

**Humanities Seminars Program**  
**The Balkans: Identity in Contact and Conflict**  
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The Balkans has typically been described in terms of stereotypes and which countries belong to the Balkans remains contentious even to this day (in fact, a new category “The Western Balkans” has come into use). In this course, we will examine the Balkans from a variety of perspectives: the cultural-historical background of the Balkans as a geopolitical construct, as well as the ethnic, national, and religious identities as interpreted by the people themselves, governing entities, and outside observers. Documentary and narrative films by primarily Balkan filmmakers will enhance our exploration of the various social, historical, and cultural factors that influence a group's conception of themselves and others. Literature, music, cuisine, and language will also be examined as means of constructing and expressing identity in this highly diverse multi-cultural and multi-lingual region.

**Required Books:**

Hupchick, Dennis and Harold Cox. 2001. *The Palgrave Concise Historical Atlas of the Balkans*. Palgrave. 1<sup>st</sup> edition. ISBN-13: 978-0312239701 ISBN-10: 031223970X

Acceptable alternative to Hupchick & Cox 2001:

Hupchik & Cox 2016. *The Palgrave Concise Historical Atlas of Eastern Europe: Revised and Updated*. 2<sup>nd</sup> edition. ISBN-13: 978-0312239855 ISBN-10: 0312239858 ISBN: 978-1137048172 (ebook) [This atlas may be less expensive and also available in Kindle format].

Wachtel, Andrew. 2008. *The Balkans in World History*. Oxford University Press. New York. 1<sup>st</sup> edition. ISBN-13: 978-0195338010 ISBN-10: 0195338014 (Kindle or Paperback)

**Recommended Book:**

Mazower, Mark. 2000. *The Balkans: A Short History*. 3<sup>rd</sup> edition. The Modern Library. New York. ISBN-13: 978-0812966213 ISBN-10: 081296621X (Kindle or Paperback)

Shorter readings, short stories and additional materials will be posted to Box. Registered students will receive the Box link to those readings in late December. Additional readings will be posted throughout the course.

**Course Structure:**

The class will be divided into 50-minute sections with 10-minute breaks.

The first section will consist of lectures on the history of the Balkans. The second section will be spent discussing current events and making sense of them both in their historical context and the dynamics of the present and future. The third section will focus on special topics more in-depth, for example, the role of religion, language and identity, literature, as well as pivotal historical moments in time. There will be weekly films viewed outside of class to provide additional perspectives on the material covered in the lectures, discussions and readings.

My teaching style is interactive lecture and I welcome engaged student participation both in and out of the classroom.

Jan. 23 Introduction to the Balkans and Prehistory

Readings:

Wachtel "Introduction: The Balkans as Borderland and Melting Pot"  
Hupchick & Cox 2001 Maps 1-5 with accompanying text.

Jan. 30 Byzantine Period

Readings:

Wachtel Chapter 1 "Beginnings: From Prehistory to the Byzantine Empire"  
Hupchick & Cox Maps 6-11 with accompanying text.  
Mazower "The Land and its Inhabitants" pp. 1-36. (optional)

Feb. 6 Medieval Balkans

Readings:

Wachtel Chapter 2 "The Medieval Balkans"  
Hupchick & Cox Maps 12-18 with accompanying text.

Feb. 13 Arrival of the Ottomans

Readings:

Hupchick & Cox Maps 19-24 with accompanying text.

Feb. 20 Late Ottoman Period Ottoman and the Eastern Question

Reading:

Wachtel: Chapter 3 "The Balkans under Ottoman Rule"  
Mazower "Before the Nation" pp. 38 -76 (optional)

Feb. 27 The long 19<sup>th</sup> Century and the Rise of Nationalism

Reading:

Wachtel Chapter 4 "The Long Nineteenth Century (1775-1922)"  
Hupchick & Cox Maps 25-29 with accompanying text.  
Mazower "Eastern Questions" pp. 78-113 (optional)

Mar. 13 Early 20<sup>th</sup> century Balkans (Balkan Wars, WWI)

Reading:

Hupchick & Cox Maps 28-35 with accompanying text.

Mar. 20 Mid-19<sup>th</sup> century (WWII & Cold War)

Reading:

Wachtel Chapter 5 “The Twentieth Century: From the Balkans to Southeast Europe”  
Hupchick & Cox Maps 36-47 with accompanying text.

Mar. 27 Post-Communist Balkans

Reading:

Hupchick & Cox Maps 48-50 with accompanying text.

April 3 21<sup>st</sup> EU, NATO and the Future

Reading:

Materials to be posted in Box.