Introduction to Slavic Studies

Prof. Petko Ivanov
SLA 105: Introduction to Slavic Studies

Fall 2014, Monday/Wednesday 7:00-8:45 PM
Location: Blaustein 208

Instructor: Petko Ivanov
Blaustein 330, x5449, pivanov@conncoll.edu
Office hours M/W 1:30-2:30 and by appointment

Course Description

The existence of “Slavic identity” in the contemporary world seems to be taken as self-evident both on the level of international politics and as an institutionalized field of knowledge (viz. Slavic Departments). Yet the very concept of Slavicness is inherently problematic. Objectively, the only feature that binds all Slavs together is linguistic – the common genealogy and the present similarities of their languages. Slavdom is further legitimized by an extension of the language phenomenon to other domains, above all the transformation of “Slavic” from a linguistic to an ethno-cultural category. The leading role in this transformation was played by Slavic Studies – the principal site of producing and negotiating Slavic identities.
This interdisciplinary course examines the interplay of linguistic, religious and (pan-) nationalist ideologies in the making of the Slavs. The principal questions we are going to discuss are: In what way are the Slavic nation-states “Slavic,” and to what degree do their citizens identify – or feel compelled to identify – with the Slavic component of their corresponding national affiliations? How effective is the Slavic identification vis-à-vis alternative loyalties and concurrent commitments? How many competing Slavic identities based on Slavdom’s shifting internal and external “fault lines” have been produced and politically instrumentalized on a local, regional or global scale? Most importantly, what is the epistemological level on which Slavic identities can be made empirically observable and ethnographically describable?

The course draws on a variety of media (scholarly texts, film, fiction, political cartoons, medieval chronicles) to introduce students to the history of Slavic Studies and the cultures of Eastern Europe. Although we will discuss all of the Slavic cultures at various points throughout the semester, we will focus on three (one “new” and two former) countries – Ukraine, Czechoslovakia, and Yugoslavia – to more closely examine their development as representatives of East, West, and South Slavic peoples, sampling in the process the dynamics of the integrative/separatist tendencies among the Slavs. Two “contested” Slavic nations will be the focus of separate sessions – the Macedonians and the Rusyns. We will also discuss non-Slavic peoples (e.g., Jews, Roma, Turks, Hungarians) whose history is closely related to that of the Slavs. Other topics to be addressed are: the political divide between East and West; empires and colonized peoples; religious traditions; the rise of national cultures; insurrections and revolutions; communist regimes; and the political aftermath following the fall of the Soviet Union.

**Course Materials**

All texts and materials for this course (academic articles, book chapters, links to video clips, pictorial objects, discussion board, etc.) are available through the course Moodle site (http://moodle.conncoll.edu) which you should visit frequently as the week’s readings will be posted there. Be advised of the resources of the Language and Culture Center on the 1st floor of Blaustein, where video materials for this course are held on reserve.

Four films will be screened (Tuesdays, LCC, 7:00 PM) and discussed during the semester. The films are selected as representative for countries or peoples (Poland, Bulgaria, Serbia and the Romani nation) that are not addressed in separate class sessions.

*Ida* (Poland, dir. Pawel Pawlikowski, 2013)
*Cabaret Balkan* (Serbia, dir. Goran Paskaljević, 1998)
*Time of the Gypsies* (Yugoslavia, dir. Emir Kusturica, 1988)

All readings must be completed and all films must be viewed by the date under which they are listed.
Writing Assignments, Grading, and Final Exam

There will be three 3-page writing assignments for this course, to be completed in the 5th, 9th and 14th weeks of classes. Each student is expected to deliver a 10-minute in-class presentation on a topic chosen in consultation with me. Attendance in class is mandatory. Participation in class discussion is crucial and will count heavily toward your final grade, which will be earned as a composite of your performance in the following areas:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Written assignments</th>
<th>40%</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Participation in class</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In-class presentation</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quizzes (including culinary)</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Resources

The Language and Culture Center (LCC) is located on the first floor of Blaustein, across from Ernst Common Room. The LCC supports students of foreign languages by providing access to international magazines and films, dictionaries, books on language learning and foreign cultures, and online resources. The LCC has comfortable media viewing lounges equipped with multiregional DVD players and VCRs, a booth for recording audio and practicing pronunciation and speaking, and computers for individual study or group work. LCC staff is comprised of speakers and students of foreign languages who host drop-in conversation practice and special cultural events. If you are looking for a particular language-related resource, assistance with language learning technology, or information on supplementing your language study with out-of-class practice, please stop by the Blaustein 102 and talk to Laura Little, who manages the center. She can also be reached at laura.little@conncoll.edu.

