

Lifting the Curtain Life behind the Iron Curtain (1945-1990)

EUS 3110 – Section 12E4, 12EO

Spring 2021

Class Meeting Time:

Tuesday P 5&6 (@ 11.45am to 1.25pm)

Thursday P6 (@12.50pm-1.40pm)

Class Location:

MAT 0012* & Zoom <https://ufl.zoom.us/j/91573178311>

Instructor

Edit Nagy edit@ufl.edu

352-294-7149 (voice)

Office Location: Turlington Hall (TUR) 2326-A

Virtual Office Hours – Spring 2021:

Tuesday P7 (1.55pm-2.45pm) <https://ufl.zoom.us/j/94724148893>

Wednesday P5 (11.45am-12.35pm) <https://ufl.zoom.us/j/95008800322>

Thursday P7 (1.55pm-2.45pm) <https://ufl.zoom.us/j/98858593490>

or TBA (students can contact the instructor by email anytime)

Course Description

“Lifting the Curtain – Life Behind the Iron Curtain” is designed to explore the daily life of the ordinary citizens in the former Soviet Bloc countries from the end of the WWII to the collapse of the Communist system. Through the course topics (housing, education, music, fashion, leisure time etc.), the weekly readings and visual materials; students will study about the tactics and mechanisms that allowed the people to either accommodate or resist the regime, to either help shape its norms or circumvent them altogether. The course also points out of similarity to “western” societies, as well as the internal differences within the Socialist Bloc. Students gain boarder insight into the European history in the 20th century, as well as into different methods of researching history of everyday life and popular culture.

Textbooks and Course Materials

Instructor’s course materials – all classroom materials (readings, visual materials, worksheets) will be uploaded on Canvas. The virtual or physical location of the materials will be mark in this syllabus, under *Course Schedule*

Required Technology - Zoom, Adobe Reader and Office-word (or other tools for reading pdf files and writing doc files; both Adobe and Office supplied to students by UF software helpdesk), and high-speed internet connection with camera and headset (or speaker and microphone).

Materials and Supplies Fee - n/a

Evaluation of Grades

Assignment	Total Points	Percent of Grade
Class Participation - Attendance	10	10%
Class Participation - Discussion	20	10%
Movie/Book Reflection - 1	15	25%
Movie/Book Reflection - 2	15	25%
Movie/Book Reflection - 3	15	30%
TOTAL	75	100%

Class Participation (10%): A good class participation grade depends on regular attendance and active participation in discussions and mini projects. Please come to class prepared! This means that you have read all the assigned materials and are prepared to answer the relevant study questions posted on the course website.

Class Discussion (10%) How to earn a high mark? Ask informed questions and make informed, substantive comment that demonstrate your understanding of the required readings. Your weekly performance in class discussion will be evaluated/self-evaluated in the following way:

0 = absent, did not speak in class that day or comments showed that you did not prepared for the class (did not watch movie, did not read the required reading)

1 = participated in discussion in a meaningful way (understood the readings and ask informed questions)

2 = excellent performance (sophisticated analysis of readings, made connections between readings, added information/theory from outside of readings)

Students need to email the instructor with their self-evaluation score (0-2) between weeks 3-14 (only the highest 10 weeks evaluation score will be counted*)

Students are also required to visit one office hour during the semester (preferably between week 4 and week 10) and talk to the course instructor about his/her progress.

Movie/Book Reflection (3) (25-25-30%)

- **Week 3-5** Schedule a meeting with me to discuss your **first and second movie/book titles** and the direction/focus of the before you start the project (**required**)
The movies and the books' stories need to relate to the Central-Eastern European history during the Cold War. The movies and the books need to be created between 1945 and 1990 (production(s) before and after this time frame should be discussed)
- **Week 7-10-13** you are required to submit your three reflection papers (4-page long/each, minimum 00 words) and give a 10-15 minutes ppt presentation about one of your topics (it could be recorded and post in the Canvas Discussion if we won't have time - TBA)

Possible titles for the Reflection Paper are at the end of the syllabus

Grading Scale

A = 93.4-100%	B+ = 86.7-89.9%	C+ = 76.7-79.9%	D+ = 66.7-69.9%	E = 59% and below
A- = 90-93.3%	B = 83.4-86.6%	C = 73.4-76.6%	D = 63.4-66.6	
	B- = 80-83.3%	C- = 70-73.3%	D- = 60-63.3	

More information on grades and grading policies is here:

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/grades-grading-policies/>

Class Attendance and Make-Up Policy

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/attendance-policies/>

Class attendance is expected. If you miss class for medical reasons, religious holiday or for any other reason you consider valid, notify your instructor in advance.

