The Contours of Coexistence:
“Otherness” and Belonging in Modern Europe
N174T Topics in the History of Eastern Europe

6 Credit Hours
May and June 2016 | University of California, Berkeley
Summer Session Study Abroad in Poland, the Czech Republic and Germany

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I. Course Description and Goals
Once again, inhabitants of Europe, European leaders and outside observers alike are questioning the limits
of coexistence and attempting to define who belongs to European states. Over the past few months, we
have watched a refugee crisis unfold from Greece to Calais and in the process have reopened discussions
regarding who “belongs” in Europe, what constitutes universal “European values” and how minorities fit
in to the European Union experiment.

To wit: can Muslims fleeing the Syrian conflict of varying religious orthodoxies in France
and Germany integrate into broader social communities? Millions of citizens in Berlin, Belgrade, Budapest
and beyond have responded to the influx of refugees in various ways. Should Roma that have lived in east
central Europe for generations integrate more deeply amongst their Czech and Slovak neighbors? State
financial planners, educators and those seeking to eliminate poverty strive to bring these perennial outsiders
into broader social systems and often encounter an array of public opinions when they do. What obligation
do governments based in Berlin and Warsaw have towards protecting and fostering Jewish communities
within their states? Earlier this year, Israel Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu invited all French Jews to
find refuge in his Jewish State, even though Jews have lived in Europe for over a millennium. And, finally,
how can individual national governments and the European Union serve as a safe haven for displaced
people while simultaneously protecting and celebrating minority cultures on a continent dominated by
ethnically homogenous nation states?

Questions surrounding coexistence and otherness within states and across the continent animate various
layers and corners of society and government. Arguably, the idea of coexistence forms the very bedrock of
the European Union itself. And arguably, in recent months this bedrock has been decidedly shaken. How
has Europe responded to this current crisis and others before it? The best way to get at this particular
European history, of course, is to read, hear, and see what Europeans themselves—whether political
leaders or “ordinary people”—have said or have to say. Thus wherever possible, course texts (official
documents, memoirs, essays, novels, films, and works of art) have been chosen to reflect European points
of view. And of course, we will have the wonderful opportunity to talk with real, live European of varying
political persuasions, ages, religious backgrounds, ethnicities and opinions as we travel throughout east
central Europe and then west to Belgium.

If you are an active participant in the course, you will end the trip with a good grasp of some of the most
important events, ideas, and individuals in east central Europe’s “short 20th century” and how discussions
of minorities fit into broader narratives. You should be able to read a historical document carefully and critically, and to present a clearly-argued and well-supported interpretation of its significance. You should be able to ask questions of people very different from yourself and from a variety of backgrounds. You will learn from and learn with your peers on this adventure and begin to understand the transformative nature of intensive group learning. And finally, you will also have the opportunity to write about your experience in country and document your trip with pictures, drawings or words. Beyond mastering a body of factual information, in other words, you should be able to say something about these facts, to ask and answer the “so what?” question. Finally, you should be attuned to the continuing presence of the past in contemporary debates and think historically about “current events”—that is, to explain how political institutions, cultural worldviews, social and economic relations, and popular attitudes which took shape in the past continue to play a role today. As we will see throughout the course, “history”—that is, individuals’ and groups’ interpretations of their pasts—is often mobilized to define and defend current agendas. Many of these skills will serve you well at Berkeley, whatever major you choose to pursue.

II. Course Objectives, Teaching Methods and Itinerary

This summer study abroad course approaches these vexing questions from a unique historical perspective, that of coexistence and otherness in both the “old” and “new” Europe. Specifically our laboratory includes Poland, the Czech Republic and Germany. Accordingly, we will utilize five distinct case studies to explore these twinned topics. These five studies will focus on both historical and contemporary minorities: the Jews of Europe and most specifically Poland; the Roma of Northern Bohemia; the Vietnamese in Prague, the Turkish in Germany and recent refugees across European Union member states. Our goal is to use the voices, museums, food, music, histories, protests, organizations and government initiatives to better understand how ideas of “Europe” and “Europeaness” changed and continue to change over the past 100 years, specifically since the beginning of the First World War. Using, as Todd Edelman suggests, “the history of a minority to illuminate the history of the majority” we will interrogate how people of varying ethnicities and religions have coexisted with their “different” neighbors, how states, international organizations and local bodies have fostered coexistence, how those initiatives played out and how communities of coexistence have, from time to time, tragically broken down into shattered communities divided by violence and fear.

