

Undergraduate Program in Central European Studies

CERGE-EI and the School of Humanities at Charles University



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Lecturer: Prof.Dr. Martin Procházka

E-mail: martin.prochazka@ff.cuni.cz

OUTLINE OF THE COURSE:

For many Central European nations Romanticism was a decisive cultural influence that shaped their emancipation movements in the nineteenth century.

Organic models of community based on the affinities between nature, culture and language became the foundation of nationalistic ideologies. The upsurge of nationalism gave birth to grand narratives of national history, and created sharp divides in multilingual and multiethnic societies. The outcome of these developments was a deep and protracted crisis of many Central European nations in the twentieth century, affecting the best works of their cultures.

The course is divided into two parts. In the first part we shall study the origins and different forms of Romanticism in Central European cultures (Czech, Slovak, and partially also Austrian, German, Polish, and Hungarian), and read specimen of Czech romantic literature (K.H. Mácha's verse tale *May*, selected poems from the *Queen's Court Manuscript*) and selected theoretical or historical texts (see below in the section Reference). We shall also discuss the refashioning of romantic paradigms in the communist ideologies of bipolar world and "people's culture". Our main aim will be the understanding of basic cultural notions and paradigms, such as *multiculturalism*, *ethnocentrism*, *patriotism*, *nationalism*, the *invention of tradition*, *cultural translation*, or *imagined community*, the explanation of difficult, culturally specific terms, namely *antiquarianism*, *philology*, *national revival* or *Biedermeier*, and the comparison of the Central European notions of *ethnocentric nationality* with the U.S. and British concepts of the nation and national identity. For those who do not have any experience with European romantic literature some preliminary reading of English romantics, especially lord Byron, P.B. Shelley, William Wordsworth and S.T. Coleridge, is recommended.

In the second part we will closely read some representative works of twentieth-century Central European literatures (see below under "Fiction, Poetry, and Drama"). We shall examine the ways these works reflect romantic themes or cultural paradigms, and respond to the questions and dilemmas of national identity. Our purpose will be to understand the persistence and transformation of Romanticism in modern and contemporary Central European cultures, its creative influence and destructive effects.

The presentation of individual topics will combine the form of lecture (explaining selected topics in the coursebook or reference texts, or important features of social, historical or literary context of the discussed book), and the form of discussion. Discussions will be introduced by short but carefully prepared talks (5 min.) given by all students in the class.

GRADING POLICY:

Exam: The final exam will be cumulative and will have a form of an in-class essay (3 handwritten pages maximum). No re-sit will be allowed. Though model exam topics will be publicized, students will draw specific topics at the beginning of the exam. Exams are closed-book; consulting books, materials or notes will not be permitted.

Homework: For the in-class discussions students will prepare short introductory talks (5 mins.). In addition, they will submit an essay of 3000 words on a topic of their choice. The outline of this essay (300 wds. max.) must be discussed with the instructor. The submission deadline for essays is the last but one class in the semester. One resubmission is allowed.

Grading: Class Participation, Position Papers 30%, Homework 30 %, Final 40%.

REQUIRED READINGS

ROMANTICISM AND NATIONAL IDENTITY IN CENTRAL EUROPE COURSE SYLLABUS

Martin Procházka

e-mail: martin.prochazka@ff.cuni.cz

Description: For many Central European nations Romanticism was a decisive cultural influence that shaped their emancipation movements in the nineteenth century.

Organic models of community based on the affinities between nature, culture and language became the foundation of nationalistic ideologies. The upsurge of nationalism gave birth to grand narratives of national history, and created sharp divides in multilingual and multiethnic societies. The outcome of these developments was a deep and protracted crisis of many Central European nations in the twentieth century, affecting the best works of their cultures.

