SLAV-S 363: Literature and Culture of the South Slavs I: Literature and Nationalism

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Office hours: T, Th 2:30 – 3:30 or by appointment

Course description

This course is a survey of literary and intellectual history of the South Slavs in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, with a special focus on the foundational ideology of nations and nationalism in this period.

For much of the modern period, nationalism has been a dominant ideology in the Balkans, surviving well into the socialist period and beyond. Its origins date to the mid-19th century, when the first so-called national revival movements began to appear in the South Slavic lands, inspired by the German philosopher Johann Gottfried (von) Herder’s (1744-1803) writings about the Slavic nations.

From these early days of anti-colonial resistance to the Austro-Hungarian and Ottoman Empires, to the arrival of Young Bosnia and its most notorious member - Gavrilo Princip - on the world stage in 1914, much of South Slavic written word, including literature, was devoted to elaborating the idea of national identity and national self-determination.
In this course we will examine the rise of nations and nationalism in the Balkans, focusing primarily on the lands of former Yugoslavia. Our readings will help us understand theories and histories of nationalism on the one hand, and literary and cultural participation in nationalist ideology on the other. Our primary literary sources will include a number of late 19th and early 20th century authors and their works, supplemented by later works that explore this tumultuous period in South Slavic literary history.

All readings are in English. No previous study of the region is required.

**Studying nations and nationalism today:**

Nationalist ideology is a powerful political and cultural force. We have witnessed many conflicts and wars justified and/or motivated by nationalism. The wars following the break up of the Yugoslav federal state in the 1990s (Slovenian, Croatian, Bosnian, Kosovar, and Macedonian) relied heavily on nationalist rhetoric and ideology. For this reason, studying nationalism in the South Slav lands today is an ideological minefield. We would be wise to keep the following in mind as we approach this subject:

As one of our theoreticians of nationalism, Eric Hobsbawm, will teach us, it is impossible to be a serious historian of nations and nationalism and a committed political nationalist. Why this is the case we will learn in due time. For this reason, however, we will have to do our best to leave our national(istic) convictions behind when entering this field of study.

One of the handmaidens of contemporary nationalism (and its original varieties) is the fallacy of anachronism, i.e., attributing features and ideologies of our current situation to a historical event far removed from us. We will read literary texts which, read anachronistically, will seem to incite, celebrate, and glorify violence in the name of a nation. It will be difficult to read this and not think of the carnage of the two world wars or the most recent wars in the region, but we must try or we will fall victim to the fallacy of reading 19th century literature as if it were written in the 21st. I will do my best to provide you with the context and ways of reading that will help us steer clear of such pitfalls.

Finally, a note on class discussion: Class discussions must be based in mutual respect and collegiality. Statements that generalize and/or essentialize any collective identity, national or not, are counter-productive to maintaining that respect and collegiality and shall not be tolerated. Statements that begin with “(all) Bosniaks” or “(all) Croats” or “(all) Serbs” or “(all) Yugoslavs” or “(all) Americans” are bound to end badly. We shall work together to unpack why this is so, but in the meantime, let’s do our best to avoid them.

**Learning Outcomes**

Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to:
- recognize, evaluate, and critique theories of nationalism and their history in the Balkans
- identify and discuss the historical and social context for the rise of nationalist political and cultural movements in former Yugoslavia
- critically assess the significance of nationalist ideology for the region’s literature and culture in the modern period
- apply methods of literary analysis in interpreting a wide range of late 19th and early 20th century literary texts from the region
- scrutinize the role of literary and cultural historiography in theory and practice of nationalism

Course requirements

- attendance and participation in class discussions and activities
- in-class writing assignments
- one 15 – 20 page paper

HONORS COLLEGE SECTION ONLY:

- one page response to readings

GRADUATE STUDENTS ONLY:

- one page response to readings
- two book reviews

Attendance and participation

This course will be conducted in a seminar format. This means that the bulk of our class time will be spent on discussions of materials we have read outside of class. For this method to work, you must a) be present in class, b) be prepared for class participation, i.e., having read and thought about our assignments, and c) be willing to offer your contributions to discussion in a respectful manner. Please keep in mind that even if you find public speaking difficult or class discussion uncomfortable, you are not excused from participating.

Writing Assignments

Occasionally you will be asked to do a short writing assignment in class. These will be based on the readings assigned for the day, and guided by one or two prompts. We will use these as an opportunity to practice our analytical and writing skills.
Paper

You will be asked to write 15 to 20 page research paper on a topic of your choosing, dealing with one or more of the texts discussed in class. Details will be forthcoming in class and there will be opportunity for rewriting.

