

293NHISV352B – Film and History
(Films about Central-European History)
Elective
Spring Semester, 2023/24 Academic Year

Lecturer:	Éva Kiss, Dr
Department:	Invited guest lecturer, Institute of Social and Political Sciences
Office hours:	By appointment
Availability:	E-mail address: eva.kiss@uni-corvinus.hu
Course type:	elective
Prerequisites:	none
Credits:	6 ECTS
Number of hours per semester	Two 90-minute classes per week + 1 timeslot for the exam (2x13 +1 = 27 timeslots per semester)
Time of class:	Group 1: Wednesdays, 09:50 – 13:10 Group 2: Wednesdays, 15:30 – 18:50
Venue:	C.416.

Aims and objectives and description of the course:

This course examines twentieth century Hungarian and Central European history through films. The course gives an overview of the region's history to understand current events and their historical background. The focus will be primarily on Central Europe and special attention will be paid to events and trends of Hungarian history in the 20th century, from the collapse of the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy till the fall of the Soviet Bloc.

Learning outcomes:

- Gaining an overview of the modern history of Central Europe with special emphasis on Hungarian history
- A better understanding of historical events and personalities through film-analysis
- Acquiring sensitivity and critical skills through film discussions
- Developing argumentation skills
- Practice of writing film reflections and short essays on history topics

Course description:

Three historical patterns, three regions have developed in Europe. Comparing the different development of the regions, this course reveals the distinctiveness of Central European history from both Eastern and Western patterns. By the outbreak of the First World War and the collapse of the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy, East-Central-Europe became the region of a number of small states. Have they been destined to become the satellites of the Great Powers? How did the region become the hotbed of such ideologies and dictatorships as fascism and bolshevism? What options were open to the nations of the region and especially to Hungarian society? What were the survival strategies of the everyday citizens facing the oppressive regimes and the conflicts of the century? These and other issues are highlighted through the examination of the main conflicts of the 20th century.

Methodology to be used:

The course is partly based on lectures and partly on film discussion. Special attention will be paid to visual representation and to understanding historical events, trends, and personalities through film-analysis. Films provide important information on past events. Being able to see the participants, the historical scene and the circumstances adds a new dimension to studying history. Films should be used critically, and one must be aware that they interpret and represent not only the period when the plot is situated but also the period when the film was made. The students have an opportunity to watch documentaries and feature films on historical topics and they are encouraged to participate in discussions on films and their historical background. Also, the students are asked to write several short home assignments on topics chosen from the recommended topics. These include film reflections, history essays based on the interpretation of a primary source and argumentative essays.

The lecture notes, assignments, reading material will be available on Moodle.

Detailed class schedule, 1st – 14th week:

<u>Date of class</u>	<u>Topics to be discussed</u>
14 February	Introduction and definitions: Eastern Europe and Central Europe. The ethnic pluralism of the Austro-Hungarian Monarchy and the development of economy, society, and culture at the turn of the 19 th and 20 th century. The First World War and the peace treaties. Film: Trianon through British Eyes (documentary, directed by Melinda Gálfi, extracts)
21 February	Interwar Central Europe. The rise of the Nazis in Germany. Nazism and Fascism. Life in a dictatorship, obedience to an authority figure. (A real-life social experiment carried out in a high school.) Film: The Wave (Dennis Gansel)
28 February	An overview of the main periods of Hungarian history from the late 19 th century to mid-20 th century and the social and cultural history of Jewry in Central Europe. Film: Sunshine (István Szabó) – part I.
6 March	Hungary during the Second World War. Film: Sunshine (István Szabó) – part II.
13 March	The peace treaties. The chances of the democratic development in Hungary, 1945-48. Film: 1945. (Ferenc Török)
20 March	Stalinism in Eastern and Central Europe. Film: The Witness (Péter Bacsó)
	Spring break, no classes
	Intensive week, no classes
10 April	Resistance to Communism. The 1956 revolution in Hungary. Film: Freedom's Fury (Documentary, Collin K. Gray – Megan Raney)
17 April	The aftermath and the worldwide echo of the 1956 Hungarian Revolution. Its echo in East-Germany. Film: The Silent Revolution (Lars Kraume)
24 April	Revisionism. Life in Hungary in the Kádár-era in the 1960s–1980s. Film: Time Stands Still (Péter Gothár)

	1 May is a public holiday, no classes. An optional make-up class will be arranged; details to be discussed later.
8 May	The collapse of Communism and the transition to democracy in Hungary in 1989–1990. Film: Moscow Square (Ferenc Török)
15 May	The collapse of Communism and the revolutions of 1989–1990; separate roads to democracy. Film: Good Bye, Lenin! (Wolfgang Becker)
22 May	Pre-exam (1 st exam date)
29 May	Final exam (2 nd exam date). You can choose between the 1 st and 2 nd exam dates.