LCC Fall 2014 Hours
Monday - Thursday: 10 a.m. - midnight
Friday - Saturday: 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Sunday: 2 p.m. - midnight

The Roth Writing Center provides one-to-one peer tutoring (free of charge) to help student writers of all abilities during all stages of the writing process. To make an appointment, call 860-439-2173 or stop by the Writing Center at 214 Blaustein. If you’re a confident, experienced writer we can help you to push your ideas and polish your style; if you’re a relatively inexperienced and not-so-confident writer we can also help you, by working on grammar or organization or whatever you need. Writing Center tutors are trained to help you to discover what you think through writing. Working with a tutor gives you the opportunity to share your work-in-progress with an actual reader, so that you can get useful feedback on that work before you have to turn it in for a final grade. For further information, visit the Writing Center web page at http://write.conncoll.edu/.
The Academic Resource Center (ARC) offers services to support your academic work such as study skills workshops, time management, coaching and tutoring. Our offices are located in Main Street West, The Plex. Please visit us or call 860-439-5294 for more information or to schedule an appointment.

Office of Student Accessibility Services. If you have a physical, mental or learning disability, either hidden or visible, which may require classroom, test-taking, or other reasonable modifications, please see me as soon as possible. If you have not already done so, please be sure to register with the Office of Student Accessibility Services. You can do so by going to the Office of Student Accessibility Services, which is located in Crozier Williams, Room 221, or by contacting the Office at 860-439-5240 or 860-439-5428, or by email to barbara.mcllarky@conncoll.edu or lillian.liebenthal@conncoll.edu.

Office Hours and Advising. Office hours will be held in Blaustein 330 on Mondays and Wednesdays from 1:30-2:30 or by appointment. Sign-up sheets will be posted on my door, and I will see students on a first-come-first-serve basis. Questions or concerns addressed via e-mail will be answered within 24 hours of receiving your message.

A pictorial history of the ancient Slavs according to native (on the left) and foreign (on the right) historians (Slawomir Mrozek, 1957)
Class Schedule

WEEK I
Meet the Slavs: Geographies of Identity

Sept. 3  Introduction to the Course
Optional:  Philip Lozinski “The Name Slav” (1964)
Albert Mousset “The World of the Slavs” (1950) (Intro)
Katherine Verdery “What’s in a Name, and Should We Change Ours?” (2006)

WEEK II
Inventing Eastern Europe

Sept. 8  Where is Eastern Europe?
Readings:  *Larry Wolff “Inventing Eastern Europe” (1994) (Intro; Chs. 2-3)
Optional:  Jenö Szűcs “The Three Historical Regions of Europe: An Outline” (1988)
Oskar Halecki “The Limits & Divisions of European History” (1950) (pp.105-41)
Oskar Halecki “Borderlands of Western Civilization” (1980) (pp. 9-47)
Jan Patočka “Plato and Europe” (1975) (Ch. 1, pp. 1-14)

Sept. 10  Europe’s Fault Lines
Readings:  *Larry Wolff “Inventing Eastern Europe” (1994) (Ch. 7; Conclusions)
*Winston Churchill “The Sinews of Peace” (1946)
Optional:  Winston Churchill “The Percentages Agreement” (1944)
Gale Stokes “Eastern Europe’s Defining Fault Lines” (1997)
George Schöpflin “The Political Traditions of Eastern Europe” (1990)
Daniel Chirot “The Origins of Backwardness in Eastern Europe” (1989) (Ch. 1)
WEEK III
Slavs in the Making: Slavistics

Sept. 15  Surveys of Slavs & Slavisms
Readings: *Roman Jakobson “Comparative Slavic Studies” (1954)
Optional: Roman Jakobson “Slavism as a Topic of Comparative Studies” (1953)
Vatroslav Jagić “A Survey of Slavistic Studies” (1922)