Unexcused absence (each) will be lowered your final grade with one “notch” (ie. from an A to an A-)

Excused absences are consistent with university policies in the undergraduate catalog and require appropriate document(s).

Make-up Exam Policy: Students who have been granted an excused absence and miss a scheduled exam (because of illness, mandatory religious obligations, or other unavoidable circumstances), must rescheduled the make-up exam.

Auditors are requested to complete assignments and prepare for class as if they were registered as regular students. If an auditor does not fulfill these requirements, he/she will be asked to withdraw from the course.

Use of Canvas and Netiquette

Canvas Guide <https://elearning.ufl.edu/keep-learning/quickstart-guide-for-students/>

Netiquette <http://teach.ufl.edu/wpcontent/uploads/2012/08/NetiquetteGuideforOnlineCourses.pdf>

E-mail Policy

University of Florida requires that you use your UF Gatorlink account for university (and class) related email communication. Please see <http://www.it.ufl.edu/policies/#email> to read more on this policy.

Students Requiring Accommodations

Students with disabilities who experience learning barriers and would like to request academic accommodations should connect with the disability Resource Center by visiting

<https://disability.ufl.edu/students/get-started/>

It is important for students to share their accommodation letter with their instructor and discuss their access needs, as early as possible in the semester.

Course Evaluation

Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing online evaluations at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/>.

Evaluations are typically open during the last two or three weeks of the semester, but students will be given specific times when they are open. Summary results of these assessments are available to students at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/>.

Class Demeanor

Students are expected to arrive to class on time and behave in a manner that is respectful to the instructor and to fellow students. Please avoid the use of cell phones and restrict eating to outside of the classroom. Opinions held by other students should be respected in discussion, and conversations that do not contribute to the discussion should be held at minimum, if at all.

University Honesty Policy

UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge which states, “We, the members of the University of Florida

community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: "On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment." The Honor Code

<https://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/process/student-conduct-code/>

specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. Furthermore, you are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor or TAs in this class.

Counseling and Wellness Center

Contact information for the Counseling and Wellness Center: <https://counseling.ufl.edu/>, 392-1575; and the University Police Department: 392-1111 or 9-1-1 for emergencies.

Canvas Privacy Policy

Our class sessions may be audio visually recorded for students in the class to refer back and for enrolled students who are unable to attend live. Students who participate with their camera engaged or utilize a profile image are agreeing to have their video or image recorded. If you are unwilling to consent to have your profile or video image recorded, be sure to keep your camera off and do not use a profile image. Likewise, students who un-mute during class and participate orally are agreeing to have their voices recorded. If you are not willing to consent to have your voice recorded during class, you will need to keep your mute button activated and communicate exclusively using the "chat" feature, which allows students to type questions and comments live. The chat will not be recorded or shared. As in all courses, unauthorized recording and unauthorized sharing of recorded materials is prohibited.

The participation portion of your grade for this class will be calculated on the basis of your attendance and your participation in class activities. Normally you will satisfy this requirement through your participation through video and audio presence on Zoom. However, you may also satisfy this requirement through written comments in chat and discussion assignments in Canvas.

Course Schedule

UF Holidays and Recharge Days

week 2 01/18 – Monday (doesn't affect our classes)

week 7 02/25 – Thursday (optional break)

week 11 03/24 – Wednesday (doesn't affect our classes)

Week 1/1: Introduction to course

General Outline and Requirments

- Zoom and Canvas basics for the course
<https://elearning.ufl.edu/keep-learning/quickstart-guide-for-students/>
<https://elearning.ufl.edu/zoom/>
- UF Library and VPN setup
<https://it.clas.ufl.edu/kb/category/vpn/>
- Review the Netiquette Guide for Online Courses
<http://teach.ufl.edu/wpcontent/uploads/2012/08/NetiquetteGuideforOnlineCourses.pdf>
- Review the Course Syllabus

- Movie and Book Review Papers Topics-Sources-Deadlines

Week 1/2: Introduction to course

Lifting the (Iron) Curtain

- Key facts and terms; Timeline and Maps;
- Historical, Economic and Cultural Stereotypes of countries on both sides of the Iron Curtain

