

**SLAV 3100H The Balkans: Culture, Conflict, and the Construction of Identity  
Spring 2006**

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office hours:  
Tue./Thur. 11-12  
or by appointment

**DESCRIPTION**

In this course we will discuss various aspects of Balkan culture and try to answer questions such as: Are the Balkans really an area of “ancient ethnic hatreds,” a place where violence is endemic and inevitable, as this region has often been described? How have ideas of national or ethnic identity been formed among the peoples of this region, and do they share some kind of overarching Balkan identity as well? What factors have shaped the views of outsiders about the Balkans? We will read a variety of texts (fiction, poetry, travel writing, history, and other scholarly works) and watch several films. One particular focus of the course will be language; we will examine both the discourse that is used to create or define identity and how language itself functions as one of the key markers of national identity.

**REQUIREMENTS** (see course website for details)

Class participation	10%
Web project	15%
Midterm exam	30%
Short book or film review (approx. 5 pp.)	15%
Final paper (12-15 pp.)	30%

Attendance: You may have no more than two unexcused absences. Additional unexcused absences will result in points being deducted from your final grade.

Students in this course are expected to conform to the standards set forth in the University's policy on academic honesty: <http://www.uga.edu/ovpi/honesty/acadhon.htm>

No make-ups/extensions will be granted without a valid excuse, and they will be given solely at the discretion of the instructor.

**TEXTS**

At the UGA Bookstore:

Andrić, Ivo. *The Bridge on the Drina*.

Kaplan, Robert D. *Balkan Ghosts*.

Mazower, Mark. *The Balkans: A Short History*

West, Rebecca. *Black Lamb and Grey Falcon: A Journey Through Yugoslavia* [excerpts only, also on reserve]

On reserve at the Main Library:

**e-reserves (password: langston)**

- Crowe, David M. 2000. "Muslim Roma in the Balkans." *Nationalities Papers* 28: 93-128.
- Eminov, Ali. 1990. "There are No Turks in Bulgaria: Rewriting History by Administrative Fiat." In *The Turks of Bulgaria*. Ed. K. H. Karpat, 203-222. Istanbul: Isis Press.
- Friedman, Victor. 1986. "Linguistics, Nationalism, and Literary Languages: A Balkan Perspective." In *The Real-World Linguist: Linguistic Applications in the 1980s*. Ed. by Peter C. Bjarkman and Victor Raskin, 287-305. Norwood, NJ: ALEX Publishing.
- Hobsbawm, E. J. 1992 (2nd ed.). *Nations and Nationalism Since 1780: Programme, Myth, Reality*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. Chap. 2 "Popular proto-nationalism", pp. 46-79.
- Haugen, Einar. 1966. "Dialect, Language, Nation." *American Anthropologist* 68: 922-935.
- Lunt, Horace. 1984. "Some Sociolinguistic Aspects of Macedonian and Bulgarian." In *Language and Literary Theory: In Honor of Ladislav Matejka. (Papers in Slavic Philology 5.)* Ed. by Benjamin A. Stolz et al., 83-132. Ann Arbor, Univ. of Michigan.

**books (excerpts)**

- Drakulić, Slavenka. 1993. *The Balkan Express: Fragments from the Other Side of War*. New York: W.W. Norton and Company.
- West, Rebecca. 1993 (reprint). *Black Lamb and Grey Falcon: A Journey Through Yugoslavia*. Edinburgh: Canongate.

Films:

- Before the rain*, Milcho Manchevski, Macedonia, 1994
- The crazy stranger*, Tony Gatlif, France, 1997/*Latcho Drom*, Tony Gatlif, 1993
- Yugoslavia: Death of a Nation*, Angus McQueen and Paul Mitchell, USA/UK/France, 1995

## **SCHEDULE**

(a detailed syllabus with reading assignments will be posted bi-weekly on the course website)

Midterm exam: Thursday, March 2

Web project: Thursday, March 9 (in-class presentations on Tuesday, March 21)

Book/Film review: Thursday, March 30\*

One-paragraph abstract and preliminary bibliography for final paper: Thursday, April 13

Final paper: due no later than 11 am on Thursday, May 4

\*No class on Mar. 30 due to conference presentation. This class meeting will be rescheduled.

Note: The course syllabus is a general plan for the course; deviations announced to the class by the instructor may be necessary.