In each country that we visit, we spend at least one day approaching the recent refugee crisis from that individual country’s perspective and try to see how leaders from each country position themselves vis-à-vis broader EU policies.

Our course begins in Poland where, over ten days, we will delve into the history of Jewish-Christian Coexistence in Modern Poland. We will share a tour with the director of the newly-opened Museum of the History of Polish Jews, see traces of the Warsaw Ghetto, attempt to understand how Polish society reemerged after World War II and how Poland has come to terms with revelations that many Christian Poles killed their Jewish neighbors during and after the Holocaust. We will meet with a Catholic priest and professor of Oriental Studies at Jagiellonian University in Krakow and learn how a new generation of Poles are interacting with their country’s Islamic past. We plan to meet with speakers from the Jewish Community Center in Krakow, Holocaust survivors who will tell us about their personal experience with otherness and interact with politicians, notably visiting the official delegation of Kurdistan in Poland. Before departing Poland’s major cities, we hope to schedule an interaction with Polish school children to understand how they are taught about coexistence and otherness, we will spend three days in Oswiecim, the city next to the Auschwitz-Birkenau Concentration and Death Camp. There we will see first hand how coexistence fatally broke down and, seemingly against all odds, has fragiley been reassembled in the form of a new café/meeting place, the rebuilding of the last synagogue in the town and the creation of an international music festival.
From Poland, we will spend ten days in Prague. There we will continue our study of the Jewish history of the region while learning more about the growing Vietnamese minority in Prague and the problematic interactions between Czechs and Roma in the Bohemian borderlands. We will meet with a filmmaker who recently completed a film that explores right-wing politicians, speak to Czechs who volunteer with Roma children, immerse ourselves in the Vietnamese neighborhood in Prague and speak with an array of people, from high school students to government officials responsible for minority affairs. Other activities include: visiting a bi-lingual school in Prague to understand more about racial diversity in Czech elementary schools, meeting with representatives from the Fulbright committee to understand how interest in minority affairs has changed since 1989 and working with students at faculty in the Cultural Studies Department at Charles University. Finally, we will remember how Czechoslovak society changed after World War II, when upwards of 3 million Sudeten Germans were expelled from Bohemia and left an economic vacuum in their wake.

From Prague, we will travel to Germany for ten more days where we will think about the dispersion of German minorities throughout modern history, the ethnic revolution that accompanied the Second World War which saw upwards of 10 million ethnic Germans moving to Germany (many for the first time!) from homes in Czechoslovakia and Poland and, finally, seek to understand how Germany has and is interacting with the Turkish and Muslim minorities within her midst. First, we will travel to Germany’s eastern border with Poland and the city of Frankfurt (Oder) for three days to understand how a shift in international norms during and after World War II led to the dismantling of the interwar minority-rights system and, instead, promoted forced population exchanges amongst states that had, until that point, been decidedly heterogeneous. What does a town that was German until 1945, then abruptly emptied of its citizenry and incorporated into Poland look today? We will utilize colleagues at the Viadrina University in Frankfurt (Oder) and the Adam Mickiewicz University in Slubice (Poland) to understand this messy process.

In Berlin, we will plunge ourselves into the current refugee crisis. We will speak to women who are committed to wearing headscarves in public, leaders of Turkish descent and experts who craft policies towards minorities at both the national and EU-wide level. In Germany’s capital we will meet with refugees who fled Syria and other war-torn environs, interact with organizations that are helping these refugees and understand how government plans to help this influx of humanity transitioned into reality. I hope to take the students to at least one more town outside of the Germany capital on a day trip so they can study how refugees have begun to integrate into their new German homes in smaller towns. I hope that in Berlin we can arrange a meeting at the U.S. Embassy to discuss how American diplomats are interacting with the current situation.

