

Law and Geopolitics of National Minorities in Central Europe *Course syllabus*

<u>Title of course in Hungarian:</u>	Kisebbségi jog és geopolitika Közép-Európában
<u>Language of instruction:</u>	English
<u>Department:</u>	Institute of Social Science and International Studies
<u>Number of lessons per week:</u>	2
<u>Semester</u>	Both
<u>Credit point value:</u>	6 ECTS
<u>Code of course:</u>	ERP 6305
<u>Prior course(s) required:</u>	None
<u>Course supervisor:</u>	Krisztián Manzinger Ph.D.
<u>Lecturer(s):</u>	Krisztián Manzinger Ph.D.

Course description, purpose of the course:

The course offered to ERASMUS students allows them to understand the particular importance of the national minorities in the Central European region. The course intends to widen the knowledge on the legal as well as the geopolitical features of the Central European national minorities, the political consequences of their existence on national, bilateral, regional and European level, and to present the similarities and dissimilarities of the Central European states in terms of legislation concerning national minority rights.

Understanding Central Europe is not possible without a solid knowledge of the history of the region, in which national minorities have played a crucial role, mostly against their will. Great powers, i.e. the Hapsburg Empire, Russia, Turkey, Germany, or France, have used national minorities to weaken both their enemies and even allies, and to keep Central European countries under their influence or direct rule. Unsolved minority issues and—to a much smaller extent nowadays—territorial debates have been hampering regional cooperation despite many of the states have joined the EU and NATO.

The region's minority issues have played a crucial role in the history and the development of the protection of national minorities worldwide. Between the two World Wars, a special legal regime was elaborated to protect Central European national minorities under the supervision of the League of Nations. Similarly, after the fall of the Iron Curtain, the Council of Europe, the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, and even the EU—and their predecessors in the case of the last two—had to reflect in elaborating their legal and political documents the tensions connected to Central European national minorities. Understanding the challenges connected to national minorities and the respective state policies is therefore useful for all who wants to work in and with a united Europe.

Course outline, description of acquired knowledge, skills and competences:

- 1) Shaping the region of Central Europe. The role of geography
- 2) Demography and politics; nation-building in general
- 3) Empires playing minority cards, outsider influencers dividing and ruling Central Europe

- 4) The first attempts to provide regional protection for national minorities: the period of the League of Nations
- 5) Central Europe and the minority question in change: differences between the course and the aftermath of the two World Wars
- 6) National minorities in the time of the Cold War in Central Europe
- 7) After the fall of the Berlin Wall: Is there a way for reconciling minority tensions for a more cooperative Central Europe?
- 8) Changing roles through time: Minority policies exercised by states and wished for national minorities I.
- 9) Changing roles through time: Minority policies exercised by states and wished for national minorities II.
- 10-12) Presentations

Type of evaluation: exam evaluation/course performance evaluation

Method of evaluation: written/oral exam

Obligatory course materials:

Zoltán Kántor: Autonomies in Europe: Solutions and Challenges, NPKI – L'Harmattan, Budapest 2014 (parts)

Zsuzsa Csergő, Ognen Vangelov and Balázs Vizi, Minority Inclusion in Central and Eastern Europe: Changes and Continuities in the European Framework, Intersections. East European Journal of Society and Politics, 2017 (Vol. 2.) No. 4, pp 5–16.

Will Kymlicka and Bashir Bashir (eds.), The Politics of Reconciliation in Multicultural Societies, Oxford University Press, 2012 (parts)