

U426/U520

Modern Hungarian Literature

Instructor: Peter Nemes
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Credits: 3
Days and Time: Tuesday and Thursday, 11:15am – 12:30pm

Course description:

This course offers an introduction to the Hungarian literature of the twentieth century. It is open to undergraduates as well as graduates.

The main topics to be discussed are: 1) socio-economic modernization and literary modernity at the beginning of the twentieth century; 2) The role of Hungary in the culture of the Habsburg Monarchy; 3) Naturalism, Symbolism, Art Nouveau, Expressionism; 4) the influence of Freud and Marx; 5) the conflict between urbanization and Populism in the inter war period; 6) Socialist Realism and its opposition (religious poetry, individualist parables, Postmodernism) in the years 1947-1996.

All texts will be read in English translation. Students familiar with the Hungarian language will be encouraged to compare translations with the originals.

This semester we will focus on major accomplishments in prose (novels, short stories), and on the problems associated with constructing a national literary history.

Assignments:

Midterm: An in-class midterm test (a short essay on one of three topics).

Oral presentation: A 15-20 minute oral presentation on an author/book chosen in consultation with the instructor.

Final Paper: Graduate students will be required to prepare a research paper (7-8 pages) on a topic to be chosen in consultation with the instructor. Undergraduates are expected to write a shorter paper (4-5 pages).

Participation: Includes attendance, reading check-up, and active participation in discussions.

Grading based on:

Midterm	25%
Oral presentation	20%
Final paper	35%
Participation	20%

Grading scale:

A+ 99-100%	B+ 89-90%	C+ 79-80%	D+ 69-70%
A 95-98%	B 85-88%	C 75-78%	D 65-68%
A- 91-94%	B- 81-84%	C- 71-74%	D- 61-64%

Classroom Policies (CEUS):

Plagiarism constitutes using others' ideas, words or images without properly giving credit to those sources. If you turn in any work with your name affixed to it, I assume that work is your own and that all sources are indicated and documented in the text (with quotations and/or citations). I will respond to acts of academic misconduct according to university policy concerning plagiarism; sanctions for plagiarism can include a grade of F for the assignment in question and/or for the course and must include a report to the Dean of Students Office.

While in class, students are expected to pay attention and not distract other students with disruptive activities. This includes newspaper reading, conversation unrelated to class, eating, cell-phone ringing or use, text-messaging, and the like. Those who come late without good excuse or who are significantly disruptive in class will lose participation points. Persistently disruptive students will be dealt with through the university disciplinary system.

You are expected to be up-to-date with the readings and class materials, and willing to respond to questions and participate in discussion on it. Students will be expected to have read the readings for that week (in addition to assignments listed in the syllabus for that date) and be ready for active discussion.

Attendance and preparation are essential. In case of absences, notify your instructor as soon as possible.

Disabilities Services for Students:

The Office of Disability Services for Students provides services and referrals for students with disabilities. Academic accommodations and other services are provided on an individual basis as determined by documented need. Accommodations and services, available for qualified students, include letters to faculty, test accommodations, etc. For more information, contact: Disability Services for Students, Franklin Hall 096 or call (812)-855-7578 or visit www.indiana.edu/~iubdss. If you have a Learning Disability, contact Learning Disability Support Services at 855-3508. *NOTE: Instructors cannot accommodate a disability until documented by DSS and reviewed by the Department of Central Eurasian Studies for compliance with program integrity.*

Overview of weekly schedule

	Date	Topic	Reading
Week 1	Sep 2 & 4	Introduction	Harris (*)
Week 2	Sep 9 & 11	Hungary around 1900	Lukacs, poems (*), Szegedy-Maszák (*)
Week 3	Sep 16 & 18	Kosztolányi	short stories (*), Szegedy-Maszák (*)
Week 4	Sep 23 & 25	Kosztolányi	<u>Skylark</u>
Week 5	Sep 30 & Oct 2	Krúdy, Móricz	short stories (*)
Week 6	Oct 7 & 9	Krúdy	<u>Sunflower</u>
Week 7	Oct 14 & 16	Csáth, Füst	short stories (*), <u>Story of My Wife</u>
Week 8	Oct 21 & 23	Kassák, József, Weöres	poems (*)
Week 9	Oct 28 & 30	Review and Midterm	-
Week 10	Nov 4 & 6	Illyés	<u>The People of the Pusztá</u>
Week 11	Nov 11 & 13	Márai	<u>Embers, Szegedy-Maszák (*)</u>
Week 12	Nov 18 & 20	Ottlik	<u>School at the Frontier</u>
Week 13	Nov 25	Kertész, Radnóti	<u>Fatelessness, poems (*)</u>
Thanksgiving	-	-	-
Week 14	Dec 2 & 4	Nádas, Esterházy	<u>Helping Verbs of the Heart</u> , <u>Book of Memories</u>
Week 15	Dec 9 & 11	Literary Histories	Nemes (*)
Finals Week	Dec 15-19	No final exam	-

Readings marked with a star (*) are available on Oncourse. Longer works are underlined.