III. Pre-requisites, Restrictions and Limits
Our language of instruction will primarily be in English. Students with language skills in Polish, Czech, German, Turkish, Arabic, Hebrew, French and Roma dialects will be especially welcome. Students should have taken at least one course relating to the history and culture of Europe in the modern period and/or at least two courses in Berkeley’s History Department.

IV. Course Responsibilities and Evaluation

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<tr>
<th>Participation</th>
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<td>Online Journal</td>
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<td>Final Project</td>
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-----Participation
Obviously, a large part of this course will be participation. This means arriving for events on time, being alert (even when we have an early morning event!), partaking in questions and answers, displaying cultural sensitivity and being kind to all of the course participants and our guests. We will be spending a large amount of time together and it is necessary that we treat each other with respect, empathy and professionalism. If you do not show up to events on time and actively participate in all course activities your grade will be jeopardized.

-----Online Journal
Our course is very pertinent to modern discussions on refugees, otherness and belonging. Our course will utilize and agreed upon online platform (blog, instagram, twitter) to broadcast our scholarship and events within the course. Each student will be responsible for at least three entries on said online platform throughout the span of our course.

-----Final Project
All students will be required to produce a final writing project steeped in the readings and activities of the course that we will share with each other and disseminate in the form of a literary journal on Berkeley’s campus. Each student is expected to write at least 1,200-1,500 words in essay form and contribute an object/picture/piece of art to include in the journal. More information about this final project will be forthcoming. Students can volunteer to design the journal, edit the journal and work on producing the journal upon our return home. We will hopefully have a launch party for the journal on campus in Fall 2016.

V. Reading Assignments
The following four books are required for this course. The rest of the readings will be in PDF form and distributed to the students in the form of an online reader that they can access on their devices. Students are encouraged to get the ebook version of these books when available. The students should arrive in Warsaw having already read Living in the Land of Ashes and at least half of The Unwanted: European Refugees in the Twentieth Century.


Emine Sevgi Ozdamar, The Bridge on the Golden Horn (Serpent’s Tail, 2009).

VI. Class Schedule and Reading Assignments by city (exact schedule to be determined)

Warsaw, Tuesday May 23-Sunday May 29
Readings
--Joseph Roth, “The Bust of the Emperor.”
--Sholem Aleichem, “Chava.”
--Selections from Samuel Kassow, Who Will Write our History? Emanuel Ringelblum, the Warsaw
Ghetto and the Oyneg Shabbes Archives (50 pages)
--Selections from Emanuel Ringelblum, Polish-Jewish Relations during the Second World War.
--“Resistant to migrants, Poland debates the meaning of ‘solidarity,’” The Economist.

Academic Schedule
--Lecture with Dr. Sarah Cramsey, Program Leader
--Discussion section with Ula Madej-Krupitski on “Chava” and Scholem Aleichem
--Discussion section with Dr. Cramsey on “The Bust of the Emperor”
--Lecture with Dr. Dariusz Stola, Director of Polin, the Museum of the history of Polish Jews
--Lecture with Konstanty Gebert, Journalist, teacher and author
--Lecture with Rabbi Michael Schudrich, Chief Rabbi of Poland
--Meeting with Ziyad Raoof, Representative of the Kurdish Government in Poland
--Meeting with Polish government representative to discuss current refugee issue
--Meeting with representative from Estera, nonprofit Catholic group that is pro-refugee

Cultural Schedule
--Day-long visit to Polin, the Museum of the history of Polish Jews
--Morning walking tour of the Warsaw Ghetto and Jewish Cemetery
--Shabbat Dinner with the Warsaw Jewish Community
--Movie: The Pianist

Krakow, Sunday May 29-June 2

Readings
--Selections from Jan Gross, Neighbors: The Destruction of the Jewish Community in Jedwabne (50 pages).
--Selections from Zygmunt Klukowski, Diary from the Years of Occupation (50 pages).
--Czeslaw Milosz, Campo di Fiori.
--Katarzyna Górak-Sosnowska, “From Polish Muslims to Muslims in Poland: there and back.”

