

Political Science 659: Politics and Society: Contemporary Eastern Europe

Tu-Th 11:00-12:15pm
1175 Grainger Hall

Professor Jason Wittenberg
221 North Hall
Spring 2005 office hours: Wednesday 10:00am-12:00pm
Email: witty@polisci.wisc.edu

Course Description

Why are some post-communist countries more politically and economically successful than others? What underlies the many conflicts in this region? What can happen in the future? What can we learn from the East European experience?

This course is designed to help you answer these and similar questions. In one semester it will not be possible to cover all countries and all periods equally. Since this is a course on contemporary Eastern Europe, the bulk of the course will focus on the 20th century. However, to understand these societies it is necessary to know some of their history, so we will also spend time surveying the past 1,000 years. We will concentrate mainly on the former Czechoslovakia, Hungary, and Poland, but make frequent reference to Bulgaria, Romania, and other countries. We will spend comparatively little time on Russia, other former Soviet Republics, or the recent Yugoslav wars. These latter topics require courses of their own. (If you are interested primarily in Russia, you might check out Political Science 633: Russian Politics.)

Course Requirements

Students are expected to attend class regularly, do the assigned reading, complete all exams, and participate in any discussions. If you require an exception on this, please see me. The grade for this course will be based on a five-page paper (10%), two midterms (20% each), a final exam (40%), and class participation (10%). The exams will be a mixture of multiple choice, identification, and short essay. More information about both the paper and the exams will be provided during the semester. I do not grade on a curve, so you are not competing with your classmates for A's. Everyone who does A-level work will receive an A. But you must attend class, write the paper, and take all exams to get a passing grade in the course.

Academic misconduct, also known as cheating and/or plagiarism, will not be tolerated. For information on what constitutes misconduct please see:

<http://www.wisc.edu/students/amsum.htm>

I have set of an email list for this course. The address is: ps-659@lists.students.wisc.edu If you use a “students.wisc.edu” account and are registered for this course, then you are already on the list. For those of you who use another address you will need to join the list manually. See <https://www.ps1.doit.wisc.edu/EASI/> for details. Other than in class, this list will be the primary means by which I communicate last minute corrections, so please be sure to register.

Make-ups: No make-ups or extensions will be granted without a bona fide medical excuse. The exams are scheduled for March 3, April 14, and May 9.

Please be sure you have no conflicts with these dates.

Course Readings

Most of the course readings are available on Electronic Reserve. To access them please follow the directions at:

<http://www.library.wisc.edu/reserves/>

In addition to these the following books are REQUIRED and available for purchase at the Underground Bookstore, 664 State Street (across from Starbucks):

Lonnie R. Johnson, *Central Europe: Enemies, Neighbors, Friends*. (New York: Oxford University Press, 2002).

Joseph Rothschild and Nancy M. Wingfield, *Return to Diversity: A Political History of East Central Europe Since World War II*. (New York: Oxford University Press, 2000).

Mark Frankland, *The Patriots' Revolution: How Eastern Europe Toppled Communism and Won its Freedom*. (Chicago: Ivan R. Dee, 1992).

These books as well as paper copies of all articles are on reserve at the College Library.

Schedule of Lectures/Reading:

Jan. 18-20: What and where is “Eastern Europe”?

- Lonnie R. Johnson, *Central Europe: Enemies, Neighbors, Friends*. (New York: Oxford University Press, 2002), pp. 3-63.
- Gale Stokes, *Three Eras of Political Change in Eastern Europe*. (New York: Oxford University Press, 1997), pp. 3-22.

Jan. 25-27: Historical Inheritances: Hapsburg, Ottoman, Russian

- Stokes, pp. 36-66.
- Johnson, pp. 64-68; 75-102; 124-148.

Feb. 1-3: The beginnings of contemporary Eastern Europe (Paper topics handed out.)

- Joseph Rothschild, *East Central Europe between the Two World Wars*. (University of Washington Press, 1974), Chapters on Czechoslovakia, Hungary, and Poland.
- R. V. Burks, *The Dynamics of Communism in Eastern Europe*. (Princeton University Press, 1961), Chapters 2-4, 8, Conclusion.