COURSE OUTLINE

Note on course materials: All shorter reading assignments (short stories, poems, scholarly articles) and handouts will be available as pdf-files from Oncourse; all materials available for download are marked with an asterisk ().*

Week 1

Introduction to course policies, and a brief overview of Hungarian history and culture. Problems and methodologies of literary history; a theoretical introduction to reading national literatures.

Reading:

- Harris, Wendell V, "What Is Literary 'History'?" in College English 56.4. (Apr. 1994): 434-51. (*)

Week 2

Hungary around 1900. Socio-economic modernization and literary modernity. Symbolism and Art Nouveau. Journals: Új Idők, A Hét, Huszadik Század, Nyugat. Focus on the poetry of Nyugat.

Readings:

- John Lukacs, Budapest 1900. New York: Weidenfeld and Nicolson, 1988.
- Selected poems from Endre Ady (1877-1919) and Mihály Babits (1883-1941) (*)
- Mihály Szegedy-Maszák, "Conservatism, Modernity, and Populism in Hungarian Culture." Hungarian Studies 9.1-2: 15-37. (*)

Weeks 3-4

From Symbolism to Expressionism. The poetry and prose of Dezső Kosztolányi (1885-1936).

Readings:

- Dezső Kosztolányi, Skylark. Budapest: Central European UP, 1996.
- Dezső Kosztolányi, "Omelette à Woburn," in Hungarian Short Stories. /New York/Toronto: Oxford University Press, 1967, 185-193. (*)
- Dezső Kosztolányi, "A Holiday Swim," in Hungarian Short Stories. Budapest: Corvina, 1962, 335-342. (*)
- Mihály Szegedy-Maszák, "Dezső Kosztolányi," in George Stade, ed., European Writers: The Twentieth Century, vol. 10, 1231-1249. (*)

Week 5-6

Innovation and tradition in narrative fiction. The novels and short stories of Gyula Krúdy (1878-1933) and Zsigmond Móricz (1879-1942).

Readings:

- Gyula Krúdy, "The Last Cigar at the Grey Arab," in Hungarian Short Stories. London/New York/Toronto: Oxford University Press, 1967, 115-41. (*)
- Zsigmond Móricz, "Brutes," in 44 Hungarian Short Stories. Budapest: Corvina, 1979, 68-86. (*)
- Gyula Krúdy, Sunflower. New York: New York Review Books Classics, 2007.

Week 7

Psychiatry and literature: the short stories of Géza Csáth (1887-1919).
Psychoanalysis and autobiographical fiction: Milán Füst (1888-1967).

Readings:

- Géza Csáth, The Magician's Garden and Other Stories. New York: Columbia University Press, 1980.
- Milán Füst, The Story of My Wife. New York: Vintage, 1989.

Week 8

The Hungarian avant-garde: Activism. Free verse and social prophecy. The journals, poetry, and prose of Lajos Kassák (1887-1967). From Marxism to Existentialism: the poetry of Attila József (1905-1937). The poetry of Sándor Weöres.

Readings:

- Attila József, Perched on Nothing's Branch. Tallahassee, FL: Appalachee Press, 1986. (*)
- Miklós Vajda, ed., Modern Hungarian Poetry. Budapest: Corvina, 1977. (*)
- Sándor Weöres, Selected Poems. Harmondsworth, Middlesex: Penguin, 1970. (*)

Week 9

REVIEW and MIDTERM

Week 10

Folklore and literature. The Populist movement: journals, political and cultural associations. The autobiography of Gyula Illyés (1902-1983).

Reading:

- Gyula Illyés, The People of the Puszta. Budapest: Corvina, 1967.

Week 11

The experience of exile, postponed international success: Sándor Márai (1900-1989).

Readings:

- Sándor Márai, Embers. London: Penguin, 2003.

- Mihály Szegedy-Maszák, "The Bourgeois as Artist: Sándor Márai," in New Hungarian Quarterly 125 (Spring 1992): 12-9. (*)

Week 12

The Hungarian *Bildungsroman* of the 20th century; Géza Ottlik (1912-1990).

Reading:

- Géza Ottlik, School at the Frontier. New York: Harcourt, 1966.

Week 13

The literature of the holocaust: Nobel-Prize winner Imre Kertész (b. 1929), and the late poetry of Miklós Radnóti (1909-1944).

Reading:

- Imre Kertész, Fatelessness. New York: Vintage, 2006.

- Selected poems from Miklós Radnóti. (*)

Week 14:

The autobiographical fiction of Nádas and Esterházy; postmodernism.

Readings:

- Péter Esterházy, Helping Verbs of the Heart. New York: Grove Weidelfeld, 1990.
- Péter Nádas, A Book of Memories. New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 1997. (excerpts)

Week 15:

How to write a Hungarian literary history? Past and present attempts.

Reading:

- Peter Nemes: *The Writing of a New Hungarian Literary History*. manuscript of conference presentation (*)