

**Boston College**

**Department of Slavic and Eastern Languages**

**SL 280/ SC 280 Society and National Identity in the Balkans**

**Cultural Diversity**

**Spring 2008**

MWF 1 PM

Devlin 218

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Lyons 210, M & W 2-3 PM

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**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). Through documentaries and fiction, we will examine historical events and social developments that contributed to the rise and the fall of these nations. We will analyze the origins of nationalism, the emergence of nation-states, the ethnic conflicts and wars, as well as the regional achievements and contributions to the world culture.

**Required Books:**

*Course pack* containing essential scholarly works in history, politics, and culture

Andric, Ivo. *The Bridge on the Drina* (University of Chicago Press)

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)

**Evaluation:**

35% Mid-Term Exam

40% Final Exam

10 % 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.

15% Research Project & Presentation, i.e. a personal contribution on a topic that complements these suggested in the syllabus.

## **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.

- Jan 14 M Course content and organization.
- Jan 16 W Ethnic, religious, and linguistic diversity in the Balkans.  
Read: *Language as a factor of National Identity in the Balkans of the 19<sup>th</sup> century* (course pack, # 8)
- Jan 18 F Ancient Civilizations: Thracians, Illyrians, and Bulgarians.  
Slavic migrations and Slavic traditions.  
Read: *Bulgaria: Crossroads of Civilizations* (course pack, articles 1a, 1b, 1c)
- Jan 21 M Martin Luther King Day – no classes**
- Jan 23 W Conversion to Christianity & Slavic Literary beginnings.  
Read: *The Old Bulgarian (Slavonic) script* (course pack, 1 d))
- Jan 25 F A journey through history and places: Croatia  
Read: Kaplan, *Balkan Ghosts, Croatia: "Just so they Could go to Heaven"* & the article *Croatia Redivava* (course pack)
- Jan 28 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)
- Jan 30 W Kaplan, continuation  
Read: *Kosovo: Between Co-existence and a Permanent Conflict* (course pack, article # 4.4 & #5)
- Feb 1 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)

- Feb 4 M A journey through history and places: Bulgaria.  
Read: Kaplan, ***Balkan Ghosts, Tales from Communist Byzantium***
- Feb 6 W Kaplan's journey through history and places: Romania  
Read: ***Romania, Latin passion play***
- Feb 8 F Continuation
- Feb 11 M The Ottoman conquest and system of rule.  
Read: **Andric, *The Bridge on the Drina* , pp. 11-81** (chapters I-V)
- Feb 13 W Clashes between Islam and Christianity in the Balkans  
***The Bridge on the Drina*** (chapters 6 – 9)
- Feb 15 F Ottoman influences on Balkan life and culture/ Balkan folklore and liberation/ Preserving Christian identity.
- Feb 18 M The roles of the Habsburg and the Ottoman Empires in reinforcing general lines of distinction among Balkan peoples.  
***The Bridge on the Drina*** (chapters 10-14)
- Feb 20 W The rise of nationalism and revolutions.  
***The Bridge on the Drina (pp 214-end, chapters 18 &19)***  
Read: **Will Monroe, *Liberation of Bulgaria*** (course pack, #7) &  
**Botev, “A prayer” & “Hadji Dimitar”**
- Feb 22 F The Establishment of the Balkan national states.  
The Eastern Question and the Balkan wars of 1912-1914.  
***The Bridge on the Drina*** (chapters 17-24)
- Feb 25 M Continuation  
Read: **Will Monroe: *Letters from the Balkan wars***
- Feb 27 W **Review**
- Feb 29 F Mid Term Exam**

- Mar 3-7**                      **Spring Break**
- Mar 10 M                      Communism, Balkan style.  
Read: Draculich, ***How we Survived Communism and Even Laughed: On Doing Laundry & A Communist Eye, or What did I see in New York***
- Mar 12 W                      Society of no trust.  
Read: **Draculich**, ***How we Survived Communism and Even Laughed: A Chat with my Censor***  
***My First Midnight Mass***  
***How We Survived Communism***
- Mar 14 F                      Tito's Yugoslavia: one language, one nation, one state  
Read: **Ugreshich**, ***Culture of Lies: Dark Beginning & My First Primer***
- Mar 17 M                      Yugoslavia: Death of a nation: Serbs & Croats
- Mar 19 W                      Episode 3 "Death of a nation"
- March 20-24**                      **EASTER BREAK**
- Mar 26 W                      Fragments from the other side of the war  
Read: **Slavenka Drakulich**, ***Balkan Express*** (course pack, # 9.1, 9.2, 9.3, and 9.4)
- Mar 28 F                      Bosnia.  
Read: ***Islam and Bosnian Muslim Nation*** (course pack, # 4.1) & ***Territories with mixed populations: Are they good or bad for peace? Enclaves and ethnic tolerance*** (course pack, # 3)
- Mar 31 M                      Yugoslavia: Death of a nation - Episode 5.
- April 2 W                      Why did they go to a war?  
READ: **Ugreshich**, ***The Culture of Lies : Culture of Lies & Life as a Soap Opera***

April 4 F	Continuation READ: Ugreshich, <i>The Culture of Lies: Because We were Just Boys</i>
Apr 7 M	View “No Man's Land”
Apr 9 W	The Balkans: from discovery to inventions Discuss “No Man's Land”
Apr 11 F	The Balkans: from discovery to inventions Read: <b>Milica Bakic-Hyden, <i>Nesting Orientalisms &amp; D. Ugreshich, <i>Nice People don't Mention Such Things</i></i></b>
Apr 14 M	West meets East in <i>Zorba the Greek</i> . READ <i>Zorba</i> , pp 3-103 (chapter 1-8)
Apr 16 W	Movie READ <i>Zorba</i> , pp 104-305 (chapter 9-25)
Apr 18 F	Zorba: The Balkan prototype?
<b>Apr 21 M</b>	<b>Patriots Day- no classes</b>
Apr 23 W	Movie. Zorba, everyman with a Greek accent? Read: Kaplan, <i>Greece - Western Mistress Eastern Bride</i>
Apr 25 F	What this class did not discuss: Personal contributions to complement the topics in the syllabus
Apr 28 M	What this class did not discuss: Personal contributions to complement the topics in the syllabus
Apr 30 W	What this class did not discuss: Personal contributions to complement the topics in the syllabus
<b>May 10 Sat</b>	<b>12:30 Final Exam</b>

