EDUC 379
(3 Credits)

ROMANIAN SOCIETY, HISTORY, CULTURE AND EDUCATION: AN EXPLORATION OF LIFE IN MODERN-DAY TRANSYLVANIA

Term: May 20 – June 4, 2017
Location: Universitatea Babeș-Bolyai, Cluj-Napoca, România
Class time: see schedule; Room: multiple

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Bulletin Description
NDSU faculty directed, part-term experience or field study in a foreign country. Conducted in English for residence credit. Prereq: Prior approval by the Office of International Programs and major department.

Purpose
The purpose of this course is to introduce students to the historical, societal, cultural and educational transformations of Romania, with a particular focus on the region of Transylvania. Students participate in first-hand experiences involving interactions with local faculty, students and members of the larger community to learn about regional culture and its place in the wider Romanian and European context.

Country/Region Background
Throughout its history, Romania, like many other countries in Central and Eastern Europe, has often been subjected to invasions, conquests and redrawing of territorial borders, events that left their imprint on the country’s subsequent development.

As one of its historical provinces, Transylvania is a particular testament to this tumultuous history, which today manifests itself within the very fabric of a vibrant, multicultural and culturally rich society. More recently, after almost half a century of Communist rule, both Transylvania and the country as a whole, have been striving in the past two decades to catch up to and carve their unique place in the wider European family of peoples.

While Romania has made significant strides since the fall of “Iron Curtain,” having achieved the long-sought membership of the European Union, challenges still remain to be met and
overcome. Progress is visible, but the need for improvement and change is still very much present in almost all aspects of social, political and economic life that characterizes today’s Romania. An incursion in these inner transformations provides the visitor an opportunity to witness a unique page in the contemporary life of the region and the country.

**Course Description**
The course consists of an in-country visit of two weeks in duration. The course will take place at Universitatea Babeș-Bolyai (UBB) in Cluj-Napoca, Romania, a vibrant city widely regarded as the unofficial capital of Transylvania. UBB is the most prestigious Romanian university, consistently placed at the top of national rankings of higher education establishments in Romania.

The program consists of formal lectures and visits related to the history, culture, politics, education and society of the region of Transylvania. **THREE (3) CREDITS will only be awarded** if the program is completed. A series of formal lectures will be held daily at UBB during the first ten class days of the study tour. The lectures will be supplemented with visits to museums, institutions and other points of interest related to the program. Day-trips in and around the city, as well as a multi-day tour of Transylvania will complement the aforementioned academic activities. Daily debriefings will be conducted with the course director at the conclusion of each day to reflect upon the experiences learned throughout the course of the day.

**Eligibility**
The course is open to interested students from **any academic major**. Students in the areas of arts and humanities, modern languages, social sciences, education or international studies minors may consider this course a natural fit with their academic and personal interests.

**Course Objectives**
Upon completion of this course, the students will:

1. Have formed a general understanding of Romanian society, of its historical evolution and its contemporary development;
2. Offer informed opinions about the cultural, social, political, economic and educational aspects of Romanian life, through formal instruction and informal experiences in the country;
3. Appreciate the special role that Transylvania has played in the emergence of Romanian nationhood and the significant place it continues to have in the consolidation of the Romanian society;
4. Distinguish the transformative forces that drive Romania in its ongoing process of European integration;
5. Have learned from local individuals (e.g., faculty, students, administrators and/or new acquaintances, etc.) about daily life in contemporary Romania;
6. Have placed mythological interpretations of Transylvania in the real context of historical and present-day events in the region.
Course Assessment
The assessment grid for this course is based on the following required tasks:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Task</th>
<th>Value (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pre-departure seminars</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Course participation</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Blog journaling</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reflection paper</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>100</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Grading Scale
Your letter grades will be awarded according to the following scale:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage (%)</th>
<th>Letter grade</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>90-100</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80-89</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70-79</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60-69</td>
<td>D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>≤59</td>
<td>F</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Note:* Teacher education students need to obtain at least a grade of C in all education classes.

Late submissions
*Assignments must be submitted by the deadlines listed on the schedule provided unless prior arrangements have been approved by the instructor. In the absence of such arrangements, a 10% penalty will be assessed per each day your assignment is late.*

Attendance
Your presence in the class is required for the discussions and interactions that this course requires. It is also important for your successful completion of this course.

