

Fall 2014
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Anth 430/530: Balkan Society and Folklore

Focusing on ethnicity, gender, politics, and folklore, this class explores the current and historical situation in the Balkans and the role of symbols, the state, and nationalism. An ethnographic approach examines socialism/postsocialism, rural/urban, age and gender relationships, life cycle and calendrical celebrations, and music and expressive arts. Readings are drawn from many disciplines. Slides, films, and guest presentations supplement the lectures and discussions. The class will be run interactively, with discussion and mutual respect.

The Syllabus is located on BB under Course Information. Maps and outlines are under Documents. Most readings/films are available on BB under Readings or via the url listed. I welcome discussion with students during office hours, by appointment, or by email or telephone on topics related to the class. I have a comment bag available at every class.

Please turn off cell phones during class.

Plagiarism is not tolerated at the UO. Cases of plagiarism (from other students or published materials) will be reported to the Office of Student Conduct.

Course requirements

1. 10% of the grade is based on attendance. Late arrivals and departures will count as an absence.
2. 10% of the grade is based on oral participation.
3. 10% of the grade is based on an in-class geography quiz that will be given without warning sometime during the first three weeks.
4. There are two take-home essay examinations, worth 30% +40% each (graduate students 20% + 30% each), due Oct. 27 in class and Dec 10 (Wed 4:30 PM, or earlier, if possible). Exams must be typed and lateness will be penalized.
5. Graduate students are required to do a research paper (10 pp.) in addition to the final and to present it in class (20% of grade, due Dec 10). A 1-page research paper proposal with five bibliographic entries is due Oct. 13. Students are encouraged to meet with me to discuss possible topics and receive bibliographic assistance.
6. Graduate students will help lead one class discussion (20-30 minutes); sign up immediately. By 6 PM the day before, post questions and/or outlines on BB Discussion Board (under Tools).

Grading Rubric

A – Outstanding performance relative to that required to meet course requirements; demonstrates a mastery of course content at the highest level.

B – Performance that is significantly above that required to meet course requirements; demonstrates a mastery of course content at a high level.

C – Performance that meets the course requirements in every respect; demonstrates an adequate understanding of course content.

D – Performance that is at the minimal level necessary to pass the course but does not fully meet the course requirements; demonstrates a marginal understanding of course content.

F – Performance in the course is unacceptable and does not meet the course requirements; demonstrates an inadequate understanding of the course content.

Course Objectives

- Identify the Balkan nations geographically and culturally.
- Trace the history of the Balkans, especially the Ottoman legacy and the socialist and postsocialist periods.
- Analyze the role of ethnicity and nationalism, especially ethnic conflict, in the Balkans.
- Identify the gendered dimensions of Balkan life.
- Analyze rituals (such as weddings) and other forms of folklore on multiple planes (symbolic, economic, political).
- Identify the varieties of Balkan folk music and its connection to politics.
- Trace the history and current situation of Balkan Roma.
- Analyze the changing roles of Balkan Romani music.
- Identify what an ethnographic approach offers.

Readings

The required readings consist of 3 books (excerpts from 2), scholarly articles, internet sources, and newspaper articles. Readings must be done prior to class discussion. Articles are posted on BB under Readings or via urls. Students are expected to be aware of current news in the Balkans.

Four books were ordered in the UO Bookstore (3 are on Reserve in the Library):

Sacco, Joe. Safe Area Gorazde: The War in Eastern Bosnia 1992-95. Fantagraphics Books, 2000.

(Note required pages)

Ghodsee, Kristen. Lost in Transition: Ethnographies of Everyday Life after Communism. Duke University Press, 2011. (Read the whole book)

Silverman, Carol. Romani Routes: Cultural Politics and Balkan Music in Diaspora. Oxford 2014. (Required pages will be on BB)

Helms, Elissa. 2013. Innocence and Victimhood: Gender, Nation, and Women's Activism in Postwar Bosnia-Herzegovina. University of Wisconsin Press. (recommended for future)

Course Outline

1. Sept 29 Introduction to the history, geography, languages and peoples of the Balkans.

2. Oct 1 The Ottoman legacy. Conversions to Islam.

Hupchick, Dennis. "Nation or Millet? Contrasting Western European and Islamic Political Cultures in the Balkans." In Culture and History in Eastern Europe, St. Martin's Press, 1994, 121-155.

