Course Description
The Balkans encompasses a variety of landscapes, peoples, and cultures. The area has been described both as the “cradle” of Western Civilization, and as the “backwater” of Europe. It has been, however, a major trade and cultural crossroads for millennia. An amazing array of different cultures developed along its shores and its overland trade routes. This course will familiarize students with the “ethnographic islands” of this diverse region within the European and global “currents of history.” Primarily, the course will be dedicated to the anthropological analysis of a number of different genres that describe and represent the region. We will read authoritative historical studies, ethnographies, as well as short stories, poetry, books of travel and fiction. Films will also be recommended for viewing and discussion. Our intention is to consider the various qualities and possibilities offered by each genre to our understanding of the societies situated at the southeast corner of Europe. The cultural diversity of the area will be therefore examined both as a historical and as contemporary phenomenon. The classic survey of Fernand Braudel will serve as the starting point for the historical and cultural landscape of the area. We will consider the legacy of the classical world, the impact of Islam, the emergence of European commercial empires, the impact of the European Enlightenment in national movements, the emergence of modernization, and the socialist experiments in the hinterlands. Ethnographic analyses of such phenomena as the construction of the backward Balkan peasant, the notions of honor and shame, the urban-rural divide and the depopulation of the agricultural areas during modern times will follow. In addition, the course offers a critical overview of the politics of historical continuity and the resurgence of Balkan nationalisms during the last decade of the twentieth century.

Course requirements
The subject matter of the course, the chosen topics, and the national controversies of the region require a great deal of discussion and students need to read the assigned required readings before class. Some readings will be assigned to students so they can lead the discussion in class. Students are also required to take a mid-term examination and write a final research paper (12-15 pages).
Grades will be calculated as follows:
Class participation 30%
Mid-term exam 30%
Final paper 40%

The following books have been ordered at the bookstore and are also on reserve at the library. The rest of the readings can be found on e-reserve.

Boehm, Christopher, Blood revenge
Bringa, Tone Being Bosnian the Muslim way
Creed, Gerald Domesticating Revolution
Danforth Loring The Macedonian Conflict
Deliso, Christopher Culture and Customs of Serbia and Montenegro,
Inalcik, Halil The Ottoman Empire
Mazower, Mark The Balkans: A short history
Selimovic, Mesa Death and the Dervish
Seremetakis, Nadia The Last Word

Course sections and readings

Monday, February 1
Introduction to the course
Guest: Professor Vemund Aarbakke
Film:
Whose is this song? Dvd W G7030 S56 2005

Monday, February 8
Landscapes and peoples
Read:
Deliso, Christopher Culture and Customs of Serbia and Montenegro,
Mazower, Mark The Balkans, Chapter 1
Recommended readings:
Braudel, Fernand The Mediterranean Volume 1, Part I, Chapter 4 (e-reserve)
Mellaart J. “A Neolithic city in Turkey” (e-reserve)
Runnels C. and T. Van Andel “Trade and the origins of agriculture in the Eastern Mediterranean” (e-reserve)

Monday, February 16 no class, President’s Day
Tuesday, February 16  
Monday, February 22  
Invasions, empires, and the Ottoman legacy  
Read:  
Mazower, Mark *The Balkans* Chapter 2  
Ilanlık, Halil *The Ottoman Empire* (Chapters 1,2,4,5,14,15,16)  
Selimovic, Mesa *Death and the Dervish*  
Recommended Readings:  
Topping, Peter “The Southern Argolid from Byzantine to Ottoman times” (e-reserve)  
Laiou-Thomadakis, Angeliki *Peasant Society in the late Byzantine Empire* (Chapter 5) (e-reserve)  
Braudel, Fernand *The Mediterranean* Volume II, Part II, Chapter IV (e-reserve)  
Karakasidou, Anastasia *Fields of Wheat, Hills of Blood*, Chapter 2 (e-reserve)  
Molho, Anthony “The Jewish community of Salonika” (e-reserve)  

Monday, March 1  
For independence and Freedom: New nations-states and population exchanges  
Read:  
Mazower, Mark *The Balkans* Chapter 3  
Toynbee, Arnold “The war of extermination”  
Kenan, George “the war of the non-combatant population”  
Layoun, Mary *Wedded to the land* Chapter 1 (e-reserve)  
Recommended readings:  
Byron, Lord (selected poems and readings) (e-reserve)  
Makriyiannis, Ioannis *Memoirs* (Chapters 1,2,3) (e-reserve)  

Monday, March 8  
Constructing backwardness  
Honorable peasants and familial structures in Greece  
Read:  
Seremetakis, Nadia *The Last Word*  
Recommended Readings  
Cambell, John “Honor and the devil” (e-reserve)  
Friedl, Ernestine *Vasilika* (Chapters 1,2,4,6)  

Monday, March 15  
mid-term examination  

Monday, March 22  
No class, spring break
Monday, March 29
Constructing backwardness
Head hunters in Montenegro
Read:
Boehm, Christopher, *Blood revenge*
Recommended Readings:
Hammel, E.A. “The Balkan peasant: A view from Serbia” (e-reserve)
Hammel E.A. “The zadruga in process” (e-reserve)

Monday, April 5
The politics of national competitions
Guest: Professor Loring Danforth (Bates College)
Read:
Danforth, Loring *The Macedonian Conflict*

Monday, April 12
Constructing backwardness
Socialist experiments in Bulgaria
Read:
Creed, Gerald *Domesticating Revolution*

Monday, April 19  No class, Patriot’s Day, Boston Marathon

Thursday, April 22
Religious faiths and social co-existence and the recent awakening of Balkan nationalisms
Read:
Bringa, Tone *Being Muslim the Bosnian Way* (Introduction, Chapters 1,2,4,6)
Mazower, Mark *The Balkans* Chapter 4 and Epilogue
Denich, Bette “Dismembering Yugoslavia” (e-reserve)

Monday April 26
Balkanism revisited
Read:
Todorova, Maria Imagining the Balkans (Introduction, Chapters 3 and 5) (e-reserve)
Karakasidou, Anastasia “The Burden of the Balkans” (e-reserve)
Kaplan, Robert *Balkans Ghosts* (Prologue, chapters 3, 15, 16)

Monday, May 3
Student presentations

Papers due Monday May 17 by 4:30

Have a nice summer