Feb. 8-10: “Classical” Stalinism

- Rothschild and Wingfield, pp. 125-146.
- William Juhasz, *Blueprint for a Red Generation*. (New York: Mid-European Studies Center, 1952).
- David W. Paul, *The Cultural Limits of Revolutionary Politics*. (Columbia University Press, 1979), pp. 16-52.

Feb. 15-17: “Real Existing Socialism”

- Rothschild and Wingfield, pp. 147-226.
- Václav Havel, “The power of the powerless,” in John Keane, ed., *The Power of the Powerless*. (M.E. Sharpe, 1985), pp. 23-96.

Feb. 22-24: The Empire Crumbles: 1989

- Frankland, *The Patriots’ Revolution*, pp. 104-133; 160-219; 257-344.

- Vladimir Tismaneanu, ed., *Revolutions of 1989*. (London and New York: Routledge, 1999). Chapters by Chirot, Verdery, Garton Ash, and Judt.

Mar. 1: Film, *The Firemen's Ball* [Note: Location TBA]

Mar. 3: Midterm

Mar. 8-10: Post-Communism – Political Transformation

- Vladimir Tismaneanu, "Discomforts of Victory: Democracy, Liberal Values and Nationalism in Post-Communist Europe," *West European Politics*, April 2002, Vol. 25, No. 2, pp. 81-100.
- David M. Olson, "New Wine in Old Institutions," *Problems of Post-Communism*, Vol. 46, No. 1, January/February 1999, pp. 15-23.
- Barbara J. Falk, "Post-Communism's First Decade: A Primer for Non-Specialists," *Canadian Journal of Political Science* 36:2, June 2003, pp. 417-437.

Mar. 15-17: Post-Communism – Economic Transformation

- Valerie Bunce, "The Political Economy of Postsocialism," *Slavic Review* 58, no. 4 (Winter 1999), pp. 756-793.
- Adam Przeworski, *Democracy and the Market*. (Cambridge University Press, 1991), pp. 136-191.
- Roman Frydman et al., *Capitalism with a Comrade's Face: Studies in the Postcommunist Transition*. (Budapest: Central European University Press, 1998), pp. 1-54.

Mar. 19-27: Spring Recess

Mar. 29-31: Nationalism and Ethnic Politics

- Philip G. Roeder, "Peoples and States after 1989: The Political Costs of Incomplete National Revolutions," *Slavic Review*, no. 4 (Winter 1999).
- Katherine Verdery, "Nationalism, postsocialism, and space in Eastern Europe," *Social Research*, Vol. 62, Issue 1, Spring 1996.

Apr. 5-7: Historic Legacies and Democratic Consolidation

- Grzegorz Ekiert and Stephen Hanson, eds., *Capitalism and Democracy in Central and Eastern Europe*. (Cambridge University Press, 2003), Chapters 1-4.

Apr. 12: Film, location and title TBA.

Apr. 14: Midterm

Apr. 19-21: Returning to Europe: the View from Above

- “The Politics of European Enlargement: NATO, the EU, and the New US-European Relationship.” *World Affairs*, Spring 2002, Vol. 164, No. 4, pp. 178-197.
- David R. Cameron, “The Challenges of Accession.” *East European Politics and Societies*, Winter 2003, Vol. 17, No. 1, pp. 24-41.
- Lynn M. Tesser, “The Geopolitics of Tolerance: Minority Rights under EU Expansion in East-Central Europe,” *East European Politics and Societies*, Summer 2003, Vol. 17, No. 3, pp. 483-532.

Apr. 26-28: Returning to Europe: the View from Below

- \$ David D. Laitin, “Culture and National Identity: ‘The East’ and European Integration.” *West European Politics*, April 2002, Vol. 25, No. 2, pp. 55-80.
- \$ Christian W. Haerpfer, *Democracy and Enlargement in Post-Communist Europe*. London: Routledge, 2002, Chapter 8, pp. 109-141.

May 3: What of the Future? (Paper due, but no assigned reading!)

May 5: Review for Final Exam

May 9, 12:25pm: Final Exam

ENJOY YOUR SUMMER!