

# VIOLENT DISSOLUTION OF YUGOSLAVIA

POLITICS DEPARTMENT  
POLS 395  
Summer 2014  
SUNY Potsdam

M – F 10am – 12pm from July 9 – July 30

Instructor: Michael Popovic  
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“My beloved Dubrovnik is under siege again.”

- Alec Russell (\*1966, World News Editor of the Financial Times)

Dubrovnik, the pearl of the Adriatic [...] those who seek paradise on Earth should come to Dubrovnik.”

- George Bernard Shaw (1856-1950, Irish playwright and co-founder of the London School of Economics)

**Course Description:** This course provides students with the unique opportunity to study international and ethnic conflict in Dubrovnik, Croatia, which was under siege during the Balkan wars in the 1990s. This course focuses predominantly on the wars during the collapse of Yugoslavia, however in order to provide context, the history of Yugoslavia, with a focus on the major conflicts of the 20<sup>th</sup> century that involved the Balkan region, are studied. In addition, this course investigates the relevant literature in Political Science, International Relations and History to understand different explanatory paradigms. Beyond learning about the conflict from texts, the students have the opportunity to listen to presentations by policy makers and military leaders, who were involved in the conflict; personal stories by everyday citizens, who lived through the war; and talks by academics, who research in the field. To complete this experience, the course takes students on a numerous local excursions as well as three day trips on Saturdays to Mljet (Croatia), Kotor (Montenegro) and Mostar (Bosnia and Herzegovina) where different aspects of the war and post-war reconciliation are investigated. Students are highly encouraged to attend cultural events during the Dubrovnik Summer Festival.

**Travel:** We are traveling to Croatia on July 10<sup>th</sup> and will return on July 31<sup>st</sup>. All necessary preparation for the international travel will be coordinated with me. You will have the opportunity to ask me all travel related questions after your admission into the program. We will schedule a pre-departure meeting prior to the end of the spring semester during which you will receive all necessary information that concerns the international travel and stay in Croatia. In addition, we have a Facebook page for our group which allows you to communicate with me and the other participants of the course. All questions regarding organization and travel can also be directed at the Office for International Studies at SUNY Potsdam.

**Course Requirements:** This course is organized as a travel abroad course with a strong in-class component. You are required to read the assigned material, attend class, complete all 18 reading response papers and participate in all activities associated with the course. I expect you to come prepared for class, have thought about the readings, and be ready to answer questions. This class is not concerned with regurgitation of information but should train you in understanding fundamental concepts, critical thinking, and intellectual discourse. When you are presented with materials, you should have a critical “conversation” with them. Deadlines are firm. The final grade is determined based on the following key:

Reading Response Papers (18x3)	54%
Reflective Journals	16%
Participation in-class and all events	30%

All assignments are graded on a 100-point scale, which translates into the 4-point grading scale (used at SUNY Potsdam) as follows:

100 – 94 = 4.0	81 – 78 = 2.7	69 – 67 = 1.7
93 – 90 = 3.7	77 – 74 = 2.3	66 – 64 = 1.3
89 – 86 = 3.3	73 – 70 = 2.0	63 – 61 = 1.0
85 – 82 = 3.0		60 and below = 0.0

**Attendance:** Attendance in class is required. I will take attendance every class. Your attendance will influence your participation grade. You will do well in this class if you attend class and participate, do all your assignments, and think critically about the presented material. Any more than 2 unexcused absences will lead to a reduction of your participation grade. While attending class, no cell phone usage is permitted – this includes texting. If I catch you texting or your phone makes noise in class, you will have to leave the classroom. Laptops can be used for note taking; however, they must not be used for anything else (no online activity). This means all chat programs (e.g. Yahoo, Windows Messenger, Skype, etc.) and all browsers (e.g. Firefox, Chrome, Internet Explorer, Safari, etc.) have to remain closed for the entire duration of class. If I find any of these programs open, I am going to assume you have used them to chat or browse and you will have to leave the classroom. This laptop usage privilege will be immediately revoked for all students, even if only one student violates this policy. If you choose to use your laptop in class, you agree to allow me to check your activity on your laptop randomly during class.

