PATTERNS OF EXCLUSION, DILEMMAS OF INCLUSION: ROMA POLICIES AND POLITICS IN THE 21ST CENTURY

draft syllabus

Trimester:
Fall 2023/2024

Instructor:
Dr. Márton Rövid (rovidm@ceu.edu)

Office hours:
By appointment

Place:
Vienna Campus, room to be specified

Time:
Thursdays 17.40-19.20

Credits:
2
Course description

The aim of this course is to introduce students to various forms of social exclusion Roma face in the 21st century, and the dilemmas policy-makers, NGOs and activists encounter when promoting the equality of Roma.

The course is composed of three parts. First, the debates on ‘Who are the Roma?’ are discussed. Shall the ‘Roma’ be seen as a non-territorial nation, the biggest European minority or as a label referring to diverse ethnic groups or a socio-ethnic class? Theoretical questions of labelling, group-making and self-determination are examined in view of the case of Roma.

The second part discusses the various patterns of exclusion Roma face (in the fields of education, labour market and residence). Debates on the relation between recognition and redistribution, as well as ethnicity and poverty are studied. Furthermore, the applicability of the analytical category of ‘underclass’ to case of Roma is examined.

The third part of the course analyses the role of various actors and the dilemmas they face when promoting the participation, equality, and inclusion of Roma. The foremost theories of multiculturalism and the main forms of political autonomy are discussed. Particular attention is paid to the role of NGOs and international organizations in the codification, spread and acceptance of norms in relation to Roma. The challenges and shortcomings of Roma inclusion policies and National Roma Integration Strategies are discussed in depth. The course ends by reflecting on how to tackle enduring form of injustice.

The course is organized as a series of seminars. The theme of each class is to be discussed after a short presentation of the required texts by a student. All the mandatory readings are available online.

As the language of instruction is English, students who wish to enrol in this seminar must have a solid command of English language. All the readings and assignments are in English.

Handicapped students should inform the tutor so that we can make appropriate arrangements.

Learning outcomes:

By the end of the course, students should be able to:
- understand key concepts and theories in the fields of social exclusion and self-determination
- analyse international, European and national policy-making processes
- critically reflect upon academic and policy papers on Roma
- present coherent arguments in both oral and written forms in English
Assessment

Each student will be assessed through a combination of seminar contribution, oral presentation and written works.

1. **Active participation**: 15% of the final grade. Students are required to participate in all Week, read all mandatory texts prior to the classes, and actively contribute to class discussions. Students shall inform the tutor in advance if they cannot come to a Week. Please arrive to every class on time.

2. **Class presentations**: 30% of the final grade. Each student presents three mandatory texts by summarizing the main arguments of the author and raising 2-3 questions for class discussion. Each presenter may prepare a handout and/or PowerPoint/Prezi presentation. The texts are assigned at the first class.

3. **Research proposal**: 15% of the final grade. As a preparation for the final research paper, students are required to submit a midterm research proposal. The topic of the proposal should relate to the class and be approved by the instructors. The proposal should include a brief description of the topic, research questions, overview of methodology, and a preliminary literature review. It should 600-900-words long. Possible deadline: 14 November

4. **Research paper**: 40% of the final grade. Students write a research paper of up to 2000 words length on a topic related to the course that is approved by the instructor. The paper should follow the genre of academic essay with appropriate references and a bibliography. The paper shall refer to at least two articles, arguments, debates covered in the course – in addition to the literature relevant for the selected topic. Please include the word count on the title page. All written contributions should be produced exclusively by the student; any text reproduction which is not clearly identified and attributed will have to be considered as plagiarism. Please note that late papers submitted after the deadline will be marked down by half a letter grade per day. Possible deadline: 17 December
Course outline

Seminar 1. Introduction (21 September)

PART I: WHO ARE THE ROMA?

Seminar 2. Who are the ‘Roma’? (28 September)

Required readings:


Optional readings:


Seminar 3. Roma and the question of self-determination (5 October)

Required readings:


Optional readings:


PART II. PATTERNS OF EXCLUSION

Seminar 4. Struggles for recognition and redistribution (12 October)

Required readings:


Optional readings:


Seminar 5: Research day (19 October)

Seminar 6. Do Roma form an underclass? (2 November)

Required reading:


Optional readings


Seminar 7. Ethnicity, race, poverty (9 November)

Required readings:


Optional readings:


PART III. DILEMMAS OF INCLUSION

Seminar 8: Understanding multiculturalism (16 November)

Required reading:


Optional readings:


Seminar 9. Options of autonomy (23 November)

Required reading:


Optional readings:


Seminar 10. The role of transnational networks and international organizations (30 November)

Required reading:


Optional readings:


Seminar 11. Roma inclusion policies and National Roma Integration Strategies (7 December)

Required reading:


Optional readings:


