

## Contemporary Eastern European Cinemas

### **CONTEMPORARY EASTERN EUROPEAN CINEMAS – László Strausz**

**Code: BBN-FLM-402.02**

**Type: practice**

**Thursdays 9.30-11.00**

**Room: -137**

**First class: 13. September**

The course will attempt to map the main trends in Eastern European feature film production after 1989. The focus will be on films from the former GDR, former Yugoslavia, Romania and Hungary.

Primarily we will concentrate on the imprints of major social-historical shifts on cinema, i.e. aspects of cultural memory in select countries within the region. Questions in focus include: how does cinema reflect the political changes that accompany the end of the Cold War?

Which are the thematic and stylistic elements of the post-communist cinemas? What are the major differences between the various national cinemas and their ways of remembering the past?

We will also investigate some issues that stand at the intersection of historical representation, cinematic memory and film genres. Investigated questions include: how are historical topics or themes dealt with when the past is recreated within a given generic framework? In what ways do genres influence collective memory?

Week 1: Introduction – EE Cinema before 1989

Week 2: In focus: history and memory

Week 3: The crisis of masculinity I. Cabaret Balkan

Week 4: EE insider and outsider perspectives

Week 5: The crisis of masculinity II. Generation X

Week 6: Grotesque and the absurd

Week 7: Genres: questions of nostalgia

Week 8: Genres: history as a thriller

Week 9: Metaphorical, allegorical memory

Week 10: Genres: history as comedy

Week 11: Realism and subjectivity

Week 12: Camera, body and history

Week 13: Summary