



## **Symbolic Geography, Contested Identities and Mass Violence: Ukrainian History in European Contexts**

Central European University / Invisible University for Ukraine

Spring Term

Elective Course – 4 ECTS credits

Coordinator: Vladimir Petrovic, Democracy Institute, Central European University

### **Learning Outcomes:**

The program offers an **intensive learning experience**, placing questions relevant for Ukrainian students into a **transnational comparative perspective**. It aims at familiarizing the students with various cutting-edge interpretative paradigms and methodological traditions. The program is **not meant to replace or duplicate the existing online education** in Ukrainian universities, but to support them and provide help for filling the lacunae that temporarily emerged due to the Russian military invasion. At the end of this course, students will have expanded their knowledge on key issues of Ukrainian history in a European transnational context.

This course seeks to situate **Ukrainian history in multiple comparative and transnational frameworks**. It explores the past and the present of the board of the European continent frequently described as liminal. It examines the perceptions of Central and Eastern Europe, regions whose importance for the European historical experience is evident, yet poorly understood. By thematizing symbolic geography, the course investigates the construction and deconstruction of European mental maps and their limitations. It provides methodological reflection to place the overlapping and competing national historiographical canons into context. Reflecting on the imperial heritages and borderland experiences, it also creates spaces for better understanding of the complex process of formation of collective identities and the role that mass violence played and unfortunately still plays in this part of the world.

### **Learning activities and teaching methods:**

This course consists of two components: a lecture and a public discussion. The lecture will be in English and will focus on key scholarly issues linking the Ukrainian and transnational themes. It can also take the form of a dialogue or a mini-roundtable involving multiple scholars. In order to facilitate participation, students will also get a short English-language reading on the topic, as well as a larger pool of readings which they can use in their future academic work as well. The open discussion will focus on the lecture and the reading, as well as the thematic questions of the students related to the broader topics of the class. The classes are offered in a **hybrid format** (online teaching with a possibility of campus presence for those students who are in Budapest).

## Assessment:

This course is taken for a pass/fail grade. Passing the course means that the students have participated in the classes actively. For those students whose conditions make it impossible to listen to the classes synchronically, an asynchronic mode will be made available, with the lectures uploaded and questions they are asked to answer on the basis of watching/listening to the lecture.

The program is taught by prominent scholars linked to the Central European University (including members of its faculty, as well as researchers of CEU Democracy Institute and the Open Society Archives), international partners, as well as Ukrainian and Polish partner institutions. The additional smaller groups meetings will be conducted by the international team of CEU PhD students who volunteered to take part in the program as a sign of academic solidarity with Ukrainian students.

The program **categorically excludes any cooperation with scholars having current affiliation with any Russian state institutions** or anyone supporting the Russian aggression. Some prominent Russian colleagues who protested against the Russian invasion in Ukraine, gave up their position, and emigrated, after being targeted by the authorities for their critical stance, will also contribute to co-teaching some of the classes. Also, some current CEU PhD students of Russian background who publicly condemned Russian invasion in Ukraine will take part in the additional small group seminars.

Lectures will be at 5 P.M. CET in the digital classroom. Outside the lectures, please use this Zoom Room at your disposal to meet and discuss when you want to:

<https://ceu-edu.zoom.us/j/95486691899?pwd=MVBUQUZjSkh4b204a1pUc2VpMnIxUT09>

Code: 283278

Meeting ID: 954 8669 1899

## CLASS TOPICS

- [Module 1. Symbolic Geography: shared spaces – contested places](#)

## Recommended readings for Module 1: (Not mandatory!)

Jürgen Kocka, "Asymmetrical Historical Comparison: The Case of the German Sonderweg,". *History and Theory* 38 (1999), 40-51.

Laszló Kontler (1999) Introduction: Reflections on Symbolic Geography, *European Review of History: Revue européenne d'histoire*, 6:1, 9-14,

Ostap Sereda, I my v Evropi ! / We are also in Europe! (...for real?), in: *East Central Europe* , vol.41 2014, 112-118.

Mishkova Diana, Trencsényi Balázs: Conceptualizing Spaces within Europe: The Case of Meso-Regions, In: Steinmetz, W; Freedon, M; Fernández-Sebastián, J (ed.) *Conceptual History in the European Space*, Berghahn Books (2017) pp. 212-235.