Text Editing and Proofreading
Professional quality is expected on all assignments. You will be expected to submit documents of high quality and readability with no surface errors. If you are concerned about your writing ability please contact the Center for Writers to arrange editorial and content assistance.

Electronic Communication
Please note that, as per university policy, your NDSU email account is the official means of electronic communication for all course-related matters. It is your responsibility to maintain your NDSU email account active and to regularly check your messages, as all communication from your instructor will be sent to your NDSU accounts.

*Netiquette.* You are expected to use professional and proper language in any written course-related communication (e.g., email, blogs, etc.). DO NOT use abbreviations or “chat lingo” (e.g.,
btw, imho, lol, brb, etc.) in any communication with your instructor or your classmates. Use proper punctuation and capitalization in your sentences. DO NOT write in lower or upper case only. Points will be deducted from any assignments in which the improper use of syntax and sentence construction mentioned above is present.

**Academic Integrity**
The academic community is operated on the basis of honesty, integrity, and fair play. [NDSU Policy 335: Code of Academic Responsibility and Conduct](http://www.ndsu.edu/academichonesty/) applies to cases in which cheating, plagiarism, or other academic misconduct have occurred in an instructional context. Students found guilty of academic misconduct are subject to penalties, up to and possibly including suspension and/or expulsion. Student academic misconduct records are maintained by the [Office of Registration and Records](http://www.ndsu.edu/). Informational resources about academic honesty for students and instructional staff members can be found at [http://www.ndsu.edu/academichonesty/](http://www.ndsu.edu/academichonesty/).

*In addition, please visit [College of Human Development and Education Honor Code](http://www.ndsu.edu/).*

**Cell Phones**
The use of cell phones during lectures, visits and tours is not allowed. Ensure that your cell phones are turned off at the beginning of the session(s). Only the instructor will have an active cell phone, for emergency announcements purposes.

**Special Needs Provisions**
Any student with disabilities or other special needs who needs accommodation in this course is encouraged to speak with me as soon as possible to make appropriate arrangements for these accommodations.

**Readings and Media**

**Books**

**Required**


**Recommended**


*Movie*


*Computer Equipment*

Computer and internet access is required for this course. Internet access will be arranged at UBB. In addition, many wi-fi “hotspots” exist throughout the city of Cluj, which you can use to complete your assignments. You should not encounter difficulties in securing regular access to the Internet. Excuses for late work involving computer equipment access will not be accepted.

*Description of Assignments*

*The following are brief descriptions of the course assignments.*

1. **Pre-departure seminars**

   Three mandatory pre-departure seminars will be held during which we will discuss general expectations, administrative matters and organizational issues related to the study abroad tour. A preliminary informational session regarding UBB, the city of Cluj, Transylvania and Romania will be included in the seminars.

2. **Blog journaling**

   You will be required to post brief daily reports of each day’s experiences to the course blog. Respond to at least one other post of your choice in order to get credit for your daily report.

3. **Course participation**

   Your active participation in this course is essential and strongly encouraged in order for you to develop a deeper understanding of the experiential nature of this study abroad program. Therefore, you are expected to contribute to and participate in discussions during lectures, visits and tours.

4. **Reflection paper**

   You will write a reflection paper no longer than 6 pages in length, excluding the title page. You should reflect on your overall experience, highlighting the most important lessons you draw from your experience in the country, how this experience has enriched you and how you could use what you have learned in your academic and personal work. Be as specific and objective as you can in your reflection. You will submit your paper via SafeAssign. Below are the formatting requirements for your paper:
   - 1” margins all around.
   - 1.5 line spacing throughout the text. Do not add an extra space above section headings.
   - 12-point, Times New Roman font.
- Left-justified paragraphs.
- One-tab indent the beginning of paragraphs.
- Number all pages beginning with the title page, but do not show the number on the title page.
- Title page - include the title of the paper in the upper third of the page, and your name, course number and date in the lower third of the page.
- Use APA style (6th edition) for in-text citations and reference lists (if you are using any citations).