

**THEMES IN ROMANIAN HISTORY: 'FROM DACIANS TO DEMOCRATS'**

This course seeks to introduce students to the main themes in the history of the Romanian people. It has been made possible by the publication in English of a number of key works on Romanian history produced since the Romanian revolution of 1989, when archives and information became more easily accessible to foreign scholars. The literature available on Romanian history, especially that of the eighteenth through to the end of the twentieth century, is now sufficiently solid to allow for discussion of the key moments in the history of the Romanians.

As well as providing a general historical outline, this course will introduce students to the historiographical problems of Romanian history. These include, for example, the strong nationalist bias which permeated Romanian history-writing during the communist period and found expression in the 'Daco-Roman continuity theory'. The course should thus be of wider relevance to students of history seeking to understand historiographical debate and the writing of national histories. Care will be taken to introduce students to the particular problems associated with individual works by Romanian historians.

**PRELIMINARY READING**

- L Boia, *History and Myth in Romanian Consciousness*, 2001  
 V Georgescu, *The Romanians: A History*, 1991  
 D Giurescu, *The Illustrated History of the Romanian People*, 1981  
 R Haynes 'An Historical Introduction', in Haynes (ed), *Occasional Papers in Romanian Studies, No 3, Moldova, Bessarabia, Transnistria*, 2003, pp. 1-142  
 R W Seton-Watson, *A History of the Roumanians: From Roman Times to the Completion of Unity*, 1963  
 K Treptow, *A History of Romania*, 1996

**Title:** Themes in Romanian History: 'From Dacians to Democrats'  
**Course Code:** SEHI7005  
**Course-unit value:** 0.5  
**Level:** Advanced

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**Availability:** tbc  
**Open to:** All second and final year undergraduates  
**Prerequisites:** All participants should normally have passed a full Intermediate Level course in History

**Course leader:** Rebecca Haynes, Rm 539, SSEES Taviton Street  
**Other participants:**

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**Aims:** To acquire a body of historical knowledge relating to the history of the Romanians, together with an understanding of the main historiographical debates surrounding their history. This knowledge will relate not only to the facts of history but also to broader concepts and explanatory tools.

**Objectives: By the end of the course, you will have acquired:**

1. Enhanced ability to understand and to appreciate how people have existed, acted and thought in the past in the context of the complexity and diversity of historical situations, events and intellectual outlooks.
2. Enhanced ability to use and evaluate texts and other source materials both critically and empathetically, as well as appreciating the limits and challenges of the extant record. The critical evaluation of texts should include an understanding of the questions which historians ask and why they do so. By the end of the course students will have read and mastered a wide selection of historical works drawn from the historiography on this period.
3. Enhanced ability to frame an argument in a sustained manner both orally and in writing. Arguments should be structured, coherent, relevant, and concise, and should take into account all aspects of a given problem.
4. Enhanced generic skills: these may be defined as –
  - (i) self-direction and self-discipline
  - (ii) independence of mind, and initiative
  - (iii) the ability to work with others and to have respect for the reasoned views of others
  - (iv) the ability to identify, gather, deploy and organize evidence, data and information; and familiarity with appropriate means of achieving this
  - (v) analytical ability and the capacity to consider and solve problems, including complex problems
  - (vi) structure, clarity and fluency of expression, both written and oral
  - (vii) intellectual maturity and integrity
  - (viii) empathy and imaginative insight
  - (ix) ability to organize time, work and personal resources to optimal effect.

**Teaching & Learning Methods:**

**Number of Hours:**

Classes

20 hours

Private Study

approximately 130 hours (although this will vary

according to individual needs)

**Assessment:**

***Coursework:*** One essay of 1,250 words, with full bibliography and footnotes, to be submitted according to a fixed deadline. The mark for the essay will count for 25% of the total mark for the course.

***Examination:*** A two-hour written examination of eight questions, of which two must be answered. All questions carry equal weight and the aggregate mark counts for 75% of the total mark for this course.

**AFFILIATE STUDENTS:**

See regulations posted elsewhere.

**100% fulfilment of coursework is required for the successful completion of this course. If this requirement is not met by the final departmental deadline, it will normally lead to you being debarred from the exam and the course unit being marked as incomplete on your final degree transcript.**