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Literature:

Coursebook (compulsory):

Procházka, Martin, *In Search of National Identity* (available from the CERGE server or from the library for photocopying) **SEARCH.doc**

Fiction, Poetry, Drama (compulsory):

The master copy of the reader is available from the CERGE Library and the texts can be downloaded from the CERGE Server (the filename is given in bold letters after each reference). Other books are available from the CERGE Library. Macha's *May* and Kafka's short stories can be downloaded from the web.

Čapek, Karel, *War with the Newts*, trans. R. Weatherall (Harmondsworth: Penguin, 1998).

Havel, Václav, *The Garden Party*, in *Selected Plays*, trans. Vera Blackwell et al. (London: Faber & Faber, 1992).

Kafka, Franz, "The Judgement", "Singer Josephine", in: *The Complete Short Stories* (New York: Vintage, 1992)

_____, *The Castle*, in *The Complete Novels* (New York: Vintage, 1992).

Kundera, Milan, *Immortality*, trans. Peter Kussi (London: Faber & Faber, 1992)

Mácha, Karel Hynek, *May*, trans. Edith Pargeter (Prague: Orbis, 1967) **Máj**

Poems from *The Queen's Court and Zelená Hora Manuscripts*: "Zaboy, Slawoy, and Ludeck,"

Blackwood's Edinburgh Magazine, 10.55 (September 1821):149-150; "Oldrich and Boleslaw,"

"Libussa's Judgement," in *The Queen's Court Manuscript*, trans. A.H. Wratislaw (Oxford, 1856), 3-7, 95-100; John Bowring, "Ancient Bohemian Ballads," *The Westminster Review*, 12.24 (April

1830):304-317 **BlackwoodsMag, QueensCourt Ms, WestminsterReview**

Reference:

Recommended texts are marked with an asterisk, **unmarked texts are compulsory**. The master copy of the reader is available from the CERGE Library and the texts can be downloaded from the CERGE Server (the filename is given in bold letters after each reference)..

Abrams, M.H., *The Mirror and the Lamp* (New York: Norton, 1958) (VII.ii. Coleridge's Mechanical Fancy and Romantic Imagination) **The MirrorAndTheLamp**

* _____., *Natural Supernaturalism* (New York: Norton, 1972)

Anderson, Benedict, *Imagined Communities. Reflections on the Origin and Spread of Nationalism* (London: Verso, 1983) (chapter 1-3) **imaginedcommunities**

*Bhabha, Homi K., *The Location of Culture* (London: Routledge, 1994)

*Brock, Peter, Skilling, Gordon H. (eds.), *The Czech Renaissance of the Nineteenth Century* (Toronto:University of Toronto Press, 1970)

*Butler, Marilyn, *Romantics, Rebels, Reactionaries* (Oxford: OUP, 1981)

Deleuze, Gilles, Guattari, Félix, *Kafka: Toward a Minor Literature*, trans. Dana Polan (Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press 1986) (chapter 3)

