

Political Science 361
CENTRAL EUROPEAN POLITICAL SYSTEMS
Fall 2009

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This course is intended to introduce students to the political, social, and economic systems of Central Europe. The course focuses on the problems of post-communism, democratic transition, and democratic consolidation.

Learning Objectives

Students in this course will improve their critical reasoning skills and their research and writing abilities. They will attain a basic understanding of the political institutions and practices of the Central European political systems.

A. Course Requirements

Course grades will be based on class participation (10%), two one hour in class mid-terms 20% each, a final exam (25%) and a research paper of approximately 15-20 pages comparing some aspect of contemporary politics in two Central European countries (25%). Grading is based on a 10 point scale: 90-100 = A, etc.

Substantial in class participation will be required. During the course of the semester students will be working on a research paper concerning some aspect of politics in Central Europe. Each student will discuss his or her research in class during the last third of the semester. Topic selections should be finalized by the end of the fourth week of classes.

B. Required Texts

Joseph Rothschild and Nancey M. Wingfeld, *Return to Diversity: A Political History of Eastern Europe Since World War Two* 4th Edition (New York: Oxford University Press, 2007).

Sharon Wolchik and Jane L. Curry eds., *Central & East European Politics: From Communism to Democracy* (New York: Rowman & Littlefield, 2008).

Additional readings (journal articles, etc.) will be required for some of the topics covered. These will be provided either online or as course handouts. Some additions and/or changes in these supplementary readings may be made during the course of the semester.

C. Course Outline

I. Introduction

Wolchik and Curry, *Developments in Central and East European Politics*, Chapter 1.

Claus Offe, "Capitalism by Design? Democratic Theory Facing the Triple Transition in East Central Europe," *Social Research*, Vol. 58, NO. 4 (Winter 1991).

II. The Historical Setting: The Traditional and Communist States

A. The Interwar and Wartime Legacies

Rothschild and Wingfeld, Chapters 1 and 2.

B: The Communist Period

Rothschild and Wingfeld, chapters 3, 4, 5, and 6.

Optional: Janos Kornai, *The Socialist System: the Political Economy of Communism* (Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 1992), chapters 5, 4, and 6.

First Midterm

III. The Politics of Transition and Democratic Consolidation

A. Introduction

Rothschild and Wingfeld, chapters 7.

Wolchik and Curry Chapter 2, Valerie Bunce “The Political Transition”, pp 33-54.

Optional: Stephan Haggard and Robert Kaufman, “The Political Economy of Democratic Transitions,” *Comparative Politics* (April, 1997) pp. 263-282.

Michael McFaul, “The Fourth Wave of Democracy and Dictatorship: Noncooperative Transitions in the Postcommunist World,” *World Politics*, Vol. 54, No. 2. (Jan, 2002), pp. 212-244

B. Institutions and Culture

Optional: John T. Ishiyama, “Transitional electoral systems in post-Communist Eastern Europe,” *Political Science Quarterly*, Spring 1997 v112 n1 p95.

Oleh Protsyk, “Politics of Intraexecutive Conflict in Semipresidential Regimes in Eastern Europe”, *East European Politics and Societies* 2005; 19.

William Mishler and Richard Rose, “What are the Origins of Political Trust? Testing Institutional and Cultural Theories in Post-Communist Societies,” *Comparative Political Studies*, (Feb 2001), v34 i1 p30.

Wolchik and Curry Chapter 6, Ronald Linden, “EU Accession and the Role of International Actors”, p. 129-146.

Optional: Darina Malova, Tim Haughton, “Making institutions in Central and Eastern Europe, and the impact of Europe,” *West European Politics*, (April 2002) v25 i2 p101.

C. Economic and Social Change

Wolchik and Curry Chapter 3, Sharon Fisher, Re-Creating the Market, pp. 55-85.

Steven M. Fish, “The determinants of economic reform in the post-Communist world,” *East European Politics and Societies*, (Wntr 1998), v12 n1 p31.

Wolchik and Curry Chapter 5, Marilyn Rueschemeyer, "Women's Participation in Postcommunist Politics," pp. 113-128.

Wolchik and Curry Chapter 4, Zsuzsa Csergo, "Ethnicity, Nationalism and the Expansion of Democracy", pp. 87-111.

Second Midterm

IV Regional Diversity in Postcommunist Central Europe

Rothschild and Wingfeld, chapter 8.

A. North-Central Europe

Wolchik and Curry Chapter 8, Jane L. Curry, "Poland: The Politics of God's Playground", pp. 165-189.

Wolchik and Curry Chapter 9, Sharon L. Wolchik, "The Czech and Slovak Republics: Two Paths to the Same Destination", pp. 191-214.

Wolchik and Curry Chapter 10, Federigo Argentieri, "Hungary: Dealing with the Past and Moving into the Present," pp. 215-232.

Optional: Zdenka Mansfeldová, "The Czech Republic," in Sten Berglund, Joachim Echman, and Frank H. Aarebrot eds., *The Handbook of Political Change in Eastern Europe*, 2nd ed.

Hillary Appel, "Corruption and the collapse of the Czech Transition Miracle," *East European Politics and Societies*, Fall 2001 v15 i3 p528.

Clare McManus-Czubinska, William L. Miller, Radislaw Markowski & Jacek Wasilewski, "Why is corruption in Poland 'a serious cause for concern'?" *Crime, Law & Social Change* 41: 107-132, 2004.

B. South-Eastern Europe

Wolchik and Curry Chapter 14, John Gledhill and Charles King, "Romania since 1989: Living Beyond the Past," pp. 317-338.

Wolchik and Curry Chapter 12, Janusz Bugajski, "Bulgaria: Progress and Development," pp. 233-252.

Wolchik and Curry Chapter 13, Mark Baskin and Paula Pickering, "Former Yugoslavia and Its Successors," pp. 281-316.

Optional : William Crowther, "The EU and Romania," in Paul J. Kubicek, ed., *The European Union and Democratization* (London: Routledge, 2003).

Gheorge Karasimeonov, "Bulgaria," in Sten Berglund, Frank Aarebrot, and Tomas Hellen eds., *Handbook of Political Change in Eastern Europe* 2nd ed.

Bojan Todosijevic, Serbia, in Sten Berglund, Frank Aarebrot, and Tomas Hellen eds., *Handbook of Political Change in Eastern Europe* 2nd ed.

Nenad Zakosek and Coran Cular "Croatia," in Sten Berglund, Frank Aarebrot, and Tomas Hellen eds., *Handbook of Political Change in Eastern Europe* 2nd ed.

Gergory Q. Hall, "The Politics of Autocracy: Serbia under Slobodan Milosevic," *East European Quarterly*, Summer 1999 v33 i2 p233.

Mujeeb R. Khan, "Bosnia-Herzegovina and the Crisis of the Post-Cold War International System," *East European Politics and Societies*, Vol. 9, NO. 3 (Fall , 1995).

C: European Former Soviet Union

Wolchik and Curry Chapter 11, Daina Stukuls Eglitis, *The Baltic States: Remembering the Past, Building the Future*," pp. 233-252.

Wolchik and Curry Chapter 15, Taras Kuzio, "Ukraine: Muddling Along," 339-367.

William Crowther, "Moldova, Transnistria and the PCRM's Turn to the West," *East European Quarterly*; Fall 2007; 41, 3

VI Conclusion

Wolchik and Curry Chapter 8, "Conclusion: What now?," pp. 371-378.
Rothschild and Wingfeld, chapter 8.

Final Exam, Wednesday, December 11, 12:00-3:00.