3. Oct 6 Land, village and family life, *zadruga*, and social organization.

Bringa, Tone. Being Muslim the Bosnian Way. Princeton University Press, 1995, pp. 3-36; 37-83.

4. Oct 8 Yugoslav wars of the 1990s: causes, effects, implications, symbols.

Denich, Bette. "Dismembering Yugoslavia: Nationalist Ideologies and the Symbolic Revival of Genocide," American Ethnologist 21(2), 1995, pp. 367-390.

Hammel, E., A. "Lessons from the Yugoslav Labyrinth." Neighbors at War: Anthropological Perspectives on Yugoslav Ethnicity, Culture, and History. Ed. Joel M. Halpern and David A. Kidckel. University Park: Pennsylvania State University Press, 2000, pp.19 – 37.

Optional: For more information on the Yugoslav wars, see "The Death of Yugoslavia," video in six parts: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I4bI3iLoZkc>

5. Oct 13 The Bosnian conflict. Strategies of representation. Excerpts from videos: "We Are all Neighbors" and "Returning Home."

Bakic-Hayden, Milica. "Nesting Orientalisms: The Case of Former Yugoslavia," Slavic Review 54(4), Winter 1995, pp. 917-931.

Sacco, Joe. Safe Area Gorazde: The War in Eastern Bosnia 1992-95. Fantagraphics Books, 2000. 1-44; 155-161; 197-227.

6. Oct 15 Post-war Bosnia. Guest presentation by Almir Methadžovic on Bosnia as a divided country and Mostar as a divided city.

Current news from Bosnia:

http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/europe/country_profiles/1066886.stm

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-16347425>

Fragile States: Continuing Struggles for Bosnia and Herzegovina (video, 15 minutes)

<http://pulitzercenter.org/video/fragile-states-continuing-struggles-bosnia-and-herzegovina>

also found at

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r8R0XK7qtAE>

Ethnicity still divides Bosnia, threatening its fragile peace (video, 5 minutes)

<http://pulitzercenter.org/video/ethnicity-still-divides-bosnia>

also found at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0RtEaXiEAnY&feature=relmfu>

"Two schools under one roof" (videos, 30 minutes)

Part I: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H0Qx6J878co>

Part II: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XmYOQFParAY&feature=related>

Part III: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xD_SfPbwrIE&feature=related

Peter Lippman, Bosnia's Frozen Conflicts, July 14, 2011: A review of Bosnia Remade: Ethnic Cleansing and Its Reversal, by Gerard Toal and Carl T. Dahlman. Oxford University Press, 2011.

<http://balkanwitness.glypx.com/bosnias-frozen-conflicts.htm>

Optional reading:

Peter Lipmann's blog "Herzegovina and wrap-up," August 12, 2010:

<http://balkanwitness.glypx.com/report2010-9.htm>

<http://balkanwitness.glypx.com/articles-postwar-bosnia.htm>

Recommended for future reading:

Helms, Elissa. 2013. Innocence and Victimhood: Gender Nation, and Women's Activism in Postwar Bosnia-Herzegovina. University of Wisconsin Press.

7. Oct 20 Gender: power/ authority; arranged marriages.

Simic, Andrei. 1999. Machismo and Cryptomatriarchy: Power, Affect, and Authority in the Traditional Yugoslav Family. In Gender Politics in the Western Balkans, ed. Sabrina Ramet. Pennsylvania State University Press, pp. 11-29, originally in *Ethos* 11(1-2):66-83, 1983.

Forsyth, Martha. Slusaj sterko i dobre zapomni: Listen Daughter and Remember Well, pp. 57-85 and 421-439, odd pages only. Sofia: Kliment Ohridski Press, 1996.

8. Oct 22 Ritual: Bulgarian weddings; marriage customs. Videos.

Macedonian Bridal Costumes. Ed. Carol Silverman, pp. 1-3. (UO Museum of Natural History, 1984).

Ivanova, Radost. Traditional Bulgarian Wedding, pp. 9-21. Sofia: Svyat, 1987.

9. Oct 27 **Midterm exam due (covering material until Oct 22)**

Overview of Balkans during Socialism. The challenges of postsocialism. Crisis of the elderly. Video: A Month in the Life of Ephtim D. (Asen Balikci 2000).

