

A) HISTORY

Until 1982, English Dept., Zagreb U., was a typical European setup, teaching "English Language and Literature" and producing between 60 and 80 B.A.s in English yearly, over one-half of whom went into teaching secondary school. The department's literature program included Am. Lit.; the language program was firmly based on BE (British English). All faculty members spoke BE and all students were required to use it. Occasional users of AE (mostly those with family in the US and Canada, who had gone to school there) were allowed to use it in class but were expected to do their tests and phonetical transcription in BE. There were no M.A. programs in American Studies.

As a result, all secondary-school textbooks and all bilingual dictionaries domestically produced were in BE. The strong motivation for AE provided by American pop music and pop culture was simply ignored, let alone used for teaching purposes. So was the fact that the significant emigration from Croatia has overwhelmingly been to the United States.

Believing this absolute domination of BE to be unnatural and academically untenable, Željko Bujas, a professor in the Language Program of the Zagreb Department, started offering 12 years ago three courses designed to redress this imbalance. They were: American English and American Society, which are self-explanatory, but also English Lexicology based exclusively on materials from the vocabulary of AE. The first course is now offered under the title American vs. British English, the third as Lexicology of American English.

Bujas's courses were offered as part of the Language Program and met with little open resistance from other faculty members. American Society, however, quickly spawned a counter-course in British Society and Culture within the Literature Program. As they developed, however, these courses showed the desirability and feasibility of a more coherent effort within the department toward an American Studies offering. Certain long-standing frictions among the Literature Program people were working in the same direction.

Finally, in 1982, a new (third) program in the department was formally launched as "Katedra za amerikanistiku" (American Studies Program). Its purpose was academic development of these three fields: American Literature, American English and American Civilization. Its members: Senja Bašić (full prof., Am.Lit.), Željko Bujas (full prof., AE and Am.Civ.) and Vanja Matković (asst.prof., Am.Lit.). Head of program: Ž.Bujas. A junior lecturer was requested and obtained from the Fulbright Commission in Belgrade in 1985. (We were the only department in the country without one.)

B) CURRENTLY

American Studies Program, Zagreb University, is currently active on four levels:

1) Undergraduate Teaching

Bujas's courses, plus Am.Lit. courses taught by S.Bašić and V.Matković (and these change almost annually) are offered as free-choice and obligatory courses to double-major students. Single-major students (about 10 per cent of the enrolment) must take all of them. An important development: American Civilization was offered (by Ž.Bujas) as a possible subject for graduation theses in 1985 for the first time. The response was overwhelming, and currently some 60% of all such theses in the Department are in American Civilization.

2) Academic Management of Dubrovnik Seminar in American Studies

The Seminar, an annual one-week affair in October, is part of exchange programs between Zagreb Univ. and Indiana Univ. with UCLA. Now in its fifth year, it brings together about a dozen American and Yugoslav lecturers, plus some 40 undergraduates, graduates, M.A. students, Ph.D. students and a few observers. Current Program Committee chairpersons: Cynthia Kinnard of Indiana and Ž.Bujas of Zagreb. Thematically, the Seminar covers the United States as a sociocultural entity (this year's topic: United States as a Pluralistic Society).

In terms of the development of American Studies in Yugoslavia, the Seminar is very important on three counts: (a) introducing and defining American Studies as an interdisciplinary field, (b) creating and sustaining advanced interest in American studies, and (c) pinpointing and stimulating Yugoslav academic personnel usable in American Studies.

3) Introducing an M.A. Program in American Studies (Interdisciplinary)

A proposal for such an M.A. program has been articulated, with the sociocultural phenomenon of the United States as its academic subject. It will be a two-year program with two or three sessions per year. So far it has been approved by the Faculty Council of the Zagreb Filozofski Fakultet (Liberal Arts College) and by the Zagreb University Senate. Three more similar approvals have to be secured before the Program can be launched officially (by the Conference of Croatian Universities, State Agency for Research of Croatia and Educational Revenue Allocation Board of Croatia). The process should be completed by mid-October. However, since attendance at the Dubrovnik Seminar in American Studies is a requirement of the Program, the first class (10-15 graduate students) will already attend this fall's Seminar, if everything goes well.

The Program will rely on domestic faculty, largely from Zagreb University. USIS Zagreb Office has kindly offered help in securing one or two American professors to help out in the beginning. A generous (\$ 5,000) book grant has also been made, in addition to the regular support in books and materials by the American Center, Zagreb.

