

1. Introduction: structure and logic of the course, assignments, responsibilities

Lecturer: Pavel Pšejda

2. Notion of Central Europe and its relationship to the early history of the region

Lecturer: Pavel Pšejda

Objective: To inform students about the broad background and differing dimensions of the notion of Central Europe.

Lecture: The term “Central Europe” will be discussed in some depth, especially with regard to different cultural, political and social interpretations of the area. The lecture aims at explaining specific features of Central European culture and identity, thus giving specific background to further discussions in classes. Students will be invited to express their own opinions on the phenomenon and compare it with the respective societies of their countries, their cultural and historical roots.

Assigned reading:

Johnson, Lonnie R. (2002), pp. 3-12.

Wandycz, Piotr S. (2001), pp. 1-11.

Additional reading:

Johnson, Lonnie R. (2002): *Central Europe: Enemies, Neighbours, Friends*, 2nd edition, Oxford University Press, Oxford.

Wandycz, Piotr S. (2001): *The Price of Freedom: A history of East Central Europe from the Middle Ages to the present*, 2nd edition, Routledge, London.

Issues for discussion:

The cultural meaning of the notion of Central Europe.

Explain the role played by the German population in forming Central Europe.