Boston College
Department of Slavic and Eastern Languages and Literatures
Department of Sociology

SL 280/ SC 280  Society and National Identity in the Balkans
Cultural Diversity

Fall 2013                      Professor Mariela Dakova
MWF 1 PM                      Office Hrs: Lyons 210E
Devlin 010                     M W F 12-1 PM
dakova@bc.edu

Course Description:
An overview of ethnic, cultural, and religious diversity among the peoples of the Balkans: Albanians, Bosnians, Bulgarians, Croats, Greeks, Jews, Macedonians, Serbs, Slovenes, Romanians, and Turks. It is a study of what constitutes the various parameters of identity: linguistic typologies, religious diversity (Catholicism, Orthodoxy, Islam), culture, and social class. Through documentaries and fiction, we will examine historical events and social developments that contributed to the rise and the fall of Balkan nations. We will analyze the origins of nationalism, the emergence of nation-states, and the reasons for conflicts and wars. We will also identify and illustrate some of the Balkan’s most important social and cultural achievements.

Required Books:
Course pack containing essential scholarly works in history, politics, and culture
Kazantzakis, Nikos. *Zorba the Greek* (Simon & Schuster)
Kaplan, Robert. *Balkan Ghosts* (Vintage Departures)
Ugresic, Dubravka. *The Culture of Lies* (Penn State Univ. Press)
Draculic, Slavenka. *How We Survived Communism and Even Laughed* (Harper Perennial)
Miroslav Penkov. *East of the West* (Farrar, Straus, and Giroux)

Evaluation:
35%  Mid-Term Exam
40%  Final Exam
15 %  Preparation and participation in all class discussions/ Readings for each class are assigned in this syllabus and specific questionnaires will be delivered. You are expected to come to class
always prepared and ready to discuss the relevant topics. Attendance is mandatory and will be considered one aspect of class preparation.

10% Research Project & Presentation Your topic could elaborate on a topic from this syllabus or could contribute otherwise to the themes of the designed study. Topic proposals are due for approval by September 28th.

**Academic Integrity:**

Please, be reminded of Boston College policy on class attendance and academic honesty (see the BC catalog)

Academic integrity is violated by any dishonest act which is committed in an academic context including, but not restricted to the following:

**Cheating** is the fraudulent or dishonest presentation of work. Cheating includes but is not limited to:

- the use or attempted use of unauthorized aids in examinations or other academic exercises submitted for evaluation;
- fabrication, falsification, or misrepresentation of data, results, sources for papers or reports
- falsification of papers, official records, or reports;
- copying from another student's work;
- actions that destroy or alter the work of another student;
- unauthorized cooperation in completing assignments or during an examination;
- the use of purchased essays or term papers, or of purchased preparatory research for such papers;
- submission of the same written work in more than one course without prior written approval from the instructors involved;
- dishonesty in requests for make-up exams, for extensions of deadlines for submitting papers, and in any other matter relating to a course.

**Plagiarism** is the act of taking the words, ideas, data, illustrations, or statements of another person or source, and presenting them as one's own. Each student is responsible for learning and using proper methods of paraphrasing and footnoting, quotation, and other forms of citation, to ensure that the original author, speaker, illustrator, or source of the material used is clearly acknowledged.

**Collusion** is defined as assistance or an attempt to assist another student in an act of academic dishonesty. Collusion is distinct from collaborative learning, which may be a valuable component of students' scholarly development. Acceptable levels of collaboration vary in different courses and students are expected to consult with their instructor if they are uncertain whether their cooperative activities are acceptable.
Topics, Mandatory Readings, and Presentations:

Sept 4 W  
Course content and organization.

Sept 6 F  
Ethnic, religious, and linguistic diversity in the Balkans  
Read: *Language as a factor of National Identity in the Balkans of the 19th century* (course pack, #8)

Sept 9 M  
Ancient Civilizations: Thracians, Illyrians, and Bulgarians.  
Slavic migrations and Slavic traditions  
Read: *Bulgaria: Crossroads of Civilizations* (course pack, articles 1a, 1b, 1c)

Sept 11 W  
Conversion to Christianity & Slavic Literary beginnings  
Read: *The Old Bulgarian (Slavonic) script* (course pack, 1 d)

Sept 13 F  
A journey through history and places: Croatia  
Read: Kaplan, *Balkan Ghosts, Croatia: "Just so they Could go to Heaven" & Croatia Redivava* (last article is in the course pack)

Sept 16 M  
A journey through history and places: Serbia  
Read: Kaplan, *Balkan Ghosts, Old Serbia and Albania.* & *The Serbs, History, Myth and the Destruction of Yugoslavia* (course pack, #2)

Sept 18 W  
Kaplan, continuation  
Read: *Kosovo: Between Co-existence and a Permanent Conflict*  
(course pack, article # 4.4 & #5)