Sept. 17  The Dawn of Slavistics
Readings: *Johann Gottfried Herder “On Slav Nations” (1791)
*Petko Ivanov “How Slavs and Slavistics Made Each Other” (2011)
Optional: August Ludwig Schlözer “Of the Russian Annals” (1798)
Josef Dobrovský “Slawin” (1806) (in German; pp. 362-388)
Jernej Kopitar “Patriotic Visions of a Slav” (1810)
Alexander Schenker “The Dawn of Slavic” (1996) (pp. 241-252)

WEEK IV
Slavic Construction Sites: History & Archaeology

In-Class Quiz: Slavic Speaking Countries (Fill in the blanks on a map)

Sept. 22  The Early Slavs
*Francis Dvornik “The Slavs in European History & Civilization” (1962) (Intro)
*“The Primary Chronicle, a.k.a. The Tale of Bygone Years” (12th c.) (excerpts)
Optional: Jan Czekanowski “The Ancient Home of the Slavs” (1947)
Paul Barford “The Early Slavs” (2001) (Intro, Chapters 1 & 13)
Bill Darden “Who Were Sclaveni and Where Did They Come From” (2004)
Danijel Dzino “Becoming Slav, Becoming Croat” (2010) (excerpts)
Sept. 24  Slavs & Germans

Readings: *Frantisek Graus “Slavs and Germans” (1970)

Optional: Gerard Labuda “The Slavs in 19th C. German Historiography” (1969)
John Connelly “Nazis and Slavs” (1999)


Sept. 26-30: Fall Break

WEEK V
Slavic Construction Sites: Language & Folklore

Oct. 1  Language, Ethnography & Folklore

*Nikolay Trubetzkoy “The Tower of Babel & the Confusion of Tongues” (1923)
*John Bowring [Vuk Karadžić] “Servian Popular Poetry” (1827) (Intro+excerpts)

Optional: Baudouin de Courtenay “A Survey of the Slavic Linguistic World” (1884)
Nikolay Trubetzkoy “The Common Slavic Element in Russian Culture” (1949)
Robert Auty “Community & Divergence in Slavonic Languages” (1964)
Tomasz Kamusella “The Triple Division of the Slavic Languages” (2005) (parts)
Pavel Jozef Šafařík “Sclavonian Antiquities” (1841)
“The Ballads of Marko Kraljević” (ed. D.H. Low, 1922) (excerpts)


Monday, 10/5 FIRST SHORT PAPER DUE electronically by 11:59 p.m.

WEEK VI
Slavic Construction Sites: Cyril & Methodius

Oct. 6  The Slavic Apostles

Readings: *“The Vita of Constantine-Cyril” (10th century; tr. Marvin Kantor, 1983)
*Ihor Ševčenko “Three Paradoxes of the Cyrillo-Methodian Mission” (1964)
Optional:  Roman Jakobson “Beginning of National Self-Determination in Europe” (1945)  
Petko Ivanov “The Invention of Old Church Slavonic” (2012)  
Milton Anastos “Political Theory in the Lives of Cyril & Methodius” (1954)  
Ihor Ševčenko “Religious Missions Seen from Byzantium” (1989)  
Dmitri Obolensky “Byzantium and the Slavic World” (1992)


Oct. 8  The Controversial Saints

Readings:  
*Petko Ivanov “The Paradoxes of the Cyrillo-Methodian Legacy” (2012)

Stefan Rohdewald “Cyril and Methodius as Figures of Remembering” (2008)  

WEEK VII
Ideologies of Slavic (Dis)Unity

Oct. 13  The Slavic Reciprocity Thesis. Panslavism

Readings:  
*Ján Kollár “Reciprocity between the Dialects of the Slavic Nation” (1837)  
*František Palacký “Manifesto of the First Slavonic Congress” (1848)  
*František Palacký “Letter to Frankfurt” (1848)

Peter Kunze “The Sorbian National Renaissance and Slavic Reciprocity” (1999)  
Lawrence Orton “The Prague Slav Congress of 1848” (1978) (excerpts)  
Hans Kohn “Pan-Slavism: Its History and Ideology” (1960) (Intro+Ch. 4, pp. ix-xvii, 69-101)