Stefan Troebst "Historical Meso-Region": A Concept in Cultural Studies and Historiography (2012) <http://ieg-ego.eu/en/threads/theories-and-methods/historical-meso-region>

Franz Leander Fillafer, "Whose Enlightenment?", in *Austrian History Yearbook* 48 (2017), 111-25

- [Ostap Sereda, I my v Evropi ! / We are also in Europe! \(...for real?\), in: East Central Europe , vol.41 2014, 112-118.](#)Single File Uploaded 22/04/22, 23:19
- [Franz Fillafer, Whose Enlightenment?](#)Single File Uploaded 22/04/22, 23:17
- [Debate on Ukrainian \(and East European\) Studies Now](#)Link
- [kocka sonderweg](#)Single File Uploaded 24/04/22, 15:53
- [Kontler\\_Reflections on Symbolic Geography](#)Single File Uploaded 26/04/22, 11:46
- [Mishkova Diana, Trencsényi Balázs, Conceptualizing Spaces within Europe](#)Single File Uploaded 28/04/22, 00:09
- [Class 1 \(April 28\): Mental maps and meso-regions in intellectual traditions](#)

[Mental maps and meso-regions in intellectual traditions](#)

[Soundfile: Mental maps and meso-regions in intellectual traditions](#) Password: IUFU2022

**Instructors: Ostap Sereda, Balazs Trencsenyi and Vladimir Petrovic**

Reading:

[Frithjof Benjamin Schenk, Mental Maps: The Cognitive Mapping of the Continent as an Object of Research of European History, 2013](#)

Optional readings:

- [Benedict Anderson, Imagined communitiesSingle File](#) Uploaded 28/04/22, 20:12
- [Edward Said, OrientalismSingle File](#) Uploaded 28/04/22, 23:45
- [Class 2 \(May 3\): Scaling European regions – Galicia, Ukraine, Eastern Europe](#)

**Instructor: Larry Wolff, in dialogue with László Kontler**

Reading:

Larry Wolff. *Inventing Eastern Europe: The Map of Civilization on the Mind of the Enlightenment*. Stanford, Calif.: Stanford University Press, 1994, 17-25, 89-94, 305-315.

- [Wolff\\_Inventing Eastern EuropeSingle File](#) Uploaded 26/04/22, 11:44
- [Class 3 \(May 5\): Longue durée continuities of symbolic geographical scales, discourses and hierarchies – from Orientalism to Sonderweg narratives: "Contact zone": is the concept applicable to Ukrainian situation?](#)

**Instructors: Kateryna Dysa and Maciej Janowski**

Reading:

Maciej Janowski, 2015. “‘Multiple Sonderwegs’ : The Specificity of Historical Development of East Central Europe in the Nineteenth and Twentieth Century (Introductory Remarks).” *Acta Poloniae historica* 111(111): 5-27

Recommended readings:

Pratt, Mary Louise. "Arts of the Contact Zone," *Profession* 91 (1991): 33–40.

Schmid, Ulrich. "Contact Zone vs. Postcolonial Condition: On the Relevance of a Concept from Latin American Studies for Research on Ukraine." In Achilli, Alessandro; Yekelchik, Serhy & Yesypenko, Dmytro (ed.): *Cossacks in Jamaica, Ukraine at the Antipodes*. Brookline : Academic Studies Press, 2020, p. 554-571.

- [Janowski-2015-Acta Poloniae HistoricaSingle File](#) Uploaded 22/04/22, 23:24
- [Module 2: Contested Identities: Empires and Borderlands, Collective Memory](#)

### **Recommended readings for Module 2: (Not mandatory!)**

Aleida Assmann, [Memory, individual and collective](#) In Robert E. Goodin & Charles Tilly (eds.), *The Oxford Handbook of Contextual Political Analysis*. Oxford University Press 2006, 210--24

[Andreas Kappeler, Ukraine and Russia: Legacies of the imperial past and competing memories, Journal of Eurasian Studies, Volume 5, Issue 2, July 2014, Pages 107-115](#)

[Gerasimov, Ilya; Sergey Glebov, and Marina Mogilner, "Hybridity: Marrism and the Problem of Language of the Imperial Situation," \*Ab Imperio\*1 \(2016\): 27-68.](#)

Palm, Daniel, Being in Kyiv in 2014, in: *Seizing the Square*, De Gruyter, 2020, pp. 190 - 208.

Sindbæk Andersen, Tea and Barbara Törnquist-Plewa.. *Disputed Memory: Emotions and Memory Politics in Central, Eastern and South-Eastern Europe* deGruyter. 2016 (selection)

Sonntag, Susan. *Regarding the Pain of Others*. New York: MacMillan, 2004.