**Readings:** You are required to do all the assigned readings before each class. You have to prepare the readings for the classes for which they are listed. I will always assume that you have come to class well prepared. We will have plenty of time to answer questions you might have from the readings. Since this is a seminar style class, I put strong emphasis on discussions. It is crucial for you to be well prepared and able to answer questions about the readings. All readings are provided in a reader after the arrival in Dubrovnik. The students are required to complete the first two readings before our departure. These readings will be provided on SUNY Potsdam’s Moodle four weeks before the beginning of the course. Additional readings may be assigned throughout class.

**Lectures:** Doing well requires attendance in class. I view the readings as a beginning. Class meetings build upon the readings and introduce new material. The readings provide history and theoretical arguments. In-class discussion introduces further competing theories and explanations for exploring the many dimensions of the conflict. My lectures will be short and will complement the readings, not regurgitate them. Sometimes I will present you with competing approaches that oppose some of the readings. This should trigger critical thinking and intellectual engagement on your part.

**Reading Response Papers:** For each of the 19 readings for this class, you have to write a reading response paper. I will supply you with one or two questions for each reading. You have to write one to two pages in response to each question. The responses should rely heavily on the assigned readings and contain appropriate citations. The reading response papers can be printed out in the computer lab that is associated with our classroom on the satellite campus of RIT (Rochester Institute of Technology). Late papers will receive a deduction of 20% for each day they are late. You have to submit all reading response papers to pass this class.

**Reflective Journal:** The students are required to keep a reflective journal for the duration of our trip. You should write in your journal every day and reflect on both the content of the class and primarily on the cultural component of your stay in Dubrovnik, Croatia. A few times throughout the three weeks, I will provide you with specific questions that you discuss in a journal entry. More specific instructions will be given during the course.

**Participation:** I strongly encourage you to ask questions and participate in the classroom, during our guest lectures, local and regional excursions and class lunches. Active engagement with a subject proves to be the best approach to learning, especially if you have travelled across the globe to do so. I will provide you with cultural guidelines for the appropriate interaction with our guest speakers.

**Academic Integrity and Needs:** I expect all your presented work to be your own (reflections and reading responses). If you were inspired by something that you read or you want to use it to support claims in your work (both direct quotes as well as paraphrased sections), you **MUST** cite your source and include it in the reference list. I will not tolerate plagiarism under any circumstances. If you are unsure if you should cite an article, book, etc. please talk to me in advance. If I suspect plagiarism in your work, I will hand the case over to the Campus Judicial System immediately. I have a zero tolerance policy for plagiarism. Please refer to the SUNY Potsdam Academic Honor Code at:  
<http://www.potsdam.edu/studentlife/studentconduct/honorcode/index.cfm>.

Any student with special needs regarding academic adjustments or accommodations should speak with me before our departure for Croatia. I will ensure that you will receive any and all the help that you can get. All disclosures will remain confidential.

