



# Detailed Course Syllabus

<b>Academic year</b>		2025./2026.	<b>Semester</b>	Winter
<b>Study Program</b>	University Undergraduate Program	<b>Specialization/Major in</b>	History, Sociology, Communication Sciences	<b>Course Year of study</b> 1-3

## I. BASIC COURSE INFORMATION

Name	Ideology and Practice of Communism in Historical Perspective		
Abbreviation	IZBP257	Code	278812
Status	Elective	ECTS points	4
Prerequisites	None		
Total Course Workload			
Teaching Mode	Total hours	Teaching Mode	Total hours
Lectures	30	Seminars	15
Class Time and Place	CUC according to published timetable		

## II. TEACHING STAFF

### Course holder

Name and surname		Josip Mihaljević	
Academic degree		PhD	Professional Title
			Associate Professor
Contact	e-mail	<a href="mailto:josip.mihaljevic@unicath.hr">josip.mihaljevic@unicath.hr</a>	Telephone
Office Hours		According to published timetable	cabinet

## III. DETAILED INFORMATION ABOUT THE COURSE

<b>Language</b>	English
<b>Description of the subject</b>	The main goal of the course is to acquire the knowledge and skills necessary to understand the phenomenon of communism. The basic approach of the course will be based on historical sciences, and some results and approaches from other related disciplines, primarily philosophy, sociology, and political science, will also be used. The phenomenon of communism will be analysed from its philosophical origins in the 19th century, through various variations of communist ideologies, movements, and regimes, and the significance of communism in today's world will also be presented. The course will encourage students to independently articulate

their views, improve critical thinking, and acquire value-based attitudes towards totalitarian ideologies and their historical articulations.

Expected Educational Outcomes	1. Master the basic problems of interpreting communism as a historical phenomenon; 2. Distinguish processes of individual historical period of communism and themes according to historiographic approaches and research achievements; 3. Critically analyze and interpret sources and literature on the history of communism; 4. Use the contributions of other scientific disciplines in historiographic work and the necessity of an interdisciplinary approach to observing communism as a transnational historical phenomenon; 5. Write a clear and structured paper; 6. Adhere to ethical principles in work.				
Textbooks and Materials					
Required	R. Pipes, <i>Communism: a history</i> , New York: Modern Library, 2001.				
Supplementary	<p>H. Arendt; <i>The Origins of Totalitarianism</i>. New York: Schocken Books, 1951; I. Banac, <i>With Stalin against Tito: cominformist splits in Yugoslav communism</i>. Ithaca; London: Cornell University Press, 1988; A. Brown, <i>The rise and fall of communism</i>. London: Vintage Books, 2010; J. Chang &amp; J. Halliday, <i>Mao: The Unknown Story</i>. London: Jonathan Cape, 2005; S. Courtios et al., <i>The Black Book of Communism: Crimes, Terror, Repression</i>. Cambridge, Mass.; London: Harvard University Press, 2004; S. Courtois et al., <i>The Black Book of Communism: Crimes, Terror, Repression</i>. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press, 1999; M. Dilas, <i>The New Class: An Analysis of the Communist System</i>. New York: Frederick A. Praeger 1957; B. Fowkes, <i>The Rise and Fall of Communism in Eastern Europe</i>. Basingstoke; London: Macmillan Press, 1995; R. Conquest, <i>The Harvest of Sorrow</i>. New York: Oxford University Press, 1986; V. I. Lenin, <i>State and Revolution</i>, London: Penguin Books, 1993; K. Marx, <i>Capital: A Critique of Political Economy</i>, translated by Samuel Moore, Edward Aveling and Ernest Untermann, edited by Frederick Engels. New York: The Modern Library, 1906; K. Marx &amp; F. Engels, <i>Manifesto of the Communist Party</i>. London 1848; R. J. Overy, <i>The Dictators: Hitler's Germany and Stalin's Russia</i>, New York: W. W. Norton &amp; Co, 2004; R. Pipes, <i>The Russian Revolution</i>. New York: Vintage Books, 1991; S. Pons &amp; R. Srevice (eds.), <i>A dictionary of 20th-century communism</i>. Princeton; Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2010; S. A. Smith (ed.), <i>The Oxford handbook of the history of communism</i>, New York – Oxford University Press, 2014; A. Solzhenitsyn, <i>The Gulag Archipelago</i>. Paris: YMCA Press, 1973; M. Todorova (ed.), <i>Remembering communism: genres of representation</i>. New York: Social Science Research Council, 2010; S. Yekelchik, <i>Stalin's Citizens: Everyday Politics in the Wake of Total War</i>. New York: Oxford University Press, 2014; G. Young, <i>The Communist Experience in the Twentieth Century: A Global History Through Sources</i>. New York; Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2012.</p>				
Examination and Grading					
To Be Passed	Yes	Exclusively Continuous Assessment	No	Included in Average Grade	Yes
Prerequisites to Obtain Signature and Take Final Exam	1. <b>Regular attendance at classes</b> – attendance of at least 70 % of classes according to the study program. 2. <b>Fully completed seminar obligations</b> - prepared and submitted assignments (seminar paper).				