Oct. 15  The Slavic Civilization Thesis. Slavdom’s Dissidents

Readings:  
*Mikhail Pogodin “The Slav and World Mission of Russia” (1837)  
*Nikolai Danilevskii “The Slav Role in World Civilization” (1969)  
*Karel Havlíček-Borovský “Czech and Slav” (1846)  
*Olga Maiorova “From the Shadow of Empire” (2010) (Intro + Chapter 5)
Optional:  Ivan Kireevsky “On the Nature of European Culture” (1852)  
Alexei Khomyakov “To the Serbs: An Epistle from Moscow” (1860)  
Nikolai Danilevskii “The Slav Cultural-Historical Type” (1969)  
Ivan Aksakov “A Slavophile Statement” (1881)  
Andrzej Walicki “The Slavophile Controversy” (1975) (Intro + Ch. 9)  
Karen Gammelgaard “Were the Czechs More Western Than Slavic?” (2010)  
Stanley Winters “Austroslavism, Panslavism & Russophilism” (1975)  


WEEK VIII  
Hierarchies of Eastern Europe  

Oct. 20  Central Europe  
*György Schöpflin “Central Europe: Definitions Old and New”  
Jacques Rupnik “Central Europe or Mitteleuropa?” (1990)  
Robin Okey “Central Europe/Eastern Europe: Behind the Definitions” (1992)  
Ivan Sanders “The Quest for Central Europe” (1990)  

Oct. 22  The Balkans  
Film:  “Mission London” (Bulgaria, dir. Dimitar Mitovski, 2010)  
Readings:  *Maria Todorova “The Balkans: From Discovery to Invention” (1994)  
Optional:  Maria Todorova “East-Central Europe versus the Balkans” (1995)  
Dmitri Obolensky “The Balkans in the 9th c.: Barrier or Bridge?” (1988)  
Maria Todorova “Imagining the Balkans” (2009) (excerpts)  
Wendy Bracewell & Alex Drace-Francis “South-Eastern Europe–Concepts” (1999)  
Inge Kramarz “The Balkan Cookbook” (1972) (Intro, pp. 6-8)
WEEK IX
The Balkans: Yugoslavia

Oct. 27 Making a Nation

Culinary Preamble: A “Yugoslavian” Menu and Some Recipes
(Lila Perl “Foods of the Danube Lands,” 1969, pp. 188-213)

Readings: *Ljudevit Gaj “Proclamations” (1834)
*Franjo Racki “Yugoslavism” (1860)

Optional: Wayne Vucinich “Croatian Illyrism: Its Background and Genesis” (1975)
Andrew Baruch Wachtel “Making a Nation, Breaking a Nation” (1998) (Ch.2)
Marc Greenberg “Myths in Linguistics among Yugoslavs” (1996)


Oct. 29 Breaking a Nation

Film: Cabaret Balkan (Serbia, dir. Goran Paskaljević, 1998)


Gale Stokes et al. “Understanding the Wars of Yugoslav Succession” (1996)
Andrew Wachtel & Christopher Bennet “The Dissolution of Yugoslavia” (2009)
Slavenka Drakulić “How We Survived Communism” (1991) (Ch. 19, pp. 179-89)
Ivan Čolović “Politics of Identity in Serbia” (2002) (pp. 5-56, 153-156)
Marko Živković “National Imaginary in the Time of Milošević” (2011) (Ch.6)

Sunday 11/2 SECOND SHORT PAPER DUE electronically by 11:59 p.m.

WEEK X
Central Europe: Czechoslovakia

Nov. 3 “Where Is My Home?” The Meaning of Czech History

Culinary Preamble: A “Czechoslovakian” Menu and Some Recipes
Readings:  
*Josef Kajetán Tyl “Where Is My Home?” (1834)  
*Jan Hus “Letter to the Czechs”; Petr Chelčický “The Net of Faith” (15th century)  
*Vladimír Macura “Mystifications of a Nation” (2010) (pp. 3-26, 53-61)  
*Jan Patočka “What Are the Czechs?” (1970s)