Academic Schedule
--Lecture with Dr. Sarah Cramsey, Program Leader, at Jagiellonian University
--Discussion section with Ula Madej-Krupitski on Diary from the Years of Occupation
--Discussion section with Dr. Cramsey on Neighbors and Together and Apart
--Lecture with Prof. Krzysztof Kościelniak, head of Institute of Middle and Far Eastern Studies at Jagiellonian University
--Lecture with Dr. Łukasz Fyderek on the current refugee crisis in Poland
--Lecture with Zosia Radzikowska, Holocaust survivor from Poland

Cultural Schedule
--Walking tour of Kazimierz with Dr. Edyta Gawron
--Meeting with Jonathan Ornstein and/or Anna Gulińska at the Jewish Community Center, Krakow
--Activity with Gimel, the Jewish Student’s Club in Krakow
--Meeting with German Volunteers who staff the Jewish Cultural Center
--Meeting with Mr. Lesh, owner of the “Only Jewish bookshop in Poland”
--Tour Galicia Museum in Krakow

**Oswiecim, Thursday June 2-Sunday June 5**

**Readings**
--Otto Dov Kulka, *Landscapes of the Metropolis of Death*.
--Selections from Elie Wiesel, *Night*.
--Christopher Browning, “The Euphoria of Victory and the Final Solution.”

**Academic Schedule**
--Lecture with Dr. Sarah Cramsey, Program Leader
--Discussion section with Ula Madej-Krupitski and Sarah Cramsey on *Landscape of the Metropolis of Death*
--One full day visiting Auschwitz-Birkenau
--One full day working with experts at A-B who work with school children on tolerance exercises

**Cultural Schedule**
--One morning touring the Auschwitz Jewish Center in Oswiecim and the town
--Meeting with leaders at the Youth Hostel in Auschwitz
--Movie: *Ida*

**Olomouc, Sunday June 5**

**Academic Schedule**
--Walking tour of Olomouc
--Lecture at Masayrk University with Daniel Soukop, expert on medieval Czech religious history

**Prague, Sunday June 5-Wednesday June 15**

**Readings**
--Krista Hegburg, “Talking Nicely”: The bio-politics of social work in the Ostrava Roma Community” and selections from *Aftermath: Accounting for the Holocaust in the Czech Republic*.
--Selections from Sarah Cramsey *Uncertain Citizenship: Jewish Belonging and the Ethnic Revolution in Poland and Czechoslovakia*.
--Selections from Vera Sokolova, “Cultural Politics of Ethnicity: Discourses on Roma in Communist Czechoslovakia (Verlag 2008).
--Chad Bryant, “Either German or Czech: Fixing Nationality in Bohemia and Moravia, 1939-1946.”
--Selections from Ilona Lackova, *A False Dawn: My Life as a Gypsy Woman in Slovakia*.
--Gertrud Hüwelmeier, “Mobile entrepreneurs : Transnational Vietnamese in the Czech Republic.”
--“European Refugee Crisis: A ‘Systematic’ Violation of Human Rights,” in *The Atlantic*.

