

East European Politics
(CPO 3614/ Section 9662 & EUS 3930/ Section 0917)
Spring 2011

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Course Meetings

M W F Period 5 (11.45-12.35)

0101 Anderson Hall

Course description

This course aims to provide the students with a broad survey of communist regimes and post-communist evolutions in Eastern Europe, from WWII up to the recent accessions to the European Union. The course has a chronological structure and is thematically structured, rather than organized in a country-specific way. We will delve first into the core characteristics and differences of communist regimes--this way, for instance, you will understand why I, as a Romanian, have a rather negative perspective on what Communism meant, while someone from former Czechoslovakia, Poland, or Hungary might (?) spend a moment trying to assess the regime with a positive eye. Next, we will peruse the 1989 revolutions, where terms such as 'transitions from below' and 'transitions from above' will be used to distinguish between various regime changes in the region. Finally, the bulk of the course will focus on the post-1989 developments, when we'll notice that, despite the unique communist legacies, the region differs greatly in terms of successful economic, political, and social transformations. Major themes covered in the last part will consist of democratization and political participation, economic development, institutional design and parties, national identities, ethnic conflict, as well as state-collapse and state-building.

Course materials

There is one textbook required for this class. The book is available through the UF Bookstore.

- Stephen White, Judy Batt, and Paul G. Lewis(eds.), *Developments in Central and East European Politics 4* (Raleigh: Duke University Press, 2007)

- The rest of the readings will be available through 'e-Learning in Sakai'

E-Learning in Sakai You should become familiar with 'e-Learning in Sakai'. All electronic materials assigned as readings (articles and book chapters) will be posted here, as well as power point slides for the class. In addition, ALL GRADES will be posted here too.

Course requirements

- Class attendance and participation (10% of the final grade)
- Country folder and presentation –group project (10% of the final grade)
- 3 in-class tests (60 % total -- 20% each of the final grade)
- Research paper (20 % of the final grade)

Class attendance and participation

Come to class after having read the materials assigned for the respective class and ready to ask and answer questions. The success of this course depends upon your active participation in class. Therefore, having read all the material before each class and having thought about the readings is crucial to having a meaningful conversation. Attendance will be taken on a daily basis. Students with more than three unexcused absences will lose participation points.

Note: I expect you to have completed the relevant assigned readings prior to class and to be ready to discuss them. To facilitate this process I assigned a relative **low number of pages** to be read for each meeting. 😊

Country folder and presentation

The assigned readings in this class will mostly focus on Czech, Hungary, Poland, Romania, and Bulgaria. To make up for the rest of the countries in the post-communist region, students, either individually or in groups (1-2 students per country), will be assigned to provide a brief overview of the communist history, political institutions and issues of a country in East Central Europe. Each team will build up a folder with news and events regarding their country of choice and submit this folder at the end of the semester. In addition, each team, when asked by the instructor, will prepare a presentation in MS PowerPoint format providing the class with an overview of the communist regime and post-communist evolutions. More details regarding this assignment will be provided in the second week of the class.

The country list is: Albania, Belarus, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Hungary, East Germany, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Kosovo, Macedonia, Moldova, Montenegro, Poland, Romania, Serbia, Slovenia, Slovakia, and Ukraine.

Tests There will be three in-class tests, each worth 20% of the final grade. Tests will consist of short answer, multiple choice, identification, true/false and fill-in the blank questions.

Research paper Each student is required to produce a research paper on a topic relevant to the issues covered in the class and will be due on **April 4th** in class. Papers should be around 1500 words long (5-6 pages). Students are expected to come up with a topic for their paper by **Feb 2nd** and have it approved by the instructor. Bibliographies and paper outlines (1 page) are due by **March 14**. Failure to submit topic, bibliography and outline will lead to deductions from the final paper grade. To prevent plagiarism, I will check the papers using Turnitin.com. Late papers will be penalized one letter grade per day. More instructions on this assignment will be posted later in the semester.