4) Ph.D. Management

The first Ph.D. candidate in American Studies (Interdisciplinary) has had its theme approved by the Faculty Council of Filozofski Fakultet, after academic backing by American Studies Program of English Department. His name is Marijan Orešnik (an editor at Zagreb TV) and his theme is The Novel of Collective Consciousness: Current Narrative Prose by American Indians.

5) Research Projects

Prof. Bujas has repeatedly pointed out a clear need in Yugoslavia for a specific type of reference work tentatively termed a Dictionary of American Society and Civilization. Its purpose: to offer information absent from conventional lexicographic works, and only partly present in encyclopedias. It would be aimed at Yugoslav users, both those with an English/American Studies background and others. Its methodology, therefore, envisages a significant presence of a comparative-civilization approach. This concept has already been offered by Prof. Bujas as an interdisciplinary project to the Fulbright Program Commission in Belgrade (no answer yet). Domestic publishers have shown interest. Certain comparative aspects of civilizational research could be treated academically in a number of M.A. theses within the Dubrovnik graduate program in American Studies. A few Ph.D. theses, dealing with conceptual problems of methodology, are quite possible.

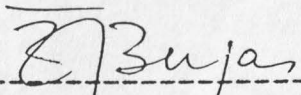
C) IN THE FUTURE

In view of all this undoubted and substantial progress, to which our five-year exchange program has significantly contributed, I suggest the following guidelines for future cooperation:

- 1) Extending the current program for another five years.
- 2) Examining possibilities within the program for further academic expansion, such as possible involvement of Indiana and UCLA faculty in a spring (one-week) session of the Zagreb University M.A. Program in American Studies (also held in Dubrovnik).
- 3) Trying for a new quality in our cooperation. The IUC, Dubrovnik, is expanding both physically and conceptually. Physically, new plant is being built and renewed in the area, notably for research in archaeology, art history, weather science and molecular biology. A total of 38 American universities are members of the IUC, an attractive base for an ambitious lead university to introduce new contents. A number of lines could be explored:
 - a) Involvement of Indiana and UCLA faculty in interuniversity M.A. and Ph.D. management (supervision, consulting conferences, etc.) in American and related studies.
 - b) Short or full-length summer school sessions with American, European and Yugoslav participants in American and related studies.
 - c) Permanent in-situ research projects for which Dubrovnik is specially favorably located and equipped (archaeology, medieval history, Mediterranean studies).
 - d) Establishing in Dubrovnik, at the IUC, a permanent coordinating and conference center for all Indiana and UCLA faculty, visiting professors, researchers and students in Europe.

Dean Rabinowitch's announced visit to Zagreb after the Seminar in Dubrovnik, and his talks with Zagreb University officials might be a good opportunity to discuss some of the above views and suggestions for possible forms of future exchange between Indiana and Zagreb. A copy of this report will also be sent to UCLA. This report is an individual effort, expressing personal views and should be regarded as such.

Zagreb, July 29, 1986



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UPDATE OF REPORT

The first session of Zagreb Univ. Graduate Course in American Studies was held on October 6-14 at the IUC, Dubrovnik. The enrolment is 19, about equally divided between Zagreb and the rest of Croatia, with 2 candidates from Slovenia, 2 from Serbia and 1 from Bosnia. They are all English B.A.s, with one sole graduate of Political Science. most of them teach English at adult Foreign Language Schools or at various colleges.

The lecturers were:

1. Prof. Daniel Aaron of Harvard Univ. (em.). Taught 14 hours of various topics of Amer. Intellectual History (from Benjamin Franklin to Secular Humanism). His stay was made possible through USIA funding.
2. Prof. Richard Wade of SUNY. Taught 10 hours of American Urban History. Also USIA funded.
3. Prof. Berndt Ostendorf of Munich University, under an interuniversity exchange program. Taught 10 hours of exemplified methodology in American Studies.
4. Prof. Matjaž Klemenčič of Maribor Univ. (Yugoslavia), 10 hours of selected topics from American Political History.
5. Prof. Željko Bujas, Zagreb University, 6 hours of Thesis Subject Seminars.

Next session will be held, also in Dubrovnik, on June 6-14, 1987.
Session lecturers:

1. Prof. Vanja Matković, Zagrebu Univ. (Modern American Drama, 10 hours).
2. Prof. Branko Smerdel, Zagreb Univ. (US Government, 20 hours).
3. Prof. Zlatko Pepeonik, Zagreb Univ. (Sociocultural Regions of the US, 10 hours).

We also hope to have again Prof. Aaron who promised a set of lectures on the Left in America.

Indiana University has also expressed interest in extending cooperation to graduate level (possibly supplying two professors for the future sessions of the Dubrovnik Graduate Course in American Studies.

Z Bujas