

Emerging Democracies of Central Europe

Spring 2014

PSCI 341

Professor: Jason Jordan
Office: Smith House 201
Office Hours: Wednesday 1:30-3:00 & Thursday 9:00-10:00
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Course Description

This course examines the new democracies of Central and Eastern Europe after the collapse of communism in 1989. In particular, we will focus on the democratic development of the post-Communist countries of Poland, Czechoslovakia, Romania, Yugoslavia, and Hungary. Though the history and current events of each country will be discussed and examined, the course will primarily emphasize the challenges faced by new and transitioning democracies. To that extent, students should leave this course with significant knowledge about contemporary politics in Central Europe and, more importantly, with broader insights into the broader processes of democratization and democratic consolidation applicable to much of the world today.

Assignments

Your grade in this course will be made up as follows:

- Class Participation (10%)
- Weekly Reading Responses (30%)
- Class Presentation (10%)
- Research Paper (50%)

Weekly Reading Responses

Each week, students will be asked to write a one to two page (single spaced) critical response to the readings for the week. A good reading response will critically assess the reading by analyzing the strengths and weaknesses of the argument presented, discussing the central argument in the context of the broader course, and examining new questions raised by the readings. The purpose of this assignment is to get you to seriously and critically engage the readings for each week prior to attending class, aiding in your understanding of course material and substantially improving the quality of in class discussion.

The weekly responses will be graded on a scale of zero to two. At the end of the semester, the total of all points received on the response papers will be added up and divided by 18 and then multiplied by 100 to give a percentage, which will constitute your grade on the weekly responses papers. In other words, you are expected to complete reading responses for 9 of the 13 weeks.

The assignment for each week is for that week's readings. For example, for week 2 the response would be the Von Laue book. The weekly reading assignments are to be turned in each week before class on Moodle. The file you upload up should be titled with only your last name and the week number for the assignment. For example, I would title my response for the week 3 response "Jordan 3." Please, save them in a word readable format. **NO LATE PAPERS WILL BE ACCEPTED.**

Research Paper

Students will be asked to write a 15 page research paper due at the beginning of the final day of class on Monday, May 5th. The research paper will examine one of the central questions of Central European politics research. Students will be asked to locate and evaluate the available research necessary

to answer their chosen research question. More details concerning the format and topics of the paper will be given at a later date.

Presentation

Each student will be asked to provide a short, in-class presentation of their research. The dates for these presentations will be assigned in class. The presentation is designed to give each student the opportunity to receive feedback on the present state of their research from both other students and the professor. On the date of your presentation, you are also required to turn into me a current outline of your research paper along with your working bibliography.

Readings

The following readings are available at the bookstore or on any online bookstore. All other readings are available online or are on the course Moodle site.

Von Laue, Theodore H. (1997). *Why Lenin? Why Stalin? Why Gorbachev? The Rise and Fall of the System*. 3rd Edition. New York: Longman. ISBN-10: 0065011112

Gagnon, V. P. Jr. (2006). *The Myth of Ethnic War: Serbia and Croatia in the 1990s*. Cornell University Press. ISBN-10: 0801472911

Academic Honor Policy

All students are required to uphold the highest academic standards. Any case of academic dishonesty will be dealt with according to the guidelines and procedures outlined in Drew University's "Standards of Academic Integrity: Guidelines and Procedures." A copy of this document can be found on the following website: <<http://depts.drew.edu/cladean/>>. The document can be accessed by clicking on: "College Academic Integrity Standards."

Academic Accommodations

Should you require academic accommodations, you must file a request with the Office of Disability Services (BC 119B, anambiar@drew.edu). Please complete the following link (<http://www.drew.edu/academic/services/disabilityservices/register>). It is your responsibility to self-identify with the Office of Disability Services and to provide faculty with the appropriate documentation from that office at least one week prior to any request for specific course accommodations. There are no retroactive accommodations. **The deadline to request Letters of Accommodations (LOAs) for all students currently registered with the Office of Disability Services is 02/10/2014.**

Course Schedule

Week 1	27-Jan	Who are We and Why are We Here? Readings: Marx - Communist Manifesto OR, Marx - Selected Readings
Week 2	3-Feb	The Soviet Union Readings: Von Laue "Why Lenin? Why Stalin? Why Gorbachev?"
Week 3	10-Feb	The Communist Experience Readings: Rothschild, Joseph & Nancy Wingfield (2007) Return to Diversity: A Political History of East Central Europe since World War II. Chapters 1 - 5. Available online: http://digital.library.upenn.edu/ebooks-public/pdfs/0195119924.pdf

Week 4	17-Feb	The Revolutions Readings: Rothschild (see above) Chapters 6 & 7 Kuran 1991 - Now Out of Never
Week 5	24-Feb	Constitutional Choices Readings: Lijphart 1991 - Constitutional Choices Wolczuk 2007 - Constitutional Politics
Week 6	3-Mar	The Rise of Democratic Politics Readings: Whitefield 2002 - Political Cleavages and Post-Communist Politics Innes 2002 - Party competition in Post-Communist Europe
Week 7	17-Mar	Corruption and Clientelism Readings: Sajo 1998 – Corruption, Clientelism Grigorescu 2006 - The Corruption Eruption
Week 8	24-Mar	The Economic Transition Readings: Ivanova 2007 - Inequality and Government Policy Poznanski 2001 - Building Capitalism
Week 9	31-Mar	The "Yeltsin Variant" Readings: Mudde 2012 - Hungary's Illiberal Turn Szomolanyi 2003 - Slovakia
Week 10	7-Apr	The Radical Right and Anti-Immigrant Sentiment Readings: Minkenberg 2002 - The Radical Right in Postsocialist Central Europe
Week 11	14-Apr	Nationalism Readings: Kraus and Stanger 2000 - The Velvet Divorce
Week 12	21-Apr	The Balkan Wars Readings: Gagnon 2004 - The Myth of Ethnic War
Week 13	28-Apr	The European Union Readings: Janos 2001 - Eastern Empire to Western Hegemony Grabbe 2007 - Central Europe in the EU