

**Name of the course:**

Borders in Central and Eastern Europe – States, Migration, and Mobility from 1800 to the present

**Name of the Professor and contact information:**

Dr. Markus Nesselrodt, nesselrodt@europa-uni.de

**Prerequisites:**

Some basic knowledge of European History is useful.

**ECTS-Credits: 6****Grading and form of assignment:**

Active participation, short in-class presentations on selected issues from the reading list, three essays of four pages each.

Grading will consist of the following elements:

20% class participation

30% presentation

50% essays

**Course description:**

This course deals with various kinds of borders in Central and Eastern Europe from 1800 to the present day. Through the lens of border studies we will explore how empires and states, people and ideas changed over the course of two centuries. We will therefore look for structural tendencies, paradigm shifting and ideas as well as other important events. Between 1800 and 2020 Eastern Europe has witnessed several political regimes, waves of forced and voluntary migration, explosions of bloody violence and war but also moments of solidarity and peaceful cooperation. This course will not focus solely on political history of the rise and fall of certain states and powers. Instead, we will analyze how borders between states but also in the minds of people evolved and mattered. Topics include migration, industrialization, mobility, (cold) war and peace, nationalism and communism, European integration and many more. Since these are huge topics we will focus on Frankfurt/Oder and the German-Polish borderlands.

**Aim of the module (expected learning outcomes and competencies to be acquired):**

This course is not lecture-based. Instead it relies on discussion and active participation from all students. The general aim of this course is to enable students to understand the importance and the dynamics of borders in Central and Eastern Europe.

**Reading list (abbreviated):**

Anne Applebaum: *Iron Curtain. The Crushing of Eastern Europe 1944–1956*. New York 2012.

Klaus J. Bade: *Migration in European History*. Oxford 2003.

Ivan T. Berend: *History Derailed: Central and Eastern Europe in the Long Nineteenth Century*. Berkeley and Los Angeles 2003.

Norman Davies: *Europe East and West*. London 2007.

Mary Fulbrook: *A Concise History of Germany*. Cambridge 2004.

Oskar Halecki: *Borderlands of Western Civilization. A History of East Central Europe*. New York 1952.

Heiko Haumann: *A History of East European Jews*. Budapest 2002.

Tony Judt: *Postwar. A History of Europe since 1945*. London 2005.

Milan Kundera: *The Tragedy of Central Europe*, in: *New York Review of Books*, Volume 31, Number 7, April 26, 1984.

Irina Livezeanu; Árpád von Klimó (ed.): *The Routledge history of East Central Europe since 1700*. London 2017.

Lyman H. Legters (ed.): *Eastern Europe: Transformation and Revolution, 1945-1991. Documents and Analyses*. Lexington, Mass. 1991.

Ezra Mendelsohn (ed.): *The Jews of East Central Europe between the World Wars*. Bloomington 1983.

Brian Porter: *When Nationalism Began to Hate: Imagining Modern Politics in Nineteenth-Century Poland*. New York 2000.

Frithjof Benjamin Schenk: *Mental maps: the cognitive mapping of the continent as an object of research of European history*. *European History Online* 2013.

Marci Shore: *The Taste of Ashes. The Afterlife of Totalitarianism in Eastern Europe*. London 2013.

Timothy Snyder: *Bloodlands. Europe between Hitler and Stalin*. New York 2010.

Piotr S. Wandycz: *The Price of Freedom: A History of East Central Europe from the Middle Ages to the Present*. London 2001.

Doris Wastl-Walter (ed.): *The Ashgate Research Companion to Border Studies*. Farnham 2011.

Larry Wolff: *Inventing Eastern Europe: The Map of Civilization on the Mind of the Enlightenment*. Stanford 1994.

Tara Zahra: *The Great Departure: Mass Migration from Eastern Europe and the Making of the Free World*. New York 2016.