Evaluation

Attendance and participation (+ One-page Responses) 25%

In-class Writing Assignments (+ Book Reviews) 15%

Paper 60%

Academic Misconduct

As a student at IU, you are expected to adhere to all the standards and policies of the code of academic conduct. When you submit an assignment with your name on it, you are signifying that the work contained therein is yours, unless otherwise cited or referenced. Any ideas or materials taken from another source for either written or oral use must be fully acknowledged.

All suspected violations of the Code will be reported to the Dean of Students and handled according to University policies. Sanctions for academic misconduct may include a failing grade on the assignment, reduction in your final course grade, and a failing grade in the course, among other possibilities. If you are unsure about the expectations for completing an assignment or taking a test or exam, be sure to seek clarification beforehand.

Re: Note Selling: Several commercial services have approached students regarding selling class notes/study guides to their classmates. Selling the instructor’s notes/study guides in this course is not permitted. Violations of this policy will be reported to the Dean of Students as academic misconduct (violation of course rules). Sanctions for academic misconduct may include a failing grade on the assignment for which the notes/study guides are being sold, a reduction in your final course grade, a failing grade in the course, among other possibilities. Additionally, you should know that selling a faculty member’s notes/study guides individually or on behalf of one of these services using IU email, or via Canvas may also constitute a violation of IU information technology and IU intellectual property policies and additional consequences may result.

Any suspected infractions of this Code will be handled according to the official rules and policies of the University. Penalties for infractions may result in a failing grade in the course or expulsion from the University. If an incident cannot be resolved between the instructor and the
student, the matter will be taken to the Dean of Students and the instructor will abide by the
decisions reached. See the Code of Student Rights, Responsibilities, and Conduct
(http://www.iu.edu/~code/) for full info.

**Disability Statement**

Any student who feels he/she may need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability
must register with Disability Services for Students first. According to DSS guidelines, only
students who have registered their disabilities with DSS are officially eligible for
accommodations. When the disability has been registered, the student will receive a letter
describing any accommodations necessary which must be presented to the instructor in the
first week of classes. Please contact Disability Services for Students at 812-855-7578 in Wells
Library W302 to coordinate reasonable accommodations for students with documented
disabilities. More information is available on the DSS web site
(https://studentaffairs.indiana.edu/disability-services-students/).

**Disclaimer**

All information in this syllabus, including course requirements and daily lesson plans, is subject
to change and should not be considered a substitute for attending class or for any information
that is provided to you by your instructor.

**Required Texts**


*Note on e-texts and course files found in Canvas:
Most materials we will use in this class will be available to you in electronic format. Some of
them you will access via the library website, while others are files uploaded here in pdf format.
Please note that ALL of these materials are under copyright and are provided to you SOLELY
for educational purposes and for your use in this class. You are NOT to distribute these
electronically or in print. Please see me if you have any questions or concerns.

**Schedule:**

**Weeks 1 - 4: Theories of Nations and Nationalism**

**Introductions**
Aug 23: Introductions

Aug 25:

Benedict Anderson *Imagined Communities: Reflections on the Origin and Spread of Nationalism* (pp. 1 – 36)
http://KG6EK7CQ2B.search.serialssolutions.com/?V=1.0&L=KG6EK7CQ2B&S=JC&s&C=TC000084319&T=marc (Links to an external site.)

*Nations as Imagined Communities*

Aug 30:

Benedict Anderson *Imagined Communities: Reflections on the Origin and Spread of Nationalism* (pp. 37 – 66)
http://KG6EK7CQ2B.search.serialssolutions.com/?V=1.0&L=KG6EK7CQ2B&S=JC&s&C=TC000084319&T=marc (Links to an external site.)

Sept 1:

Benedict Anderson *Imagined Communities: Reflections on the Origin and Spread of Nationalism* (pp. 67 – 82)
http://KG6EK7CQ2B.search.serialssolutions.com/?V=1.0&L=KG6EK7CQ2B&S=JC&s&C=TC000084319&T=marc (Links to an external site.)

Eric Hobsbawm *Nations and Nationalism Since 1780: Programme, Myth, Reality* (pp. 1 – 14)
http://KG6EK7CQ2B.search.serialssolutions.com/?V=1.0&L=KG6EK7CQ2B&S=JC&s&C=TC000084560&T=marc (Links to an external site.)

*Nations and Nationalism in Context*

Sept 6:

Eric Hobsbawm *Nations and Nationalism Since 1780: Programme, Myth, Reality* (pp. 14 – 45)
http://KG6EK7CQ2B.search.serialssolutions.com/?V=1.0&L=KG6EK7CQ2B&S=JC&s&C=TC000084560&T=marc (Links to an external site.)