Optional:  
[Vaclav Hanka?] “Manuscript of Zelená Hora” (ca. 1817)  
Ladislav Holý “The Little Czech & the Great Czech Nation” (1996) (Intro+ch.3)  
Vladimír Macura “Problems & Paradoxes of the National Revival” (1998)  
Tomáš Masaryk “The Meaning of Czech History” (1916) (excerpts)  
“The Meaning of Czech History Debates” (Masaryk-Pekař-Rádl)

Nov. 5  
“Our Slovak Question”

Readings:  
*Ján Hrdlička “The Slovak Nation” (1785)  
*“Request of the Slovak Nation” (1848)  
*Ludvík Vaculík “Our Slovak Question” (1990)  

Optional:  
Ľudovít Štúr “The Slovak Dialect” (1846)  
Dušan Kováč “Czechs and Slovaks in Modern History” (1998)  
Hugh Agnew “Czecks, Slovaks, and the Slovak Linguistic Separatism” (1990)  
David Short “The Use and Abuse of Language in Czechoslovakism” (1996)  
Elisabeth Bakke “The Czechoslovak nation project” (1999) (Ch. 10)  
W.V. Wallace “From Czech & Slovaks to Czechoslovaks, and Back” (1996)

Maps:  

WEEK XI  
The Slavic East: Ukraine

Nov. 10  
“Great” vs. “Little” Russians

Culinary Preamble: An “East Slavic” Menu and Some Recipes  

Readings:  
*“Provisions of Russian Protectorate over Ukraine” (1654)  
*Mykola Kostomarov “Two Russian Nationalities” (1860)  
*“The Valuev Circular” (1863; (ed. Alekseï Miller, 2003)

Optional:  
Mykola Kostomarov “The Books of Genesis of the Ukrainian People” (1846)  
Semen Divovych “A Talk between Great and Little Russians” (1762)
Andreas Kappeler “Great and Little Russians” (2003)
Roman Szporluk “Ukraine: From Imperial Periphery to Sovereign State” (1997)


Nov. 12  
**Divided by a Common Past**

Readings:  
* Mikhailo Hrushevsky “The Traditional Scheme of Russian History” (1903)  
* Taras Kuzio “Competition over the Legacy of Kyiv Rus” (2005)  
* Ihor Ševčenko “Ukraine between East and West” (1992)

Optional:  
Mikhailo Hrushevsky “A Free Ukraine” (1917)  
Taras Kuzio “National Identity and History Writing in Ukraine” (2006)  
Mikolaj Szoltysek & Zuber-Goldstein “The Invention of the Slavic East” (2009)

**WEEK XII**

**Contested Slavic Nations**

Nov. 17  
**Macedonia**

Readings:  
* Krste Misirkov “Macedonian Matters” (1903) (pp. 150-187, 223-230)  
* Loring Danforth “The Macedonian Conflict” (1995) (Ch.6, pp. 142-184)  

Optional:  
Tihomir R. Đorđević “Macedonia” (1918) (Ch. 11, pp. 188-199)  
Henry Wilkinson “Maps & Politics” (1951) (Ch. 1 & 13, pp. 1-7, 314-326)  
Blaže Koneski “On Macedonian Language” (1968)  
Victor Friedman “Macedonian Language and Nationalism” (1975)  


Nov. 19  
**The Rusyns**

Readings:  
* James Minahan “Carpatho-Rusyns” (2000) (encyclopedic entry)  
* Paul Robert Magocsi “Of the Making of Nationalities There Is No End” (1999) (Ch. 4, pp. 86-111)  
* Martin Ziac “Prof. Magocsi in the Modern Carpatho-Rusyn Revival” (2001)
Optional:
Johann Majláth “Whether to Annex the Carpathian Slavs and Ruthenians” (1848)
Alexander Bonkáló “The Rusyns” (1990) (excerpts)
Paul Robert Magocsi “Mapping Stateless Peoples” (1997)
Taras Kuzio “The Rusyn Question in Ukraine” (2005)

WEEK XIII
More Eastern Europeans

Nov. 24 Eastern European Jews

Film: “Ida” (Poland, dir. Paweł Pawlikowski, 2013)

Readings:
*Zofia Nałkowska “Medallions” (1945) (pp. 29-49)