3. Obtaining a minimum success rate of 35 % during classes within the assigned teaching activities - achieved cumulatively.

<b>Examination Manner</b>	1. <b>Teaching activities</b> (continuous knowledge assessment, midterm exams, seminar). 2. <b>Final exam</b> (oral).
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Grade Scale:

**insufficient (1)** – 0 to 49.9%

**sufficient (2)** – 50–64.9%

**good (3)** – 65–79.9%

**very good (4)** – 80–89.9%

**excellent (5)** – 90% and above.

### Grading Manner

#### a) Teaching activities:

a) Seminar obligations – 20 % of the grade

b) Midterm exam 1 – 25 % of the grade

c) Midterm exam 2 – 25 % of the grade

#### b) Final exam:

a) Final exam – oral: 30 % of the grade (*to pass, it is necessary to solve at least 50% of the exam*)

### Detailed Overview of Grading within ECTS

ACTIVITY TYPE	ECTS Student Workload Coefficient	GRADE PERCENTAGE (%)
Class Attendance	1,2	0
Seminar Presentation	0,56	20
Midterm Exam	0,70	25
Midterm Exam	0,70	25
<b>Total in Class</b>	<b>3,16</b>	<b>70</b>
Final Exam	0,84	30
<b>TOTAL ECTS (Classes + Final Exam)</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>100</b>

### Midterm Exam Dates

Midterm Exam 1: 7<sup>th</sup> class;  
Midterm Exam 2: 13<sup>th</sup> class

### Final Exam dates

According to the published schedule

## IV. WEEKLY CLASS PLAN

<i>Lectures</i>	
<b>Week</b>	<b>Topic</b>
1.	Introductory lecture: Introducing students to the objectives and content of the course and their obligations; Overview of relevant literature
2.	Origins of communism and the creation of socialist movements
3.	Communist thought after Karl Marx
4.	Communism in the first half of the 20th century
5.	Communism and wars (Spanish Civil War and World War II)
6.	The creation of the Iron Curtain and “people’s democracies” after World War II
7.	Midterm exam (1 <sup>st</sup> colloquium)
8.	The split of the communist monolith: from the Cominform to the search for new paths to communism
9.	Different models of communist power acquisition
10.	Attempts at reform in communism and the collapse of the communist system in Europe
11.	Communism in the West
12.	Communism and religion
13.	Midterm exam (2 <sup>nd</sup> colloquium)
14.	Contemporary interpretations of communism
15.	Final lecture (evaluation of student work and grades)
<i>Seminars</i>	
<b>Week</b>	<b>Topic</b>
1.	Introductory seminar
2.	Manifesto of the Communist Party
3.	Capital: A Critique of Political Economy
4.	State and Revolution
5.	Holodomor
6.	Stalin and Hitler
7.	Cominform
8.	Midterm exam (1 <sup>st</sup> colloquium)
9.	The New Class
10.	A Caribbean Communist State
11.	Cultural revolution in China
12.	Communism and totalitarianism
13.	Everyday life in communism
14.	Midterm exam (2 <sup>nd</sup> colloquium)
15.	Final seminar