Sept 20 F  
A journey through history and places: Macedonia  
Read: Kaplan, *Balkan Ghosts, Macedonia, a Hand Thirsting towards the Realm of the Stars* & *Prevelakis, The Return of the Macedonian Question* (course pack)

Sept 23 M  
A journey through history and places: Bulgaria.  
Read:  Kaplan, *Balkan Ghosts, Tales from Communist Byzantium*
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Read</th>
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<tr>
<td>Sept 25</td>
<td>W</td>
<td>Kaplan's journey through history and places: Romania</td>
<td>Read: <em>Romania, Latin passion play</em></td>
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<td>Sept 27</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>Continuation</td>
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<td>Sept 30</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>Ottoman conquest and system of rule</td>
<td>Read: <em>Andric, The Bridge on the Drina</em>, pp. 11-81 (chapters 1-5)</td>
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<td>Oct 2</td>
<td>W</td>
<td>Clashes between Islam and Christianity in the Balkans</td>
<td><em>The Bridge on the Drina</em> (chapters 6-9)</td>
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<td>Oct 4</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>Ottoman influences on Balkan life and culture. Preserving Christian identity.</td>
<td>Read Miroslav Penkov, <em>Devshirmeh</em>, (from <em>East of the West</em>)</td>
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<td>Oct 7</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>The role of the Habsburg and the Ottoman Empires in reinforcing general lines of distinction among Balkan peoples.</td>
<td><em>The Bridge on the Drina</em> (Chapters 10-14)</td>
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<td>Oct 11</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>The Establishment of the Balkan national states</td>
<td>The Eastern Question and the Balkan wars of 1912-1914 Read: <em>The Bridge on the Drina</em> (chapters 17-24) &amp; <em>Makedonia</em>, (from <em>East of the West</em>)</td>
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<td>Oct 14</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>Columbus Day, no classes</td>
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<td>Oct 16</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>Summary</td>
<td>Read: Miroslav Penkov, <em>East of the West</em> from the book <em>East of the West</em></td>
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<td>Oct 18</td>
<td>F</td>
<td>Review</td>
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<td>Oct 21</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>Mid Term Exam</td>
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<td>Date</td>
<td>Topic</td>
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<td>Oct 23 W</td>
<td>Communism, Balkan style</td>
<td>Draculich, <em>How we Survived Communism and Even Laughed: On Doing Laundry &amp; A Communist Eye, or What did I see in New York</em></td>
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<td>Oct 25 F</td>
<td>Society of no trust</td>
<td>Draculich, <em>How we Survived Communism and Even Laughed: A Chat with My Censor</em></td>
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<td><em>My First Midnight Mass</em></td>
<td><em>How We Survived Communism</em></td>
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<td>Oct 28 M</td>
<td>Tito's Yugoslavia: one language, one nation, one state</td>
<td>Ugreshich, <em>Culture of Lies: Dark Beginning &amp; My First Primer</em></td>
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<td>Oct 30 W</td>
<td>Yugoslavia-- Death of a Nation: Serbs &amp; Croats.</td>
<td>View and discuss Episode 3 of &quot;Death of a nation&quot;</td>
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<td>Nov 1 F</td>
<td>Fragments from the other side of the war</td>
<td>Slavenka Drakulich, <em>Balkan Express</em> (course pack, # 9.1, 9.2, 9.3, and 9.4)*</td>
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<td>Nov 4 M</td>
<td>Continuation</td>
<td>The wars in and for Bosnia</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov 6 W</td>
<td>The wars in and for Bosnia.</td>
<td>Islam and Bosnian Muslim Nation (course pack, # 4.1) &amp;</td>
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<td><em>Territories with mixed populations: Are they good or bad for peace?</em></td>
<td><em>Enclaves and ethnic tolerance</em> (course pack, # 3)*</td>
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<td>Nov 8 F</td>
<td>Why the war?</td>
<td>Ugreshich, <em>The Culture of Lies: Culture of Lies &amp; Life as a Soap Opera</em></td>
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<tr>
<td>Nov 11 M</td>
<td>Continuation</td>
<td>Ugreshich, <em>The Culture of Lies: Because We were Just Boys</em></td>
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Nov 13 W  The Balkans: from discovery to inventions  
Read: Milica Bakic-Hyden, Nesting Orientalisms & D. Ugreshich, Nice People don't Mention Such Things

Nov 15 F  West meets East in Zorba the Greek.  
Read: Zorba, pp 3-103 (chapter 1-8)

Nov 18 M  Movie scenes and class discussion  
READ Zorba, pp 104-305 (chapter 9-25)

Nov 20 W  Is Zorba the Balkan prototype?

Nov 22-25 F-M  Movie scenes and discussion: Zorba, an everyman with a Greek accent?  
Read: Kaplan, Greece - Western Mistress Eastern Bride & Ugreshich, Nice people don’t mention such things

Nov 27-29  Thanksgiving Holidays – no classes

Dec 2 M-9M  Class presentations

Dec 11 W  Review& Preparation for the Final Exam

Dec 20 F  9AM  Final Exam