**Culture Wars in Central Europe**

Zora Hesová. zora.hesova@ff.cuni.cz

WS. Mondays, 11:40 – 13:15, 2075 Jinonice; Consultation hours: 13:30 – 14:00 in 2075

**Characteristics and objectives of the course**

So called “culture wars” have become a feature of populist politics in Central and Eastern Europe (CEE) in the last ten years. CEE publics regularly polarise in confrontations on moral, identity and memory issues. The course will focus on the interpretation of the phenomenon of what is now openly called “culture wars”.

The course will be opened by a few examples. In the first we will analyze the various meanings of the concept, starting with Kulturkampf and culture wars in its original context of Bismark's Germany and the USA of the 1980s. Subsequently, key texts on the concepts of culturalization, civilizationism and identity will be read. In the third part, the course will deal with contemporary manifestations of so-called culture wars in Europe based on texts on the policies of memory, politics of morality and politics of identity. The course will close with a debate about the specifics of Central European manifestations of so-called culture wars.

**Course structure**

1. 07. 10. Introduction. CWs in Poland and Hungary

2. **14. 10.** Culture wars in CEE? Trenczenyi

3. 21. 10. Culture wars, Kulturkampf

- 28. 10. *National holiday*

5. 04. 11. Moralising post-communism

6. 11. 11. The illiberal rebellion

7. 25. 11. Politics of memory - pres. Neilson

8. 02. 12. Politics of identity - pres. Sejdija, blorta, Terreau

9. 09. 12. Politics of morality – pres. Olátník, Trochtová

10. 16. 12. Populism and culture wars Ref. Vidal, Tommasinim Erben, Miller

11**. 06. 01.** Final debate

**Weekly readings**: Moodle https://dl1.cuni.cz/course/view.php?id=8236

**Getting your credit:**

* 75% active attendance
* Presentation in class
* Final essay: due **January 3rd, 2020**

**Important dates:**

* Choosing your presentation: 14. 10.
* Proposal for final essay: 18. 11.
* Final essay: January 3rd, 2020

**Recommended literature**

CHIANTERA-Stutte, Patricia; and PETÖ, Andrea. "Cultures of Populism and the Political Right in Central Europe." CLCWeb: Comparative Literature and Culture 5.4 (2003)

HUNTER James Davidson: Culture Wars: The Struggle To Control The Family, Art, Education, Law, And Politics In America. Basic Books, 1992

FUREDI, FRANK. Populism and the European Culture Wars. The conflict of Values between Hungary and the EU. Routledge 2018

KUHAR, R, PATERNOTTE D. (eds). 2017. Anti-Gender Campaigns in Europe. Mobilizing against Equality. Publisher: Rowman & Littlefield

MARZOUKI, N., MCDONNELL, D., ROY, O.,: Saving the People: How Populists Hijack Religion. Cadmus 2018

MULLER, Jan-Werner, Comprehending conservatism: A new framework for analysis. Journal of Political Ideologies (October 2006)

NORRIS, P.; INGLEHART, R.: Cultural Backlash. Trump, Brexit, and Authoritarian Populism, Cambridge University Press. Online publication date: February 2019

RUPNIK, Jacques. (2018). Explaining Eastern Europe: The Crisis of Liberalism. Journal of Democracy 29/3, pp. 24-38