Policies

1. **Assignments:** All assignments must be submitted on line, by the deadline, and handed in to the instructor, at the beginning of the class. Extensions will be granted at my discretion and, if granted, they will require proper documentation. Make sure you ask for an extension only **PRIOR** to the deadline date.
2. **Cheating/plagiarism:** Any student caught violating the honor code will fail the class. For more information, read the Code of Student Conduct <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/honorcode.php>
3. **Courtesy:** Don't come late and turn off your cell-phones. Any disruptive behavior (reading newspapers or materials related to other courses, talking outside of class discussions) will not be tolerated and you will be asked to leave the class.
4. **Special Needs:** If you have a disability that requires special arrangements (e.g. note- and/or test-taking), please register with UF's Office of Students with Disabilities and contact me **within the first week** of class. Every effort will be made to accommodate those with registered disabilities.

Grading scale: (<http://www.registrar.ufl.edu/catalog/policies/regulationgrades.html>):

A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D	D-	E
93-100	90-92.9	87-89.9	83-86.9	80-82.9	77-79.9	73-76.9	70-72.9	67-69.9	63-66.9	60-62.9	< 59.9

Course Schedule

Week 1: Introduction

- January 5 – to the syllabus and to each other
- January 7 – Defining Central and Eastern Europe;

Readings:

Developments in East Central Europe—Ch1

Part I: Why history and culture matter--pre-1989

Week 2: Communism (I)—establishment and characteristics

- January 10 - What was communism and its establishment
- January 12 - Security services and information monopoly
- January 14 - ‘We pretend to work’

Readings:

--Jan Gross, "Social Consequences of War: Preliminaries to the Study of Imposition of Communist Regimes in East Central Europe," *East European Politics and Societies* 3(1989): 198-214 (e-Learning)

--Ken Jowitt. 1992. *New World Disorder. The Leninist Extinction*, Berkley and Los Angeles: University of California Press. Ch 8 “The Leninist Legacy”, pp 284-305 (e-Learning)

--Michael Roskin, (2002). *The Rebirth of Eastern Europe*, New Jersey: Prentice Hall, 4th edition, pp. 80-88 &100-112 (e-Learning)

Week 3: Communism (II)—variations –class presentations

- January 17 - NO CLASS--Holiday
- January 19 - Communist experiences in Czechoslovakia, Poland, and Hungary.
- January 21 – Events in Romania, Bulgaria, and Yugoslavia—the communist period (student presentations)

Readings:

--Developments in Central and East European Politics—Ch 2

--Vladimir Tismaneanu, “The Tragicomedy of Romanian Communism”, *East European Politics & Societies March* 3(1989): 329-76 (e-Learning)

Part II: 1989 – Democratization—Different types of transitions

Week 4: The 1989 Revolutions (I)

- January 24 - The international context –Gorbachev (Glasnost, Perestroika)
- January 26 - The Dominoes Fall
- January 28 - Joining the third/fourth (?) wave of democratization

Readings:

--Christopher Jones, “Gorbachev and the Warsaw Pact”, *East European Politics & Societies March* 1989 3: 215-34 (e-Learning)

--Valerie Bunce, "Decline of a Regional Hegemon: the Gorbachev Regime and Reform in Eastern Europe", *East European Politics & Societies* March 1989 3: 235-67 (e-Learning)

--Michael McFaul. "The Fourth Wave of Democracy and Dictatorship: Noncooperative Transitions in the Postcommunist World", *World Politics* 54(2): 212-44 (e-Learning)

Week 5 The 1989 Revolutions (II)

- January 31 - Transitions from above and from below
- February 2 - Test review –Study guide; **Paper topic due.**
- **February 4 - In-class test**

Readings:

--Stephen White (2001). *Communism and its Collapse*, New York: Routledge, pp. 52-71 (e-Learning)

Part III—Post 1989

A. Institutional choices—setting up the framework for political competition

Week 6 –Political reforms (i)—executive and legislative arrangements

- February 7- The executive
- February 9 - Parliaments and representation
- February 11 – Events in East Germany, Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania (student presentations)

Readings:

