

Course TITLE: Introduction to the History and Cultures of Central Europe

Instructor: Andras (Andrew) Horvat/Attila Király

Title/Position : Visiting Professor/ Assistant Professor

Institution : Josai International University



Course Overview:

The course aims to introduce to students the history and geography of a part of Europe that has assumed increasing significance since the accession to the EU of the region's states, most of which had been under Soviet influence until 1989. Students will be encouraged to see the impact on the region of the large variety of ethnicities and languages, the relatively long period of feudalism, and the many centuries of rivalry among the Habsburg, Ottoman and Russian empires for influence in the area. During the first ten days of the course, Professor Kiraly will guide students from Roman times through to the arrival of nomadic tribes from Asia, to the relatively prosperous Middle Ages, up to the early 19th century when the first stirrings of nationalism heralded the ultimate collapse of the region's multi-ethnic empires. Professor Horvat will focus on some of the notable achievements of Central European nations in the modern era, such as the attempts of Hungarian liberal elites in the late 19th century to promote economic development through policies encouraging immigration. Students will also be introduced to some of the positive contributions to science, culture and the arts that many gifted individuals from the region were able to make in spite of difficult times in their countries' recent histories.

Grading:

Attendance 20%; Assignments 20%; Presentation 20%; Quizzes 20% each.)