minorliterature

- *Furst, Lilian, *Romanticism in Perspective* (London: Macmillan, 1969)
- Hobsbawm, Eric J., Ranger, Terence (eds.), *The Invention of Tradition* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1983) (Introduction) **InventionOfTradition**
- Hrbata Zdeněk, Procházka, Martin, "European Romanticism and Czech National Revival", in *Český romantismus v evropském kontextu* (Prague: Ústav pro českou a světovou literaturu, 1993), 203-26 or **romanteurop, or romanteurop - b**
- *Johnston, William, *The Austrian Mind: An Intellectual and Social History* (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1974)
- *Lass, Andrew, "Romantic Documents and Political Monuments: the Meaning-Fulfillment of History in 19th-Century Czech Nationalism," *American Ethnologist*, 15 (1988): 456-471
- *McGann, Jerome, *The Romantic Ideology* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press 1983)
- *Nemoianu, Virgil, *The Taming of Romanticism. European Literature in the Age of Biedermeier* (Cambridge, Mass. and London: Harvard University Press, 1984)
- Porter, Roy, Teich, Mikuláš (eds.), *Romanticism in National Context* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1988) (chapter "Romanticism in England" by Marilyn Butler) **romanticism-nationalcontext**
- Procházka, Martin, "Romantic Revivals: Cultural Translations, Universalism, and Nationalism", in Susan Bassnett and Martin Procházka (eds.), *Cultural Learning: Language Learning, Selected Papers from the Second International British Studies Conference* (Prague: The British Council and Charles University, 1997), 75-89. **romantrevivals**
- * _____, "Byron and Romantic Nationalism in Central Europe: the Case of Czechs and Slovaks", in: Richard Cardwell (ed.), *Lord Byron the European. Essays from the International Byron Society*, Studies in British Literature, vol. 31 (Lewiston, Kingston, Lampeter: The Edwin Mellen Press, 1998), 55-74.
- _____, "Byron's Reputation in Bohemia and Czech Nineteenth Century Nationalism", *The Byron Journal*, 28 (2000): 37-48 **byronreputation**
- _____, "Prisoner's Predicament: Public Privacy in Havel's *Letters to Olga*", *Representations* (University of California Press), 43 (summer 1993):126-154. **Letters to Olga**
- *Součková, Milada, *The Czech Romantics* (The Hague: Mouton 1958)
- Smith, Anthony D., *The Nation in History. Historiographical Debates about Ethnicity and Nationalism* (Cambridge: Polity, 2000) (Introduction, **Voluntarism and Organic Nation**) *nationinhistory*
- *Wellek, René, *Essays on Czech Literature* (The Hague: Mouton 1963)
- Note: The sources in the "Reference" section marked by an asterisk (*) are recommended, not required.

Exam: The final exam will be cumulative and will have a form of an in-class essay (3 handwritten pages maximum). No re-sit will be allowed. Though model exam topics will be publicized, students will draw specific topics at the beginning of the exam. Exams are closed-book; consulting books, materials or notes will not be permitted.

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Grading: Class Participation, Position Papers 30%, Homework 30 %, Final 40%.

REQUIRED READINGS

Outline of the Course:

Week	Topic	Readings
1. 2/25	Introduction. Central European Notions of Nation and Nationality	Coursebook, chapter 1
2. 3/4	Natural, Organic and Imagined Communities	Coursebook, chapter 2 (intro); Anderson, <i>Imagined Communities</i> (chapters 1-3); Abrams, <i>The Mirror and the Lamp</i> , chapter 7, part 2 (extract); Smith, <i>The Nation in History</i> , chapter 1
3. 3/11	What Is a National Revival?	Coursebook, chapter 2 (1-7); Hrbata, Procházka, "European Romanticism and Czech National Revival"; Butler, "Romanticism in England", in Porter, Teich, <i>Romanticism in a National Context</i>
4. 3/18	Invention of Tradition, Cultural Translation	Coursebook, chapters 3 to 5; Hobsbawm, Ranger (eds.), <i>The Invention of Tradition</i> (Introduction) <i>Queen's Court Manuscript</i> (selected poems); Procházka, "Romantic Revivals"
5. 4/1	Romantic Individualism and National Revival	Coursebook, chapter 7; Procházka, "Byron's Reputation in Bohemia", Mácha, <i>May</i>
6. 4/8	Kafka: 1. Legacy of Romantic Nationalism and "Minor Culture"	Kafka, "Singer Josephine", "The Judgement"; Deleuze and Guattari, <i>Kafka: Toward a Minor Literature</i> , chap. 3
7. 4/22	Kafka: 2. Organic Community and Bureaucratic State	Kafka, <i>The Castle</i>
8. 4/29	Čapek: Practical Humanism versus Ethnocentrism	<i>War with the Newts</i>
9. 5/7	Havel: Search of Identity and Absurdity of Totalitarianism	<i>The Garden Party</i> ; Procházka, "Prisoner's Predicament"
10. 5/14	Kundera: Global Civilization, Consumerism, and the Decline of Romanticism <i>Final Exam</i>	<i>Immortality</i>

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