This class reads historical novels set during the Ottoman period together with fiction set during the communist period. In examining this literature we will gain insight into the history and culture of the crossroads of Catholic, Orthodox, and Islamic culture, and explore how fictionalized narratives of history have shaped the region’s cultures as well as their relations to supranational entities like the Ottoman Empire, the Eastern Bloc, and the European Union. At the same time, we will investigate the genre of historical fiction and the interpenetration of fictional and historical narratives in novels and in nationalist ideologies, not least in the case of “minor” literatures always conscious of their relationship to larger regional powers.