Verdery, Katherine 1996. What was Socialism and Why Did it Fail? In What was Socialism and What Comes Next? Princeton University Press, pp.19-38

10. Oct 29 Theorizing socialism/postsocialism. Gender, postsocialism and the decline of the state.

Verdery, Katherine 1996. A Transition from Socialism to Feudalism? Thoughts on the Postsocialist State. In What was Socialism and What Comes Next? Princeton University Press, pp. 204-228.

Gal, Susan and Gail Kligman, The Politics of Gender after Socialism. Princeton, 2000, pp. 62-90.

11. Nov 3. Nostalgia for Socialism. Reevaluating socialism/potsocialism.

Ghodsee, Kristen. Lost in Transition: Ethnographies of Everyday Life after Communism. Duke University Press, 2011.

12. Nov 5 Lived experiences of socialism/postsocialism. Feature fiction film: Good Bye Lenin (Germany, 2003, 121 minutes). Please be on time!

Nostalgia Grows for Tito's Lost World:

Social and economic instability prompt many Balkan citizens to yearn for a time of order and prosperity. Vladimir Sudar, BCR Issue 500, 21 Feb 2005

<http://iwpr.net/report-news/nostalgia-grows-titos-lost-world>

Yugo-Nostalgia Grows as Harsh Realities Bite

Old federation offered comfort and security – which many would dearly like to have now.

Mirza Ajnadzić - TRI Issue 710, 27 Sep 2011

<http://iwpr.net/report-news/yugo-nostalgia-grows-harsh-realities-bite>

Report on Yugo-Nostalgia Elicits Big Online Response

IWPR story touches a nerve as local republication draws flurry of reader comments.

By IWPR 28 Oct 2011

<http://iwpr.net/report-news/report-yugo-nostalgia-elicits-big-online-response>

13. Nov 10. Folk Music and Ideology in Bulgaria: official vs. unofficial culture during socialism/postsocialism. Videos and dance instruction.

Rice, Timothy. May it Fill your Soul: Experiencing Bulgarian Music. University of Chicago, 1994. pp.16-36.

Silverman, Carol. Reconstructing Folklore: Media and Cultural Policy in Eastern Europe. Communication 11(2) (1989):141-160.

14. Nov 12 Music and ethnic conflict. Video: Whose is this Song (Adela Peeva, 2004).

15. Nov 17 Roma (Gypsies) in the Balkans: Discrimination, Marginality, and Culture

Petrova, Dimitrina. "The Roma: Between a Myth and the Future," Roma Rights (Newsletter of the European Roma Rights Center, Budapest), Number 1, 2004, pp. 1-32.

<http://www.errc.org/cikk.php?cikk=1844>

Read at least 4 news items from at least 2 the following 4 websites:

European Roma Rights Center: www.errc.org

European Roma Information Office: www.erionet.eu

European Roma and Travelers Forum, sponsored by the Council of Europe: www.ertf.org

Roma Virtual Network:

http://groups.google.com/group/romano_liloro?hl=en

16. Nov 19 Roma in the Balkans: Music, Dance, and Gender. Videos of Weddings and Circumcisions in Macedonia.

Silverman, Carol. Romani Routes: Cultural Politics and Balkan Music in Diaspora. Oxford University Press, 2014. Chapter 4: Transnational Families, pp. 59-81 and Chapter 5: Transnational Celebrations, pp. 82-106. As you read, take a look at some of the accompanying videos and photos, and listen to the music on the website that is referenced on these pages: www.oup.com/us/romaniroutes. The username is Music1 and the password is Book5983. Also read text supplement 4.1 on the website.

17. Nov 24 Macedonian Roma in New York City: Migration, Gender, and Family, and Music.

Silverman, Carol. Education, Agency, and Power among Macedonian Muslim Romani Women in New York City. Signs: Journal of Women in Culture and Society (Symposium on Romani Feminisms) 38(1): 30-36 (2012).

18. Nov 26 Balkan Romani music as world music: DJs, club culture, and appropriation.

Silverman, Carol. Romani Routes: Cultural Politics and Balkan Music in Diaspora. Oxford University Press, 2014, Chapter 13: Collaboration, Appropriation, and Transnational Flows, pp. 269-294. Note the Romani Routes website www.oup.com/us/romaniroutes requires user name Music1 and password Book5983.

19. Dec 1 Graduate student presentations.

20. Dec 3 No class. Professor Silverman will be attending the American Anthropological Association conference.

Final Exam due Wed, Dec 10, 4:30 PM (or earlier)