (Belgium, Britain, Spain, Italy) in contrast with Europe unification effort.

R: Klemenčič, 236-249; Dusselier 195-206

Week 13
Final test
Course wrap-up