

## **IAS 3003 COURSE DESCRIPTIONS FOR FALL 2024:**

### **IAS 3003 Sec. 001 Economy & Culture of Eastern Europe, MWF 2:00-2:50pm, Dace Demir**

The chain of events that unfolded in 1989 and in the following years – the fall of the socialist system in Europe, the end of the Cold War, the dissolution of Yugoslavia and the collapse of the Soviet Union – constituted decisive turning points in the process of finally overcoming the order established after WWII and permanently changed the political map of Europe. These events influenced global politics and became some of the milestones of the 20<sup>th</sup> century history. The scope of changes that unfolded during the transition of the 1990s was vast and extended well beyond politics, entailing abrupt economic restructuring, as well as major social and cultural shifts.

This interdisciplinary class examines how the multidimensional concept of Eastern Europe was shaped during the tremendous political, economic, and socio-cultural challenges of the transition of the 1990s and it explores the concept's post-transition development trajectory in close relation to European integration process and construction of new institutional frameworks – normative, regulative, and cultural-cognitive. Considering the definitional difficulties concerning Eastern Europe and its related variants as geopolitical, economic, and cultural constructs, this class will attempt to deconstruct the homogenized understanding of Eastern Europe and will focus on multidimensional analysis of this ambiguous term from semantic, political, economic, and cultural perspectives. Using a historical and case study approach, the class will explore both similarities and differences of political, economic, and socio-cultural processes that took place during and after the transition of the 1990s in Baltic countries, Poland, Czech Republic, Slovenia, Hungary, Serbia, just to name a few.

### **IAS 3003 Sec. 002 Iran through Persian Literature, TR 10:30-11:45am, Mina Rabinsabet**

Persian literature has long been a mirror reflecting the struggles and triumphs of the Iranian people across the centuries. Persian literature transcends mere entertainment; it is a chronicle of Iran's collective consciousness—a mirror reflecting the ups and downs of history, politics, and human experience. We will embark on a literary journey, unraveling the layers of Iran's past. This course explores the rich collection of Persian literary works, studying how they illuminate historical changes, social shifts, and critical events. From ancient Iran to the modern era, we will traverse the poetic landscapes, epic narratives, and lyrical verses that encapsulate the essence of Iranian history. Throughout our course, we will delve into a captivating selection of Persian literary works that span centuries and encapsulate the essence of Iran's history.

### **IAS 3003 Sec. 003 Nationalism & Nation States in Europe, TR 1:30-2:45pm, Dr. Carsten Schapkow**

This class does focus on the rise of nationalism and nation states in an era Eric Hobsbawm has described as “the long 19<sup>th</sup> Century.” In this class, we will first analyze various ideas and concepts of the nation and nationalism pre-dating the actual rise of nation-states in Western, Central, and Eastern Europe. Second, we will study relevant events from 1789, the begin of the French Revolution, until 1918, the end of WW I, that led to the emergence of *Imagined Communities*, as Benedict Anderson has termed them. Ultimately, nationalism resulted in the complete destruction of the German, Austrian-Hungarian, Russian, and the Ottoman Empire by the end of World War I. These four empires were replaced with nation states across Europe by the Treaty of Versailles and accompanying treaties. Yet, this destroyed “world of yesterday”, as Austrian writer Stefan Zweig has described it, has a legacy that is still felt in Europe today and plays a crucial role in remembering Europe's past today.