Documentary: *The Lost World of Communism* (2009) – BBC -Selected parts – East Germany: A Socialist Paradise <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5pFyFjYO3W8&t=80s>

Week 2/1:

History of everyday life

- Understanding the different approaches of the history - Political-Economic-Social History (ideology)

Discussion - The role of historical memory and interpreting events of during Cold War

Reading:

- Paul Steege, Andrew Bergerson, Maureen Healy and Pamela E. Swett, "The History of Everyday Life. A Second Chapter", *The Journal of Modern History* 80 (2008): 358-378.
- Peter Apor, "The Joy of Everyday Life. Microhistory and the History of Everyday Life in the Socialist Dictatorships", *East Central Europe* (2007): 185-218.
- Zakharova Larissa, "Everyday Life Under Communism: Practices and Objects", *Annales. Histoire, Sciences Sociales*, 2013/2 (68th Year), p. 305-314. URL: <https://www.cairn-int.info/journal-Annales-2013-2-page-305.htm>

Week 2/2:

Socialism and Communism Basics

- The meaning of Socialism and the Idea of Communism

Reading:

- Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels: "The Communist Manifesto (1848)" – selected pages <https://www.marxists.org/archive/marx/works/1848/communist-manifesto/>

Discussion - How relevant the Communist Manifesto today?

Documentary:

- *Heaven on Earth: The Rise and Fall of Socialism* – Robert Owen and Marx&Engels (2005) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tVki05stM2w>
- *Heaven on Earth: The Rise and Fall of Socialism* – Lenin and Stalin (2005) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tVki05stM2w>

Week 3/1: The Workers' States and People's Democracies and the Communist Party

- Building a New Society – The Privileged Class (Peasants and Workers)
Work Ethic and Motivation

Reading:

- Katherine Lebow: "Public works, private lives in Nowa Huta" (2001) https://www.jstor.org/stable/20081786#metadata_info_tab_contents

Movie:

- *Man of Marble* (1976) – directed by Andrzej Wajda - reflection* UF Lib: DVD 990

Documentary:

- *Nova Huta – The Labyrinth of Memory* (2009) – directed by Marcin Kapron
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qpWPrtR5X74>

Week 3/2: Workplace and working conditions

Reading:

- Thomas K. Murphy "Czechoslovakia Behind the Curtain. Life, Work and Culture in the Communist Era" (2018) - Chapter 1 pp. 13-26.

Week 4/1-2: Living Spaces

- Housing Blocks and Apartments

Reading:

- Sandor Horvath: "Everyday life in the first Hungarian Socialist City" in: *Labor in Postwar Central Eastern Europe* (2005) pp. 24-46
<https://www.cambridge.org/core/journals/international-labor-and-working-class-history/issue/8FF672B036E157E3E4B8A02F658670D3>
- David Crowley and Susan E. Reid: "Warsaw Interiors: The Public Life of Private Spaces 1949-56" in: *Socialist Spaces: Sites of Everyday Life in the Eastern Bloc* (2002) pp. 181-206

Documentary:

- *Budapest Retro* (1999) – directed by Gabor Zsigmond Papp – Selected clips – Budapest Apartment (ask Instructor's copy)

Week 5/1: School and Education -1

- Literacy - Free education - Brain drain

Reading:

- Thomas K. Murphy "Czechoslovakia Behind the Curtain. Life, Work and Culture in the Communist Era" (2018) - Chapter 2 pp. 27-38.

Documentary:

- *My Perestroika* (2010) – directed by Robin Hessman– Selected parts UF Lib: DVD 7167 (ask Instructor's copy)

Week 5/2: School and Education -2

- Religion and Science

Reading:

- Thomas K. Murphy "Czechoslovakia Behind the Curtain. Life, Work and Culture in the Communist Era" (2018) - Chapter 8 pp. 126-42.

Discussion - Separation of the State and the Church. Atheism

Week 6/1-2: Women emancipation

- Women at work, at school and at home

Reading:

- Eduard Taborsky "Women behind the Iron Curtain" (1951) in *Educated Women and Controversial Issues* pp. 158-162.
<https://www.jstor.org/stable/42918789>
- Zsafia Eszter Toth: "Shifting Identities" in: *Labor in Postwar Central Eastern Europe* (2005) pp. 75-92 <https://www.cambridge.org/core/journals/international-labor-and-working-class-history/issue/8FF672B036E157E3E4B8A02F658670D3>
- Padriac Kenney: "The gender of resistance in Communist Poland" in: *The American Historical Review* (1999) pp. 399-425
https://www.jstor.org/stable/2650371?seq=1#metadata_info_tab_contents

Discussion - How did the state support for women?