--Developments in East Central Europe—Ch 8

--Developments in East Central Europe—Ch 9

Week 7 –Political reforms (ii)—parties and elections; electoral behavior

- February 14 - Electoral systems
- February 16 – Political parties
- February 18 – Events in Moldova, Ukraine, and Belarus (student presentations)

Readings:

--Developments in East Central Europe—Ch 10

--Developments in East Central Europe—Ch 11

--Developments in East Central Europe—Ch 6

Week 8 – State building and nationalism

- February 21 - Reconceptualizing the state
- February 23 - Multinational states – Czechoslovakia and Yugoslavia
- February 25 - Test review-study guide

Readings:

--Gryzmala-Busse, Anna and Pauline Jones Luong. 2002. "Reconceptualizing the State: Lessons from Post-Communism", *Politics & Society* 30(4): 529-54 (e-Learning)

--Carol Skalnik Leff. 1999. "Democratization and Disintegration in Multinational States: The Breakup of the Communist Federations", *World Politics* 51(2): 205-235 (e-Learning)

Week 9

- February 28 **In-class test**
- March 2 - **Film screening**
- March 4 **No class**—Instructor will be out of town (EUSA conference). Work on the research papers.

Week 10 --Spring Break—NO CLASS

Week 11 –Ethnic conflicts

- March 14 - **Paper outline due.** Film discussion
- March 16 - Ethnic war
- March 18 - Events in Slovenia, Croatia, Serbia, Kosovo (student presentations)

Readings:

--Developments in East Central Europe—Ch 5 ‘The Western Balkans’

--Sherrill Stroschein, (2008) "Making or Breaking Kosovo: Applications of Dispersed State Control," *Perspectives on Politics* 6(4): pp. 655-674 (e-Learning)

B. Economic/domestic policies

Week 12 –Economic reforms

- March 21 - Transitional economies
- March 23 - Informal institutions
- March 25 - Corruption

Readings:

--Developments in East Central Europe—Ch 15

--Joel Hellman, "Winners Take All: The Politics of Partial Reform in Postcommunist Transitions," *World Politics* 50(1998): 203-234 (e-Learning)

--Ledeneva, Alena. *Blat: Russia's Economy of Favours*. Cambridge: CUP, 1998: 28-38, 139-174, 206-214 (e-Learning).

Week 13 –Civil Society and other ‘dear’ institutional actors

- March 28 - Civil society
- March 30 - The Military
- April 1 - The Church

Readings:

--Developments in East Central Europe—Ch 13 ‘Civil Society’

--Zoltan Barany. 1997. “Democratic Consolidation and the Military: The East European Experience”, *Comparative Politics* 30(1): 21-43 (e-Learning)

--TBA One reading on the Church in the post-communist space

Week 14 – Fringe politics—women, minority rights, and environmental concerns

- April 4 -- Politics and the Roma **Research Paper Due**
- April 6 –Women and other ‘minorities’
- April 8 – Sustainable environment

Readings:

--Zoltan Barany, 2000. “Politics and the Roma in state –socialist Eastern Europe,” *Communist and Post-Communist Studies* 33: 421-437 (e-Learning)

-- Conor O’Dwyer and Katrina Schwartz, “Minority Rights After EU Enlargement: A Comparison of Antigay Politics in Poland and Latvia,” *Comparative European Politics* 8:2 (2010): 220-243 (e-Learning)

--Katrina Z. S. Schwartz. 2005. “Wild horses in a ‘European wilderness’: imagining sustainable development in the post-Communist countryside”, *Cultural Geographies* 12: 292-320 (e-Learning)

C. External actors and democracy –natural resources and International Organizations (Council of Europe and the EU)

Week 15 – Natural resources and international actors

- April 11 – the EU
- April 13 – Council of Europe
- April 15 – Wrap up the course

Readings:

--Developments in East Central Europe –Ch 7 “Central and Eastern Europe and the EU”

--TBA One reading on the Council of Europe

Week 16

- April - Final review
- April 20- **Final in-class test**