Course Description. This readings course introduces graduate student to the history of Central Europe from the eve of the religious reform movements (the Hussite Revolution and the Reformation) to the dissolution of the Holy Roman Empire in 1806. It is the second of a two-part sequence of reading courses intended for students of medieval and early modern Europe wishing to become better acquainted with the Holy Roman Empire and expand their geographic knowledge of European history beyond Western Europe, and for students of modern Europe interested in a survey course of the history of pre-modern Germany and/or neighboring lands.

Format. The course will be conducted largely as a discussion of weekly common readings and reports on additional readings presented by individual students. We will survey major developments in the histories of the German territories, Czech lands, Poland, and Hungary alongside those of the Holy Roman Empire through a careful, critical reading of recent monographs, surveys, and articles. Special attention will be devoted to understanding the impact of modern events on twentieth-century historical scholarship and interpretations of the late medieval and early modern past. Two films will also be shown: “Cross and Crescent” and “Between Empire and Nation.”

Requirements. There are no pre-requisites for the course (linguistic or otherwise). Students are expected to prepare readings in advance of class sessions and actively participate in class discussions. Students will present two book reviews of works from the list of additional readings, and a final review essay (details and dates to be announced). Studies will also be required to periodically submit a journal of their notes on readings.

Objectives. This course will provide students with a foundation in late medieval and early modern German and Central European history. It will broaden students’ perspective of European history geographically and thematically by acquainting them with diverse processes involved in European historical development.

Grading. Students’ final grade will be computed as follows: Participation (50%), 2 book reviews (15% each), final essay (20%).
Reading List (in alphabetical order; full citations)

Items marked with an asterix are available at the University Bookstore; others will be made available by the instructor -

• Geoffrey Barraclough, *The Origins of Modern Germany* (1946)*
• Peter Blickle, *Obedient Germans? A Rebuttal* (1997)*
• Thomas A Brady, Jr., *The Politics of the Reformation in Germany. Jacob Sturm (1489-1530) of Strasbourg* (1997)*
• Denys Hays, *Europe in the Fourteenth and Fifteenth Centuries*, pp. 189-262
• Geoffrey Parker, ed., *The Thirty Years’ War* (1984)*
• Peter F. Sugar et al., *A History of Hungary* (1990)*
Course Schedule

Session #1 - First Session - Personal Introductions & Introduction to Central Europe in the Fourteenth and Fifteenth Centuries; Slide Presentation of Prague under Charles IV

Reading: Hays, *Europe in the Fourteenth and Fifteenth Centuries*, pp. 214-62

Session #2 - No Class - Martin Luther King Day

Session #3 - The Hussite Revolution

Reading: Fudge, *The Magnificent Ride*, pp. 1-92


Session #4 - Imperial Renewal in the Late Fifteenth and Early Sixteenth Centuries


Session #5 - Religious Reform and Politics in the German Lands

Reading: Brady, *The Politics of the Reformation in Germany*


FIRST BOOK REVIEW DUE
Session #6 - The Peasants War: Failed Bourgeois Revolution?


Session #7 - The Making of the Habsburg Empire


Session #8 - Religious Reform & Politics in the Czech lands and Poland

Reading: Winfried Eberhard, “Reformation and Counterreformation in East Central Europe”; Davies, pp. 159-255, 321-372

Session #9 - Politics in the Periphery: the Tension between Local, Regional & Imperial Rule in the Swiss Confederation

Reading: Head, *Early Modern Democracy in the Grisons*

SECOND BOOK REVIEW DUE

Session #10 - Obedient Germans & Disobedient Czechs?

Reading: Blickle, *Obedient Germans*; Palmitessa, “The Prague Uprising of 1611”

Session #11 - Ottoman-Hungarian Encounters - Guest Discussant: Ms. Lilla Kopár, WMU Dept. of Foreign Languages - Film: “Cross and Crescent”


Session #12 - The Thirty Years’ War: A Central European Catastrophe?

Additional Reading:
Josef Polisensky, “The Thirty Years’ War: Problems of Motive, Extent and Effect,”
*Historica* XIV (1967): 77-90
Theodore Rabb, *The Thirty Years’ War* (1972)

**Session #13** - Politics & Society from the Peace of Westphalia (1648) to the Dissolution of the Empire (1806) - Film: “Between Empire and Nation”


**FINAL REVIEW ESSAY DUE**

**Session #14** - The Invention of “Eastern Europe” in the Eighteenth Century

Reading: Wolff, *The Invention of Eastern Europe*