Documentary:

- *Budapest Retro* (1999) – directed by Gabor Zsigmond Papp – Selected clips – Women of Budapest (ask Instructor's copy)

Week 7/1-2: Culture, Entertainment and Leisure - 1

- The Power of Music

Reading:

- G. Tsipursky: "Jazz, Power and Soviet Youth in the Early Cold War, 1948-1953" in: *The Journal of Musicology* (2016) pp.332-361 <https://www.jstor.org/stable/10.2307/26414239>
- T. Ryback: *Rock around the Bloc: A History of Rock Music in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union* (chapter 4-5) UF Fine Arts Library: ML3534.R9 1990

Movie:

- *Stilyagi* (2008) – directed by Valery Todorovsky

Documentary:

- *How the Beatles Rocked the Kremlin* (2009) – directed by L. Woodhead (YouTube <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eUO1atyECD8> or ask Instructor's copy)
- *Beats the Freedom* (2010) – directed by L. Gnoinski, W. Slota (YouTube or ask Instructor's copy)
- *Radio Revolution* (2009) – <https://www.journeyman.tv/film/4349>

• **1st Reflection Paper - Submission**

Week 8/1-2: Culture, Entertainment and Leisure - 2

- Consumerism

Reading:

- Jukka Gronow and Sergei Zhuravlev, "Soviet Luxuries from Champagne to Private Cars", in *Pleasures in Socialism. Leisure and Luxury in the Eastern Bloc*, edited by David Crowley and Susan Reid (Evanston, IL: Northwestern University Press, 2010), 121-146.

- Mary Neuburger, “Inhaling Luxury. Smoking and Anti-Smoking in Socialist Bulgaria 1947-1989”, in *Pleasures in Socialism. Leisure and Luxury in the Eastern Bloc*, edited by David Crowley and Susan Reid (Evanston, IL: Northwestern University Press, 2010), 239-258.
- Patrick Hyder Patterson, “Risky Business. What Was Really Being Sold in the Department Stores of Socialist Eastern Europe?”, in *Communism Unwrapped. Consumption in Cold War Eastern Europe*, edited by Paulina Bren and Mary Neuburger (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2012), 116-139.
- Katherine Pence, “Grounds for Discontent? Coffee from the Black Market to the Kaffeeklatsch in the GDR”, in *Communism Unwrapped. Consumption in Cold War Eastern Europe*, edited by Paulina Bren and Mary Neuburger (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2012), 197-225

Documentary:

- *Budapest Retro* (1999) – directed by Gabor Zsigmond Papp – Selected clips – Cars of Pest (ask Instructor’s copy)
- *Trabant: The Cool couple from the Cold War* (2007) – directed by T. Goffin (ask Instructor’s copy)

Week 9/1-2: Culture, Entertainment and Leisure - 3

- State owned Sportclubs and Athlets

Reading:

- Petr Roubal: *Mass Gymnastic Performances under Communism: The Case of Czechoslovak Spartakiads* in: *The Sovietization of Eastern Europe* (2008) pp 171-180.

Documentary:

- *Doping for Gold* (2008) – PBS (YouTube or ask Instructor’s copy)
<https://www.pbs.org/wnet/secrets/the-state-sponsored-doping-program/52/>

Week 10/1-2: Culture, Entertainment and Leisure - 4

- Television

Reading:

- Maruša Pušnik, “Flirting with Television in Socialism. Proletarian Morality and the Lust for Abundance”, in *Remembering Utopia. The Culture of Everyday Life in Socialist Yugoslavia*, edited by Breda Luthar and Maruša Pušnik (Washington DC: New Academia Publishing, 2010), 227-258.
- Kristin Rot-Ey, “Playing for Cultural Authority. Soviet TV Professionals and the Game Shows in the 1950s and 1960s”, in *Pleasures in Socialism. Leisure and Luxury in the Eastern Bloc*, edited by David Crowley and Susan Reid (Evanston, IL: Northwestern University Press, 2010), 147-176.

