EAST CENTRAL AND SOUTH EAST EUROPE SINCE CA. 1450

Please answer one question from Part I and one question from Part II. You are allowed a total of four hours to complete this exam (two hours per question.) You are on your honor not to consult any materials, including notes or papers or anything stored in your computer. You are also on your honor not to discuss the exam or its content with any faculty or student until the exam period is over.

(When answering the questions below, always add your evaluations and remarks on the most important works on the topic.)

PART I: Early Modern Times

1. Discuss the Ottoman conquest of the Balkans, its impacts, consequences during the 15th - 19th centuries, its legacy, and its various interpretations in historiography from Stavrianos to Todorova.

2. Describe and analyze the East European agricultural system, the second serfdom, and its impacts on the peasantry between the 15th and the 18th centuries, and the region’s role in the rising Modern World System.

3. Discuss and analyze the causes and consequences of the loss of independent statehood throughout Central and Eastern Europe between the 15th and 18th centuries and the impact of the multinational empires on the region.

PART II: Modern Times

1. Compare the 19th century economic and political modernization process in the Balkans and Central Europe; the success or failure of industrialization; formation or lack of formation of modern societies and states.

2. Analyze the origins and special characteristics (compared to Western Europe) of Central and Eastern European nationalism in the 19th and 20th centuries. What is the reason that anti-Semitism became an organic part of nationalism in various countries of the region?

3. Discuss the impact of the Versailles Treaty system upon Central and Eastern Europe; short- and long-term consequences until the present.

4. Discuss the peculiarities of Central and Eastern European “noble societies,” and the “incomplete society” in the Balkans in the 19th century; their changes in the 20th century, and the dramatic transformation under state socialism.