**Academic Schedule**
--Lecture with Dr. Bill Eddleston expert on the history of European racism at Anglo-American University in Prague
--Lecture with Dr. Tara Zahra on the Habsburg Monarchy and its ethnic legacies
--Lecture with Dr. Krista Hegburg on Roma in Czechoslovakia
--Lecture with Dr. Sarah Cramsey on postwar expulsions
--Lecture with Kate Powers, Mgr. on bi-lingual education
--Meeting with representative from the Czech Minister of Interior Department of Minorities
--Meeting with volunteers from Roma non profit
--Discussion with filmmaker Jan Gebert on his movie concerning Roma politics
--Discussion with Ula Madej-Krupitski on film *Horem Padem*
--Lecture with Kamila Satrova, Mgr. on cultural sensitivities in the Czech republic
--Lecture on the Vietnamese minority in the Czech Republic (speaker TBD)
--Lecture on current Czech policies towards refugees (speaker TBD)

Cultural Schedule
--Day long tour of the Jewish town of Prague/Jewish Museum in Prague
--Tour of Sapa, the Vietnamese Town in Prague
--Visit to the Czech borderlands to visit a Roma town
--Visit to the National Gallery of the Czech Republic
--Visit to Drahonice, detention center for refugees
--Meeting with students in the Cultural Studies Department at Charles University
--Meeting with Czech nonprofits that facilitate Vietnamese and Roma integration
--Movie: *Horem Padem*
--Movie: *Stone Games*

Frankfurt (Oder), Wednesday June 15-Sunday June 19

Readings
--Selections from Gregor Thum, *Uprooted: How Breslau become Wroclaw in the Century of Expulsions.*
--Izabella Main, “Giving birth in Berlin: Reproductive experiences of Polish migrant women.”
--Selections from Emine Sevgi Ozdamar, *Mothertongue.*

Academic Schedule
--Lecture with Dr. Sarah Cramsey on the change of international norms that allowed ethnic cleansing
--Lecture with Dr. Mark Keck-Szajbel of the European University Viadrina on guest workers in east and west Germany during the communist era
--Lecture with Dr. Mark Keck-Szajbel and Dr. Sarah Cramsey on 1989
--Lecture on Gastarbeiter movement, 1950 onward (lecturer TBD)
--Discussion section with Ula Madej-Krupitski on Ozdamer’s *Mothertongue.*
--Walking tour of Slubice, Poland looking for traces of German heritage

Cultural Schedule
--Boat Cruise on the Oder River at sunset with German and Polish University students
--Movie: *My father: the Gastarbeiter*
--Movie: *The Lives of Others*
Berlin, Sunday June 19- Friday June 24

Readings
--Gerdien Jonker, “Imagining Islam: European encounters with the Muslim world through the lens of German textbooks.”
--Emine Sevgi Ozdamar, *The Bridge on the Golden Horn.*
--Michal Buchowski and Hana Cervinkova, On rethinking ethnography in Central Europe: Towards cosmopolitan anthropologies in the “peripheries.”
--Marek Pawlak, “Othering the self: National identity and social class in mobile lives.”
--Deniz Kandiyoti, “Islam, Gender and Citizenship: Uneasy Encounters in Europe.”
--Various articles from the *New York Times, The New Yorker* and *The Wall Street Journal* regarding German policies towards refugees

Academic Schedule
--Lecture with Dr. Sarah Cramsey on revisions to German citizenship laws in the 1990s
--Discussion section with Ula Madej-Krupitski on Ozdamar’s *The Bridge on the Golden Horn*
--Visit to the Center for Refugee and Migration Services in Berlin
--Visit to non-profit Refugees on Rails
--Visit to non-profit Give Something back to Berlin
--Visit with non-profit Contact and Consultation Center for Refugees and Migrants in Berlin-Kreuzberg
--Visit with Bill Glucroft of the Jewish non-profit Friends of Fraenkelufer
--Visit with a representative from the U.S. Embassy to discuss the refugee crisis (TBD)
--Visit to local mosque to speak with religious leaders (TBD)
--Final Lecture with Dr. Sarah Cramsey on the links between the past and present

Cultural Schedule
--Visit Jewish Museum in Berlin
--Cooking class with Uber Den Tellerrand Kochen (non-profit where refugees teach others recipes for a donation)
--Walking tour of Cold War Era Berlin
--Meeting with German University Students (TBD)
--Trip to smaller town to visit refugee settlement (TBD)