

HUNGARIAN CULTURE – HUNGARIAN IDENTITIES AS REFLECTED IN ART, FILM AND LITERATURE

This course intends to give you an opportunity to explore certain aspects of Hungarian attitudes, thinking and cultural traditions. The notion and scope of "culture" being nearly all-encompassing and the selection from it inevitably individual, the main goal is to trace basic trends and themes, as well as to highlight the figures and works of some of the most outstanding representatives of Hungarian *history and politics, literature, music, film and fine arts*. The program may allow for some adjustments, taking into account your preferences.

Some of the classes will center around an *issue that is relevant* in today's Hungary, to be examined in its *historical context*, and how it is *reflected in emblematic works of art*, mostly from the twentieth century. Others will be aimed at giving an *overview of a particular branch of art*, and there will be sessions devoted to more *detailed discussions of individual works (of literature and film art)*.

On several occasions, you will be asked to do some *brief, preliminary research* or a *personal interview*, and *share your findings* in class.

Besides, you will be asked to give 2 presentations. The first one will be about your field trip (in pairs) exploring some parts of *Budapest* (with an obvious emphasis on architecture), whereas the second, *final assignment* will be about a topic of your own choice, more or less close to your heart, to be presented in the exam week.

You will also be encouraged to take advantage of "live" Hungarian culture. Depending on interest, our program will include a theatre program and a guided tour of the National Gallery (to be scheduled outside the regular class time!!)

During the term, you will be required to

- *read*
 - poems and short stories, collected in a *Reader*
 - 3 short novels
 - *The Paul Street Boys* by Ferenc Molnár
 - *Anna Édes* by Dezső Kosztolányi
 - *Fateless* by Imre Kertész
- *give some mini and 2 longer presentations (see intro)*
- *write a midterm paper (take-home) and a short final essay (take-home)*
- *(recommended only☺) keep a journal about your impressions, opinions, comments*

Course evaluation will be based on the following criteria:

Preparation - participation 25 %

Midterm paper - Final presentation and essay 25% - 25 %

Mini and Budapest presentations – 25%

Attendance is mandatory - more than 3 absences will result in failing the class.

PLANNED PROGRAM
(Please, note the assignments to prepare with for each class!)

1. Feb. 5. Introduction + An overview of Hungarian history

2. Feb. 12. The nation theme. (Nation and nationalities; progress and independence; turning points in the life of the nation)

Extracts from the movie "Football of the Good Old Days"

Reader: 19th century poetry
Lendvai: Intro; Nationalities

3. Feb. 19. Film and book discussion (Football..., PSBoys)

Hungarian leadership models

Novel: The Paul Street Boys

4. Feb. 26.

FOLK ROOTS

Sharing the findings of personal interviews (related to issues coming up in the previous classes).

5. March 5. Hungarian art and artists

Mini-presentations (National Gallery visit)

- 6-7. The Hungarian society
March 12.

Ghosts of the 20th century 1. – Book discussion: Contemporary social problems

Novel: Anna Édes by Kosztolányi
Guest speaker (?)

- March 19.

The change of regime. The current political scene and the coming elections

Guest speaker + Personal interviews (THEATRE VISIT ??)

8. March 26. BUDAPEST

Project 1. Budapest architecture

9. April 2. Hungarian poetry

Reader: Poems by Attila József and other 20th c. poets

10. April 9. Hungarian music

Mini-presentations

11. April 23. – Ghosts of the 20th c. 2.

Hungary and the Hungarian Jews

Discussion of the novel: Fateless by I. Kertész

12. April 30. Ghosts of the 20th c. 3.

Socialist times Viewing and discussing

the movie Witness

13. May 7. The Kádár era

Viewing

Reader: short stories and poems from the 70s/80s
the movie Time Stands Still

14. May 14.

Movie discussion

Some representatives of Hungarian film art mini-presentations

15. May 21. WRAP-UP

FINAL PROJECT
presentation and submission of mini-essay related to it.