



The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Syllabus

Modern Central European History: The Bohemian Lands - 39261

Last update 30-08-2024

HU Credits: 2

Degree/Cycle: 1st degree (Bachelor)

Responsible Department: History

Academic year: 2025

Semester: 1st Semester

Teaching Languages: Hebrew

Campus: Mt. Scopus

Course/Module Coordinator: Dr. Iris Nachum

Coordinator Email: iris.nachum@mail.huji.ac.il

Coordinator Office Hours: Wednesday, 12:30-13:30

Teaching Staff:

Dr. Iris Nachum

Course/Module description:

The recitation explores the history of the Bohemian Lands in the 19th and 20th centuries, spanning from the 1848 Spring of Nations to the aftermath of the 1989 Velvet Revolution. It focuses on political, social, and cultural developments, with particular emphasis on the interactions between local Czechs, Germans, and Jews.

Course/Module aims:

The goal of the course is to introduce students to major issues in modern Central European history, including modernization, democratization, nationalism, and the rise of minority rights. Additionally, the course aims to familiarize students with key events in Central European history during the 19th and 20th centuries, such as the revolutions of 1848-49, the disintegration of the Habsburg Empire and the establishment of the Czechoslovak nation-state in 1918, the 1938 Munich Agreement, the Holocaust in Central Europe, the expulsion of ethnic Germans after 1945, the 1968 Prague Spring, and the 1989 Velvet Revolution.

Learning outcomes - On successful completion of this module, students should be able to:

- explain major issues in modern Central European history,
- describe key events in Central Europe from 1848 to 1989,
- integrate elements from politics, society, and culture into the discussion, and
- analyze specific primary and secondary sources.

Attendance requirements(%):

100%

Teaching arrangement and method of instruction: Lecture and in-class discussion

Course/Module Content:

1. Introduction: From "Bohemian Lands" through "Czechoslovakia" to "Czechia"
2. The 1848 Spring of Nations Revolution
3. Bohemia in the Habsburg Empire: Czechs and Germans
4. Bohemia in the Habsburg Empire: Jews
5. Tomáš Garrigue Masaryk and the Establishment of Czechoslovakia in 1918
6. Czechoslovakia 1918-1938: Borders and Minorities

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7. Konrad Henlein
 8. The 1938 Munich Conference: International Impacts
 9. The 1938 Munich Conference: Local Perspectives
 10. The Protectorate of Bohemia and Moravia, 1939-1945
 11. The Expulsion of the Sudeten Germans
 12. Communist Czechoslovakia, 1948-1989
 13. The Velvet Revolution of 1989

Required Reading:

For the required reading material, see the course's Moodle site.

Additional Reading Material:

Grading Scheme:

*Essay / Project / Final Assignment / Home Exam / Referat 70 %
Submission assignments during the semester: Exercises / Essays / Audits / Reports
/ Forum / Simulation / others 30 %*

Additional information:

- Students are required to submit two short papers during the semester (30%) and a final paper at the end of the semester (70%).*
- Students can improve the grade of one mid-term paper by submitting the third short paper.*