Optional: Hillel J. Kieval “The Jewish Experience in the Czech Lands” (2000) (Ch.5)
Marko Živković “The Wish to Be a Jew” (2000)
Rabbi Benjamin Blech “Jewish History and Culture” (1999) (pp. 159-66, 229-32)
Elias Canetti “The Tongue Set Free” (1977) (Ch. 1: Ruschuk, 1905-11)


Nov.25-30: Thanksgiving Break

Dec. 1 Eastern European Roma

Film: “Time of the Gypsies” (Yugoslavia, dir. Emir Kusturica, 1988)

Readings:
*Isabel Fonseca “Bury Me Standing” (1996) (pp. 3-16, 83-112, 241-277)
*Ian Hancock “The East European Roots of Romani Nationalism” (1991)
*Emil Šćuka et al. “Roma Declaration of a Nation” (2001)

Ian Hancock “Some Contemporary Aspects of Gypsy Nationalism” (1975)
Victor Friedman “Foreword to Ian Hancock’s Handbook of Vlax Romani” (1995)
Ignacy-Marek Kaminski “Gypsy Socio-Political Organization” (1981) handout
**WEEK XIV**

**Recapitulation: What Are the Slavs?**

**Dec. 3**  
*Presentations*

**Dec. 8**  
*More Presentations & Conclusions*

**Readings:**  
*Václav Klaus “Small Nations and Europe 90 Years After Masaryk” (2005)*

**Optional:**  
“What Are the Slavs? From Russia with Love” (2001) [in Russian]  
Mark Monmonier “How to Lie with Maps” (1991) (Intro; Ch.7, pp. 1-4, 87-112)  
Santo Cilauro, Tom Gleisner & Rob Sitch “Molvanía” (2004) *completely optional*

**Wednesday 12/10**  
THIRD SHORT PAPER DUE electronically by 11:59 p.m.
Bibliography:


Bakke, Elisabeth 1999 *Doomed to failure? The Czechoslovak nation project and the Slovak autonomist reaction 1918–38.* (PhD Dissertation.) University of Oslo.


Blech, Benjamin (Rabbi) 1999 *The Complete Idiot’s Guide to Jewish History and Culture.* Indianapolis, IN: Alpha Books.


Boro-Petrovich, Michael 1956 *The Emergence of Russian Pan-Slavism 1856-1870.* New York: Columbia University Press.


Bracewell, Wendy & Alex Drace-Francis 1999 “South-Eastern Europe: History, Concepts, Boundaries.” *Balkanologie* 3/2 [& other papers in the same issue].


Dvornik, Francis 1962 *The Slavs in European History and Civilization*. New Brunswick: Rutgers UP.


Greenberg, Marc L. 1996 “The Role of Language in the Creation of Identity: Myths in Linguistics among the Peoples of the Former Yugoslavia” *KU ScholarWorks*, at <http://hdl.handle.net/1808/969>


Kirschbaum, Joseph 1958 *Ludovít Štúr and His Place in the Slavic World*. Cleveland/ Winnipeg: The Slovak Institute.

Klaus, Václav 2005 “Small Nations and Europe 90 Years after Masaryk.” [Inauguration speech at the School of Slavonic and East European Studies, University College London, October 19, 2005.] Available at <http://www.klaus.cz/clanky/1961>


Todorova, Maria 1995 “Hierarchies of Eastern Europe: East Central Europe Versus the Balkans.” *South East European Monitor* 5: 1-34.


Todorova, Maria 1997 *Imagining the Balkans*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.


Vodopivec, Janez 1985 The Holy Brothers Cyril and Methodius, Co-Patrons of Europe: Cultural Link Between the East and the West. Rome: Pontificia Universitas Urbaniana.


You can take the Slav out of Bulgaria, Poland, Slovenia, Slovakia, Russia, Serbia, Montenegro, Belarus, Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Macedonia, Ukraine, and the Czech Republic but you can’t take Bulgaria, Poland, Slovenia, Slovakia, Russia, Serbia, Montenegro, Belarus, Croatia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Macedonia, Ukraine, and the Czech Republic out of the Slav.

“Slavs” (2006) Silk-screen print, 82 x 116 cm. Permanent Collection, MoMA.