

COURSE DETAIL

WORLDS OF DISSENT: DISSIDENTS AND RESISTANCE IN COMMUNIST EUROPE

Country

Ireland

Host Institution

Trinity College Dublin

Program(s)

Trinity College Dublin

UCEAP Course Level

Upper Division

UCEAP Subject Area(s)

History European Studies

UCEAP Course Number

139

UCEAP Course Suffix**UCEAP Official Title**

WORLDS OF DISSENT: DISSIDENTS AND RESISTANCE IN COMMUNIST EUROPE

UCEAP Transcript Title

DISSIDENTS/COMMUNISM

UCEAP Quarter Units

8.00

UCEAP Semester Units

5.30

Course Description

East European dissidents were the most influential political and moral voices in late communist Europe. In this course, students examine the nature of resistance and dissent to communist rule from the 1960s to the 1980s. Students discuss the politics of communist dictatorship and the culture of resistance through dissidents' writings, films, plays, philosophical texts, secret police files, and prison diaries. The focus is the rise of “anti-politics” in Hungary, Charter 77 in Czechoslovakia, the human rights movement in the Soviet Union, and the Solidarity movement in Poland. The course asks what made these movements specific to each country, the interconnections between them, and the international context of détente and the Cold War in which they arose. The course ends by discussing the role of dissidents in bringing down the Berlin wall in the revolutions of 1989 and the paradoxes of power as several (Lech Walesa and Václav Havel) went from the fringes of politics to the presidencies of post-communist states.

Language(s) of Instruction

English

Host Institution Course Number

HI4364

Host Institution Course Title

WORLDS OF DISSENT: DISSIDENTS AND RESISTANCE IN COMMUNIST EUROPE

Host Institution Campus

Trinity College Dublin

Host Institution Faculty

Host Institution Degree

Host Institution Department

History

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