Patterns of Exclusion, Dilemmas of Inclusion
Roma Politics and Policies in the 21st Century

With the support of the
Curriculum Development Competition, Central European University

Semester: Spring 2008/2009

Tutor: Márton Rövid (rovid_marton@phd.ceu.hu)

Office hours: By appointment

Place: TBA

Time: TBA

Credits: TBA
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 inclusion of Roma.

The course is composed of four 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 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 (International Romani Union, European Roma Rights Centre, etc.) and international organizations (United Nations, European Union, Council of Europe, etc) in the codification, spread and acceptance of norms in relation to Roma.

The fourth part of the course is devoted to case of Hungarian Roma. Specific dynamics of exclusion and the possibilities and limitations of particular policies are discussed.

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 in readers and online at http://romapolicycourse.wordpress.com

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.

In terms of written work, each student is expected to write three short position papers (500 – 750 words). A position paper is a critical examination of a text. It contains the summary of selected author’s position, as well as critical reflections. Each position paper gives 10% of the final grade.

In addition, students are required to summarise two different texts in the form of class presentations and raise some key questions for class discussion. Each presenter is required to prepare a handout and/or PowerPoint presentation. One of the oral presentations can be on the same text as the position paper. Each presentation gives 10% of the final grade.

Students are required to read all mandatory texts prior to the classes, and actively contribute to class discussions. Participation gives 20% of the final grade.

Finally, students are required to write a research paper of up to 2000 words length on a topic related to the course and the title to be agreed by the lecturers. The paper should follow the genre of academic essay with appropriate references and a bibliography. 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. The deadline for handing in the essay will be determined at the first seminar. Please note that late papers submitted after the deadline will be marked down by half a letter grade per day. The final essay gives 30% of the final grade.
Course outline

Seminar 1. Introduction

PART I: WHO ARE THE ROMA?

Seminar 2. Who are the ‘Roma’?

Required readings:


Optional readings:


Seminar 3. Roma and the question of self-determination

Required readings:


Optional readings:


PART II. PATTERNS OF EXCLUSION

Seminar 4. Struggles for recognition and redistribution

Required readings:


Optional readings:


Seminar 5. Do Roma form an underclass?

Required reading:


Optional readings


Seminar 6. Ethnicity and poverty

Required readings :


Optional readings:


PART III. DILEMMAS OF INCLUSION

Seminar 7: Understanding multiculturalism

Required reading:


Optional readings:


Seminar 8. Options of autonomy

Required reading:


Optional readings:


Seminar 9. Political participation

Required reading:


Optional readings:


Seminar 10. The role of transnational advocacy networks

Required reading:


Optional readings:


Seminar 11. International organizations

Required reading:


Optional readings:


Kovats, Martin. 2001. Opportunities and Challenges EU. Enlargement and the Roma/Gypsy diaspora


PART IV. THE CASE OF HUNGARY

Seminar 12. The social exclusion of Roma in Hungary

*Required reading:*


*Optional readings:*


Seminar 13. Hungarian Roma politics and policies

*Required readings:*


*Optional readings:*


Seminar 14. Conclusion