Readings required for the class: will be provided on Moodle on a weekly basis.

Assignments:

1. Short home assignments

Students are required to write short (500–600 words) weekly home assignments. These will be posted on **Moodle** and must be submitted via Moodle. Submission of the assignments in .doc, .docx, .odt or .pdf format. The student can submit 8 or 9 assignments and the 8 short home assignments with the best result will count. The assignments relate to the topic of the class and put on Moodle about a week before the deadline. Check the date on Moodle. Late work is not accepted. There will be a few occasions when you can choose between 2 essay questions (film essay or history essay), only 1 of which you should submit (only 1 will be marked). Unless agreed otherwise, please do not submit film reflections on a film if you were not present on the screening of the entire movie; such papers will not be accepted.

2. **Final exam.** The details will be specified later. A study guide will be provided a few weeks ahead of the exam.

Assessment, grading:

Grades are **earned** by the students based on their class attendance, class participation, their achievements in the assignments (group or otherwise) and any quizzes, homework and midterm and final exam (where applicable). If the student completed at least one of the course takes either in full or in part, the subject can only be closed with a grade.

Grades are not negotiable. Any attempt at negotiation may potentially result in official disciplinary action!

Active class participation	20%
Short written home assignments	40%
Final Test	40%

Class attendance:

Class attendance is mandatory. Participation in lectures is an important part of the process and understanding of the subject. **Attendance of the seminars is compulsory.** The acceptable level

of absence is $\frac{1}{4}$ of all lessons (i.e., 3 seminars). **In exceptional cases** (hospital treatment, permanent illness) provided that the total absence is less than 50%, the tutor can (if he/she so decides) give an opportunity for supplement. *Study and Examination Regulations – 21§ (3) and (5)*

Simple doctor's certificates will not be accepted. If the student has exceeded the maximally allowed number of absences, only verifiable, official hospital- or treatment center documentation proving hospital treatment or permanent illness shall be accepted.

Students whose absence from the seminars exceeds the maximally allowed 3 occasions (partial seminar attendance is counted as absence), will be given a "not signed" (aláírás megtagadva) grade. Students receiving the "not signed" grade will not have the option of taking either the final or any of the retake examinations but shall have to retake the course in a subsequent semester.

Students who in any way disrupt a class (lecture or seminar) will be warned once. If the student's disruptive behavior continues after the first warning, the tutor has the right to send the student out of the room and note that the student has been absent from the given class. This includes use of cell phones and other electronic messaging devices during class. Laptops may be used for the sole purpose of taking notes during lectures. Any other use (such as Facebook, instant messaging, emailing, surfing the web or like activities) will cause you to lose this privilege and your class participation points will be deducted. Please, close your laptops during film screenings.

Cheating, plagiarism

Any attempt at cheating or plagiarism in quizzes, assignments or at examinations shall result in an automatic "F" (fail) grade and the student will not be able to take either the final examination or the retake examinations but shall have to retake the course in a subsequent semester.

Compulsory readings:

Material provided on Moodle

Recommended readings:

Crampton, Richard: *Eastern Europe in the 20th century and after* (Routledge, 2001) – selected chapters

Romsics, Ignác: *Hungary in the Twentieth century* (Corvina – Osiris, 1999)

Tőkés, Rudolf: *Hungary's negotiated revolution. Economic reform, social change and political succession, 1957-1990* (Cambridge University Press 1996, 1998)

Cunningham, John: *Hungarian Cinema from Coffee House to Multiplex* (Wallflower Press, 2004)

Grading:

International grading scale

<i>Percentage achieved</i>	<i>International grade</i>
97-100	A+
94-96	A
90-93	A-
87-89	B+
84-86	B
80-83	B-
77-79	C+
74-76	C
70-73	C-
67-69	D+
64-66	D
60-63	D-
0-59	F

Hungarian and ECTS grading scale

<i>Percentage achieved</i>	<i>Hungarian grade</i>	<i>ECTS equivalent</i>	<i>Explanation for the Hungarian grade</i>
87-100	5	A	Excellent
77-86	4	B	Good
67-76	3	C	Satisfactory
60-66	2	D	Pass
0-59	1	F	Fail
	Nem jelent meg	DNA	Did not attend (no credit)
	Nem vizsgázott	I	Incomplete (no credit)
	Aláírva	S	Signed (no credit)
	Megtagadva	R	Refused (no credit)