

THE OTHER EUROPE:

Post WWII East European Fiction

This course introduces students to fiction by Polish, Czech, Yugoslav, Hungarian, and Baltic writers, mostly created during Eastern Europe's communist or socialist era. We shall look into the stories, characters, and styles of writing that emerged from societies that were profoundly different from those in the West. Marked by the absence of market economy and market psychology, as well as of western democracy, these societies developed their own different forms of life, thinking, and literature. We shall particularly focus on the unusual characters that appear in this fiction—from the idealist revolutionaries of the pre-World War II era to the post-socialist era East Europeans disillusioned with the West. The course materials also include some selected poetry and three classic East European films. Authors:

Danilo Kiš (Yugoslavia), Tadeusz Borowski (Poland), Milan Kundera (Czechoslovakia), Bohumil Hrabal (Czechoslovakia), Magda Szabó (Hungary), Tõnu Õnnepalu (Estonia), Wisława Szymborska (Poland)

