

Rise and Fall of Yugoslavia

This course gives an introduction to the history and culture of Yugoslavia. Created in a relatively small area, characterised by great geographic, religious, linguistic and cultural diversity after the break-up of the Austro-Hungarian and the Ottoman Empire, Yugoslavia's political elites had throughout its existence struggled for a viable and lasting model for a common South Slavic country as desired by the great majority of its inhabitants. Their failure resulted not only in the disintegration of Yugoslavia and its reconstitution into yet more 'nation-states' but was also followed by bloody inter-ethnic wars. The course concentrates on the political history but also looks at economic, cultural, religious, linguistic and other related issues which influenced the history of Yugoslavia. The aim of the course is to give the student a framework for understanding modern Yugoslav history and culture and the reasons behind its two creations and collapses during the short twentieth century that historian Eric Hobsbawm famously called 'The Age of Extremes'. Students with an interest in complexities of national identity and nationalism will have a chance to deepen their knowledge studying a specific country where these issues played the major role behind all recent historic development. There are weekly lectures and classes.

PRELIMINARY READING

Recommended text-book:

John R. Lampe, *Yugoslavia as history: twice there was a country* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2nd ed., 2000).

Other Recommended Reading:

John Allcock, *Explaining Yugoslavia* (London, 2000)

Ivo Banac, 'The origins and development of the concept of Yugoslavia (to 1945)', in Martin van den Heuvel & Jan G. Siccama (eds.), *The disintegration of Yugoslavia* (Amsterdam, 1992), pp. 1-22.

Aleksa Djilas, *The contested country: Yugoslav unity and communist revolution 1919-1953* (Cambridge, Mass., 1991), pp.1-15.

Dimitrije Djordjevic, 'The Yugoslav phenomenon' in Joseph Held (ed), *The Columbia history of Eastern Europe in the twentieth century* (New York, 1991) pp. 306-44.

Stevan K. Pavlowitch, *Yugoslavia* (London, 1971).

Stevan K. Pavlowitch, *Serbia: the history behind the name* (London, 2002).

Dennison Rusinow, 'The Yugoslav peoples', in Peter F. Sugar (ed.), *Eastern European nationalism in the twentieth century* (Lanham, Md., 1995), pp. 305-411.

Title: Rise and Fall of Yugoslavia
Course Code: SEHI 2007
Course-unit value: 1.0
Level: Advanced

Availability: tbc
Open to: All second and final year undergraduates
Prerequisites: There are no prerequisites

Course leader: Bojan Aleksov, Room 423, SSEES Taviton Street

Aims: To acquire a body of historical knowledge relating to the history of Yugoslavia. This knowledge will relate not only to the facts of history but also to broader concepts of nationalism and nation building, socialism/capitalism, centralism/federalism, inter-ethnic violence, international relations, etc. In addition, students would be able to develop understanding of historical research methodology.

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:**

Lectures

20 hours

Classes

20 hours

Private Study

approximately 250 hours (although this will vary

according to individual needs)

Assessment:

Coursework: Two essays of 2,500 words each, with full bibliography and footnotes, to be submitted according to a fixed deadline. The aggregate mark for the two essays will count for 25% of the total mark for the course. Suggestions for essay topics are listed at the end of reading list for each term. Note that these are only general topics. Exact titles have to be discussed and agreed with the lecturer. Each essay must include a bibliography of works actually read and citations indicating the sources of direct quotations and paraphrased passages.

Examination: A three-hour written examination of twelve questions, of which three 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 by the final departmental deadline for the successful completion of this course.