Tetiana Hoshko, The Jagiellonians in Ukrainian tradition, in: Remembering the Jagiellonians', ed. by Natalia Nowakowska, Routledge 2018, pp. 183-204.

Blinken OSA Digital Repository: <https://www.osaarchivum.org/digital-repository>

Blinken OSA Curated Collections: <https://www.osaarchivum.org/curated-collections>

- [Class 4 \(May 12\) How many borderlands, where are the frontiers?](#)

**Instructors: Ostap Sereda and Börries Kuzmany**

[Serhii Plokyh, The Frontline: Essays on Ukraine's Past and Present, Harvard University Press 2021](#) (selection)

[Class 5 \(May 19\). Imperial heritages – transnational historiographical overview](#)

**Instructors: Maciej Janowski, Alexander Semyonov, Volodymyr Sklokin**

**Reading:**

Ilya Gerasimov, Sergey Glebov, Alexander Kaplunovski, Jan Kusber, Marina Mogilner, and Alexander Semyonov, “New Imperial History and the Challenges of Empire,” in: Ilya Gerasimov, Jan Kusber, and Alexander Semyonov, eds., *Empire Speaks Out: Languages of Rationalization and Self-Description in The Russian Empire* (Leiden: Brill, 2009), 1-32.

- [Empire Speaks Out](#) Uploaded 19/04/22, 15:24

This weeks reading

- [Class 6 \(May 26\): New Soviet man/woman and nation-building](#)

**Instructors: Serhii Yekelchyk, Oksana Yurkova, Michal Kopecek**

**Readings: TBD**

- [Class 7 \(June 2\): Ukraine in European Politics of Memory](#)

**Instructors: Marci Shore /in dialogue with Viktoria Sereda and Volodymyr Sklokin**

Oxana Shevel, No Way Out? Post-Soviet Ukraine's Memory Wars in Comparative Perspective, in: *Beyond the Euromaidan: Comparative Perspectives on Advancing Reform in Ukraine*, ed. by Henry Halle and Robert Orttung. Stanford 2016, pp. 21-40.

- [Module 3. Mass Violence and Modernity: Overcoming the Past – Preparing for the Future](#)

**Recommended readings for Module 3: (Not mandatory!)**

Lavinia Stan, Nadya Nedelsky, *Post-communist transitional justice : lessons from twenty-five years of experience* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2015)

Timothy Snyder, *Bloodlands. Europe Between Hitler and Stalin*, New York, Basic books 2010 (selection)

Mark Mazower, *Dark Continent Dark Continent: Europe's Twentieth Century*, Vintage 2000 (selection)

Bell, Wilson T. Sex, Pregnancy, and Power in the Late Stalinist Gulag, in: *Journal of the History of Sexuality* 24, no. 2 (May 2015): 198–224

Mattingly, Daria. [Extra]Ordinary Women: Female Perpetrators of the Holodomor, in: *Women and the Holodomor Genocide: Victims, Survivors, Perpetrators*, ed. by Victoria A. Malko. Fresno, CA: The Press at the California State University, Fresno, 2019, pp. 33-49

- ["Red Famine: Stalin's War on Ukraine" by Anne Applebaum](#)[Link](#)
- [Iryna Vushko, Historians at war. History Politics and Memory in Ukraine](#)[Single File](#) Uploaded 24/04/22, 10:11
- [Class 8 \(June 9\): Mass Violence as Ukrainian, European and Global experience](#)

**Instructors: Norman Naimark, Oksana Kis**

Readings: Norman M. Naimark *Stalin's Genocides*, (Princeton, NJ: Princeton U.P., 2010 (selection)

Oksana Kis. Women's Experience of the Holodomor: Challenges and Ambiguities of Motherhood, *Journal of Genocide Research*, 2021, Vol. 23 (4), 527-546



- [Class 9 \(June 16\): Feminism during socialism and postsocialism](#)

**Instructors: Oksana Kis and Zsofia Lorand**

Barbara Einhorn (1993). An Allergy to Feminism: Women's Movement before and after 1989. Barbara Einhorn. Cinderella Goes to Market. Citizenship, Gender and Women's Movement in East Central Europe. New York: Verso, 182-215

Celia Donert, 'Women's Rights in Postwar Europe: Disentangling Feminist Histories', Past and Present (Supplement 8), 218 (2013), 180-202.