Week 10/2: Culture, Entertainment and Leisure - 4

- Humor behind the Curtain

Reading:

- Christie Davis: *Humour and Protest: Jokes under Communism* (selected pages)

<https://www.jstor.org/stable/26405495>

- Christie Davis - *Jokes and Their Relation to Society* (selected pages) in: *International Review of Social History* 52 (2007) pp. 291-305
- Ben Lewis - *Hammer and Tickle: A History of Communism Told Through Communist Jokes* (selected pages)

Documentary:

- *Hammer and Tickle* (2006) – directed by Ben Lewis (YouTube or ask Instructor's copy)

• **2nd Reflection Paper - Submission**

Week 11: Freedom seekers and Resistance - 1

- 1950s

Reading:

- Csaba Bekes: *Cold War, Détente and the 1956 Hungarian Revolution* (2002)
<http://coldwar.hu/publications/detente.pdf>
- Digital Archives: East German Uprising 1953- Wilson Center
<https://digitalarchive.wilsoncenter.org/collection/35/east-german-uprising/5>
- 1956 Polish and Hungarian Crisis – Wilson Center
<https://digitalarchive.wilsoncenter.org/collection/9/1956-polish-and-hungarian-crises>

Movie:

- *Children of Glory* (2006) – directed by Krisztina Goda - reflection* (ask Instructor's copy)
- *Freedom Flight* (2013) – directed by Peter Fazekas reflection* (ask Instructor's copy)

Week 12: Freedom seekers and Resistance - 2

- 1960s

Reading:

- *A Brief History of the Berlin Crisis of 1961* <https://www.archives.gov/files/research/foreign-policy/cold-war/1961-berlin-crisis/overview/berlin-wall-overview.pdf>
- M.Fidelis: *The Other Marxists: Making Sense of International Student Revolts in Poland in the Global Sixties* in: *Fear and Fascination: War, Enemies, and the Other in the Soviet Bloc through the 1950s*, *Zeitschrift für Ostmitteleuropa-Forschung* 62 (2013): 425-449
- Stephen Fischer-Galati: *Eastern Europe in the Sixties*
<https://www.questia.com/read/9163718/eastern-europe-in-the-sixties>
- George Schöpflin: *Normalization in Eastern Europe: the Reimposition of the Soviet System*
<https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/abs/10.1177/03058298820110020501?journalCode=mila>
- Kieran Williams: *The Prague spring and its aftermath* (1997) - TBA

Documentary:

- *Prague Spring* (1999) – directed by Gina Kovacs and Christian Vinkeloe UF Lib: DVD 7470

Movie:

- *The Tunnel* (2001) – directed by Ronald Suso Richter - reflection* (ask Instructor's copy)
- *Walled In!* (2010) – DW <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OwQsTzGkbiY&t=5s>

Week 13: Freedom seekers and Resistance - 3

- 1970s

Reading:

- H. Gordon Skilling: *Background to the Study of Opposition in Communist Eastern Europe*
- D. Pollack-J. Weilgosh: *Dissident and Opposition in Communist Eastern Europe (chapter 11)*
UF Lib: JN96.A91 D57 2004
- G Johnston: *What was the Samizdat?*

Movie:

- Man of Iron (1981) - directed by Andrzej Wajda – UF Library: Video 1997 (or ask Instructor's copy)

Documentary:

- *Polish Transformation* (2011) – Social Film Institute – (YouTube or ask Instructor's copy)
- *K.O.R* (2009) – directed by Johanna Grudzinska (ask Instructor's copy)
- *Story of Bela Moka* (selected clips) – ÉR TV (ask Instructor's copy)

- *3rd Reflection Paper – Submission*

- *Course Reflection Paper Presentation Group 1*

Week 14: Freedom seekers and Resistance - 4

- 1980s

Reading and Discussion:

- Robert V Daniels: Gorbachev's Reforms and the Reversal of History in: *The History Teacher* 1990. Pp.237-254

Movie:

- Blind Chance (1987) – directed by Krzysztof Kieslowski – UF Library: DVD 970 (or ask Instructor's copy)

- *Course Reflection Paper Presentation Group 2*

Week 15: Review

Reading and Discussion:

- Katherine Verdery: What was Socialism and why did it fall?
<http://www.faculty.fairfield.edu/dcrawford/verdery.pdf>

- *Course Reflection Paper Presentation Group 3*

Movie and Book List for Reflection Paper - TBA