Sept 8:

Eric Hobsbawm *Nations and Nationalism Since 1780: Programme, Myth, Reality* (pp. 46 – 79)
http://KG6EK7CQ2B.search.serialssolutions.com/?V=1.0&L=KG6EK7CQ2B&S=JC&s&C=TC000084560&T=marc (Links to an external site.)

*National Romanticism*
Sept 20:


http://KG6EK7CQ2B.search.serialssolutions.com/?V=1.0&L=KG6EK7CQ2B&S=JCs&C=TC0000282198&T=marc (Links to an external site.)

Johann Gottfried von Herder *Reflections on the Philosophy of the History of Mankind* (pp. 7 – 13; 28 – 32; 40 – 49)

Sept 22:

Johann Gottfried von Herder *Reflections on the Philosophy of the History of Mankind* (pp. 7 – 13; 28 – 32; 40 – 49) and “Fragments on Recent German Literature” in *Philosophical Writings*

**Weeks 5 - 7: South Slavic National Renaissances**

Sept 13:

**Dennison Rusinow “The Yugoslav Peoples”* in *Eastern European Nationalism in the Twentieth Century* (pp. 347 – 379)

**Milorad Ekmečić “National Renaissances”* in *Dedijer, Božić, Ćirković, and Ekmečić History of Yugoslavia* (pp. 294-309)

Sept 15:

Petar Preradović “Outline of My Life”

Janko Drašković “Dissertation, or Treatise” in *National Romanticism* (Links to an external site.)

Ljudevit Gaj “Proclamations” in *National Romanticism* (Links to an external site.)

“Croatia Has Not Yet Fallen”

“Hey Slavs”

**Language, Poetry, Nation**

Sept. 20:
Vuk Stefanović Karadžić Preface to *Little Slavo-Serbian Songbook of the Common People* in National Romanticism (Links to an external site.)

“The Building of Skadar”

"The Fall of the Serbian Empire"

“The Kosovo Maiden”

“Marko Kraljević and Musa the Robber”

“The Wife of Hasan Aga”

Sept 22:

Petar Petrović Njegoš *The Mountain Wreath*  

*notes to Njegoš*

Recommended: Barbara Jelavich *History of the Balkans: 18th and 19th Centuries* (pp. 192 – 204)

National Bards

Sept 27:

Petar Petrović Njegoš *The Mountain Wreath*  

*notes to Njegoš*

Recommended: *History of the Balkans* (pp. 247 – 254)

Sept 29:

Petar Petrović Njegoš *The Mountain Wreath* OR Ivan Mažuranić *Death of Smail Aga*

Recommended:

*History of the Balkans* (pp. 348 – 361)

*History of Yugoslavia* (pp. 392 – 411)

(Young) Bosnia
Oct 4:


Aleksa Šantić “Stay Here” in Modernism: The Creation of Nation States (Links to an external site.)

Petar Kočić Badger Before the Court

Oct 6:

Badger Before the Court

Predrag Palavestra “Young Bosnia: Literary Action 1908–1914”

Week 9 - 12: Ottoman and Austro-Hungarian Empires and Nationalism in Ivo Andrić

Oct 11:

Ivo Andrić The Bridge on the Drina (pp. 13 – 52)

Oct 13:

The Bridge on the Drina (pp. 53 – 93)

Oct 18:

The Bridge on the Drina (pp. 94 – 133)

Oct 20:

The Bridge on the Drina (pp. 134 – 172)

Oct 25:

The Bridge on the Drina (pp. 173 – 214)

Oct 27:

LECTURE: Frank McCloskey Annual Lecture featuring Prof. Azra Hromadžić 4 pm, place TBA

The Bridge on the Drina (pp. 215 – 256)
Nov 1:

*The Bridge on the Drina* (pp. 257 – end)

Nov 3:

Miroslav Krleža *The Banquet in Blitva* (pp. 3 – 16)

**Week 13 - 16: Miroslav Krleža Against Nationalism, Authoritarianism, Fascism**

Nov 8:

*The Banquet in Blitva* (pp. 17 – 66)

Nov 10:

*The Banquet in Blitva* (pp. 67 – 109)

Nov 15:

*The Banquet in Blitva* (pp. 110 – 156)

Nov 17:

*The Banquet in Blitva* (pp. 159 – 200)

Nov 29: *(FIRST DRAFT DUE)*

*The Banquet in Blitva* (pp. 201 – 247)

Dec 1:

*The Banquet in Blitva* (pp. 248 – 296)

Dec 6: *(PAPER CONFERENCES)*

*The Banquet in Blitva* (297 – end)

Dec 8:

Conclusions

**FINAL PAPER DUE December 14 at noon**