**Required Readings** (in chronological order):

- Ramet, Sabrina. 2006. *The Three Yugoslavias: State-building and Legitimation, 1918-2005*. Bloomington, IN: Indiana University Press. Chapters 2, 3, 4, 13, 14 and 15.
- Crampton, R.J. 2002. *The Balkans Since the Second World War*. London, New York: Longman. Chapters 2, 8 and 14.
- Tara, Ray and Rajat Ganguly. "Ethnic Conflict on the World Stage", in: Ray Taras and Rajat Ganguly (eds.). *Understanding Ethnic Conflict. The International Dimension*. London, New York: Longman. 1-42.
- Brubaker, Rogers. 1996. "Rethinking Nationhood: Nation as Institutionalized Form, Practical Category, Contingent Event", in: Rogers Brubaker. *Nationalism Reframed. Nationhood and the National Question in the New Europe*. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press. 13-22.
- Jović, Dejan. 2004. "Communist Yugoslavia and Its 'Others'", in: John R. Lampe and Mark Mazower. *Ideologies and National Identities. The Case of Twentieth-Century Southeastern Europe*. Budapest, Hungary: Central European University Press. 54-83.
- Drakulić, Slavenka. 1993. *The Balkan Express: Fragments from the Other Side of War*. New York: Harper Perennial. Introduction and chapters 1-4, 6, 8, 14, 15, 17, 18.
- Deamer, Eric. 1999. "The Recognition of Aspirant Statehood in the New Europe: The European Community's Recognition of Croatia, 1990-92", in: Thanasis D. Sfikas and Christopher Williams (eds.). *Ethnicity and Nationalism in East Central Europe and the Balkans*. Aldershot: Ashgate. 341-365.
- Benson, Leslie. 1999. "Enemies and Neighbours: Serbs and Muslims in Bosnia-Herzegovina". 295-309.
- Kaufman, Joyce P. and Kristen P. Williams. 2007. "The Balkan Wars and the Breakup of Yugoslavia", in: Joyce P. Kaufman and Kristen P. Williams. *The Women, the State, and War. A Comparative Perspective on Citizenship and Nationalism*. Lanham, MD: Lexington Books. 79-113.
- United Nations 2006: Human Development Report Croatia 2006. Unplugged: Faces of Social Exclusion in Croatia. Zagreb: United Nations Development Programme. 38-59, 94-100, 116-121.
- Pavlović, Tatjana. 1999. "Women in Croatia: Feminists, Nationalists, and Homosexuals", in: Sabrina P. Ramet (ed.). *Gender Politics in the Western Balkans: Women and Society in Yugoslavia and the Yugoslav Successor States*. University Park: Pennsylvania State University Press. 131-152.
- Sfikas, Thanasis D. 1999. "National Movements and Nation Building in the Balkans, 1804-1922: Historic Origins, Contemporary Misunderstandings", in: Thanasis D. Sfikas and Christopher Williams (eds.). *Ethnicity and Nationalism in East Central Europe and the Balkans*. Aldershot: Ashgate. 341-365.

Readings are provided for the students in a reader, which will be available the first morning of classes. Page numbers are given in ( ) so you get an idea of the amount of reading for each day.

### Detailed Class Schedule:

Wed 07/10	Departure from U.S.	
Thu 07/11	Arrival in Dubrovnik	
Fri 07/12	Beginnings of Yugoslavia	Ramet – Ch 2: The First Yugoslavia, 1918-29(pages 35-77) Ramet – Ch 3: The First Yugoslavia, 1929-41 (79-111)
Sat 07/13	Excursion to the Bay of Kotor, Montenegro	
Sun 07/14	Get to know your surroundings	
Mon 07/15	Yugoslavia in Crisis	Ramet – Ch 4: WWII and the Partisan Struggle (113-162)
Tue 07/16	Beginnings of SFRJ	Crampton – Ch 2: Yugoslavia 1944-1948 (11-37)
Wed 07/17	Socialism in Yugoslavia	Crampton – Ch 8: Yugoslavia 1948-1989 (113-155)
Thu 07/18	Nationalism and Conflict	Taras and Ganguly: Nationalism o. t. World Stage (1-42)
Fri 07/19	Nations and Nationalism	Brubaker: Rethinking Nationhood (13-22) Jovic: Communist Yugoslavia and Its “Others” (277-302)
Sat 07/20	Excursion to the national park on the island Mjlet, Croatia	
Sun 07/21	Have fun in the sun ☺	
Mon 07/22	War of Yugoslav Succession	Crampton – Ch 14: Yugoslav Crisis and War (239-269) Ramet – Ch 13: The Road to War (363-379)
Tues 07/23	War of Yugoslav Succession	Ramet – Ch 14: War of Yugo. Succession Ph. 1(381-411)
Wed 07/24	War of Yugoslav Succession	Ramet – Ch 15: War of Yugo. Succession Ph. 2(413-469) Drakulić: The Balkan Express (40 pg.)
Thu 07/25	War of Yugoslav Succession	Deamer: Recognition of Aspirant Statehood (341-365) Benson: Enemies&Neighbors: Ser&Musl in BiH (295-309)
Fri 07/26	Women, Gender, and War	Kaufman and Williams: The Balkan Wars (79-113) Pavlovic: Women in Croatia (131-152)
Sat 07/27	Excursion to Mostar, Bosnia and Hercegovina	
Sun 07/28	Enjoy your last free day.	
Mon 07/29	Croatia Today	UNDP: Human Development Report Cro 2006 (35pg.)
Tue 07/30	Studying Conflict Reflection	Sfikas: National Movements & Nation Building (13-44)
Wed 07/31	Departure from Dubrovnik	