- [Class 10 \(June 23\): Science and Destruction: War and Technology in Ukraine](#)

**Instructors: Alexander Dmitriev, Karl Hall, Anna Veronika Wendland**

Readings:

Ukrainian Memory Spaces and Nuclear Technology: The Musealization of Chernobyl's Disaster,  
in: Technology and Culture, 61 (2020) Nr.4, October 2020, 1162-1177

- [Class 11 \(June 30\): Overcoming the past](#)

**Instructors: Yaroslav Hrytsak, Joachim von Puttkamer, István Rév**

Reading: Istvan Rev, Retroactive Justice: Prehistory of Post-Communism, Stanford University Press 2006

- [Class 12 \(July 07\): Concluding class: The future of our common pasts](#)

**Additional Resources:**

Fedor, Julie (ed). War and Memory in Russia, Ukraine and Belarus, London:Palgrave Macmillan, 2017 (selection)

Barbieri, Jaroslava & Applebaum, Anne & Pomerantsev, Peter & Gaston, Sophia & Montague, Maria & Gumenyuk, Nataliya & Oliinyk, Anna & Lemishka, Oksana &

Hrytsak, Yaroslav. (2020). "From "Memory Wars" to a Common Future: Overcoming Polarisation in Ukraine" ..

Barbara Törnquist-Plewa (dir.): *Whose Memory? Which Future? Remembering Ethnic Cleansing and Lost Cultural Diversity in Eastern, Central and Southeastern Europe* (selection)

Jérôme Monnet, « The symbolism of place: a geography of relationships between space, power and identity », *Cybergeo: European Journal of Geography Political, Cultural and Cognitive Geography*, 2011, connection on 02 April 2022. URL : <http://journals.openedition.org/cybergeo/24747>

Stefan Troebst "Historical Meso-Region": A Concept in Cultural Studies and Historiography (2012) <http://ieg-ego.eu/en/threads/theories-and-methods/historical-meso-region>

Maxwell, Alexander (ed.) *The East-West Discourse*. Oxford, United Kingdom: Peter Lang Verlag. (2021)

Stephen Holmes, Ivan Krastev *Explaining eastern Europe. Imitation and its discontents*  
<https://www.eurozine.com/explaining-eastern-europe/>

P. H. Liotta, *Imagining Europe: Symbolic Geography and the Future*, *Mediterranean Quarterly*, Volume 16, Number 3, Summer 2005, pp. 67-85

Lavinia Stan, Nadya Nedelsky, *Post-communist transitional justice : lessons from twenty-five years of experience* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2015)

Anne Lounsbury, *Life is Elsewhere: Symbolic Geography in the Russian Provinces* Cornell University Press, 2019.

Weiss-Wendt, Anton. 2021. *Putin's Russia and the Falsification of History*. London: Bloomsbury.

Pal Kolsto *New Russian Nationalism: Imperialism, Ethnicity and Authoritarianism 2000-2015*

Koposov, Nikolay. 2018. *Memory Laws, Memory Wars. The Politics of the Past in Europe and Russia*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press

Uilleam Blacker, Alexandr Etkin, and Julie Fedor (ed.) 2013. *Memory and Theory in Eastern Europe*. London: Palgrave Macmillan.

Spiridon, Monica. "Identity Discourses on Borders in Eastern Europe." *Comparative Literature* 58, no. 4 (2006): 376–86.

Catherine Gibson, Geographies of Nationhood, Cartography, Science, and Society in the Russian Imperial Baltic, (not yet out)

Mark von

Hagen [https://shron1.chtyvo.org.ua/Mark\\_von\\_Hagen/Does\\_Ukraine\\_Have\\_a\\_History7\\_en.pdf?PHPSESSID=4dpa1a1o5h064op2f73dqshsn2](https://shron1.chtyvo.org.ua/Mark_von_Hagen/Does_Ukraine_Have_a_History7_en.pdf?PHPSESSID=4dpa1a1o5h064op2f73dqshsn2)

Alfred Rieber, The Struggle for the Eurasian Borderlands. From the Rise of Early Modern Empires to the End of the First World War, Cambridge University Press, 2014.

Primary sources:

<https://www.cvce.eu/en/recherche/unit-content/-/unit/a2289788-74b2-4faa-82ee-ec60e17523da/3fbb2267-cad7-498b-a95a-770e782639f8/Resources>

Virtual Permanent exhibition of the House of European History <https://historia-europa.ep.eu/en/permanent-exhibition>