

## DESCRIPTION AND SYLLABUS

Name of the subject in Hungarian:	Between East and West
Name of the subject in English:	Between East and West
Credit value of the subject:	3
The code of the subject in the electronic study system:	BN-BETWEW-03-GY
Classification of the subject:	Optional
Language of instruction (in case of non-Hungarian courses):	English, Hungarian
Institute or department responsible for the subject:	Institute of Foreign Languages
Course type and number of contact hours:	Practical, class per week: 2, class per semester: 0
Mode of study: (Full-time / Part-time):	Full-time training
The semester in which the subject is open for registration:	2022/2023 1st semester
Prerequisite(s):	-

### THE PURPOSE OF THE SUBJECT, LEARNING OUTCOMES:

This course is designed to appeal to students who would like to understand and integrate into local culture by becoming familiar with the concept, ideas and realities of Central Europe as a distinct region between Eastern and Western Europe through milestones in its social and political history. By completing the course, students will be able to apply a multidisciplinary approach; to define, identify and verify the existence of regions based on clearly set criteria; to use a comparative approach to appraise sets of historical conflicts based on the concepts of physical and symbolic geography; explain the role and influence of powerful countries in Central Europe; compare and explain similarities and differences between regions. By reading academics representing various schools of thought and relying on above theoretical concepts, students will be able to collect and arrange relevant data to understand the roots of past and present ethnic and national conflicts and hypothesize about potential solutions as to their resolution and management.

The course is part of the Crossroads in Hungary programme. By successfully completing it together with two other courses (Intercultural Communication through Central European Film and Hungarian as a Second Language), students receive a certificate declaring them a Young Expert on Central Europe.

### SUMMARY OF THE CONTENT OF THE SUBJECT

East and West as cardinal points, Continents, Europe, Central Europe – a definition; Physical and symbolic geography; Three Historical Regions of Europe; Fault lines in Europe; Debate on an imaginary region; The Ottoman Empire; Austro-Hungary; Cold War; Change of system in 1989; Symbols in public spaces

### STUDENT'S TASKS AND PLANNED LEARNING ACTIVITIES:

Students are required to do and understand readings, compare and critically analyse traditions and approaches of various historical schools and evaluate events based on that understanding. Tasks to support the achievement of above goals: mind map, drawing maps, watching and discussing documentaries, photos, discuss case studies, reading of academic articles and answering related questions on worksheets, making interviews with family members/fellow students to understand oral family histories; writing an observation diary to understand local cultural experience. Learning is enhanced by a reflective journal and peer review activities.

## EVALUATION OF THE SUBJECT:

Students receive continuous feedback to the performance of tasks completed in and out of class based on their answers given to written and oral in-class discussions and comprehension questions related to various topics.

Completion and grading is based on the following:

### 1) Submission of Observation Diary by the deadline

Observation Diary:

International students have to write a diary of their experience in Hungary based on their participating observations during their stay. Hungarian students may choose to write a learning diary / comparison of two cultures based on methods discussed in class.

Further tasks that count towards the grade:

2) Active participation in class discussions (Not graded but attendance and active contribution to class may round up or down the end-of-term grade.)

3) Readings and video(s):

Individual tasks to submit. They will be graded either as accepted (5) / unaccepted (1) or on a 5-grade scale based on the quality of work.

4) Peer reviews evaluated on a completion-basis.

5) Presentation (individually or in groups) observing the deadline. Presentation may be replaced by research paper at the student's justified request.

Assessment of presentation:

Students select a topic of their choice from the list of topics given at the start of the semester or, alternatively, they can choose an individual topic if approved by instructor.

Evaluation criteria: based on the rubric published on Coospace

Grading is on a 5-grade scale based on the mean average and the quality of tasks listed above:

1 – fail

2 – pass

3 – satisfactory

4 – good

5 – excellent.

## OBLIGATORY READING LIST:

- Johnson, Lonnie: *Central Europe : enemies, neighbors, friends*. Oxford University Press, 2011! [2010]
- Jenő Szűcs: *Three Historical Regions of Europe*, Verso, 1988, [On Coospace](#)
- Milan Kundera: *The Tragedy of Central Europe*, New York Review of Books, Volume 31, Number 7 · April 26, 1984 , [http://www.kx.hu/kepek/ises/anyagok/Kundera\\_tragedy\\_of\\_Central\\_Europe.pdf](http://www.kx.hu/kepek/ises/anyagok/Kundera_tragedy_of_Central_Europe.pdf)
- Pálffy, Géza: *Hungary between Two Empires 1526–1711 (Studies in Hungarian History)*, Indiana University Press, 2021

## RECOMMENDED READING LIST:

- Engel, Pál,: *The realm of St. Stephen : a history of medieval Hungary, 895-1526*. I.B. Tauris, 2005
- Magocsi, Paul Robert: *Historical atlas of Central Europe*. Univ. of Washington P., [2002]
- Stokes, Gale,: *Three eras of political change in Eastern Europe*. Oxford University Press, 1997