

POLITICAL SCIENCE 530

From State Socialism to Post-Communism and Beyond:
The Politics of Central and Eastern Europe

Autumn 2005

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Off. Hrs.: Tues., 3-4 pm; Wed., 11am-noon; and by appt.

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

In 1989 and 1990 fundamental political, social and economic changes were initiated in the countries of Central and Eastern Europe that were once ruled by Communist parties and under the control of the Soviet Union. These changes have involved the establishment of democratic rules of the game and governmental institutions, the holding of competitive elections, the formation of civil societies, the creation of economies based upon private property and market principles, the reassertion of national sovereignty and identities (and, as a consequence, the breakup of some existing states, such as the former Yugoslavia and Czechoslovakia), and the integration of several of these countries into European institutions, like NATO and the European Union.. These simultaneous transformations were not only unexpected, they are unprecedented. The establishment of strong (enough) states, stable democracies, vibrant civil societies and functioning market economies remains uncertain, but more so in certain countries than in others. The question that arises, then, is what accounts for the variable success of these transformations across the region?

After briefly examining the political, economic and social characteristics of single- party Communist rule and state socialism in Central and Eastern Europe, this course will focus on (1) the sources and dynamics of the transitions to post-communism in that area; (2) the similarities and differences across the several countries during this period of simultaneous transformations, and explanations of such similarities and differences; and (3) the problems and prospects of further evolution toward stable democratic rule and a market economy.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

The final grade will be determined by performance on a geography quiz, a midterm exam, a final exam, and a research paper. The geography quiz will count for **5 %** of the course grade, the midterm for **25%**, the final for **35%** and the research paper for **35%**. **The midterm and final exams will cover both lecture and reading materials, and there will be only partial overlap**

between the two. Thus, students are expected to come to class on a regular basis and to do all reading assignments. The final exam is scheduled for **WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 7th from 1:30-3:18 p.m.**

The research paper will be due on **Friday, December 2nd by 3 pm.** The paper should be about **12-15** double-spaced pages. Suggested paper topics will be distributed on **Thursday, October 20th.** The criteria for my evaluation of your research paper include (1) the quality and coherence of the analysis of the research question you have posed; (2) the breadth and depth of research conducted, as evidenced by the paper's bibliography; (3) the clarity of the writing of the paper; and (4) the care taken to ensure accurate grammar, spelling, punctuation, and proof-reading of the paper.

Academic honesty: All of the work you do in this course is expected to be your own. Absolutely no cheating or plagiarism (using someone else's words or ideas without proper citation; see statement on plagiarism in packet) will be tolerated. Any cases of cheating or plagiarism will be reported to the university committee on academic misconduct and handled according to university policy.

Disability. Students with disabilities that have been certified by the Office for Disabilities Services will be appropriately accommodated, and should inform the instructor as soon as possible of their needs.

A note on problems: If you are having a problem with any aspect of this course, please contact or see me as soon as possible. Please do not hesitate. In particular, if for some valid reason beyond your control you will not be able to take the exam at its scheduled time, I need to know and together we can try to resolve the matter. If you have a **valid** reason for not taking the exam at the scheduled time, a make-up exam can be arranged.

REQUIRED READINGS

1) The following can be purchased at SBX:

Gale Stokes, The Walls Came Tumbling Down (New York: Oxford Press, 1993).

Stephen White, Judy Batt, and Paul G. Lewis, eds., Developments in Central and East European Politics 3 (Durham: Duke University Press, 2003). **Note that this is a new edition so used copies of older versions should not be used or purchased.**

2) All other readings listed below have been combined in a packet and can be purchased at the Tuttle COP-EZ Center (next to the University Bookstore). These are denoted by an *.

A Note on Readings: There is a moderately heavy amount of reading for this course, so it is important that you not fall far behind. If you try to “catch up” with the reading right before the midterm or final, this will easily result in predictable consequences.

COURSE TOPICS and READINGS*

***Every effort will be made to stick to the following schedule. However, much depends on the extent of class discussion. At the beginning of each class session I will let you know where you ought to be in the readings for the following session. I will also let you know well in advance should the mid-term have to be postponed.**

Sept. 22 I. Introduction

PART I: THE HISTORICAL LEGACY

Sept. 27, 29 II. The Politics and Economics of Communist Rule
Oct. 4 **Readings:** Stokes, pp 3-90; White, Batt, and Lewis, pp.3-22;
*Slavenka Drakulic, “Make-up and other Crucial Questions,” from How We Survived Communism and Even Laughed, pp. 21-32.

Oct. 4 ***Geography Quiz*******

PART II: FROM COMMUNISM TO ?? POLITICAL, SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATIONS

Oct.6 III. Sources of Change
Readings: Stokes, pp. 90-130.

Oct.11, 13 IV. What Happened?
Readings: Stokes, pp. 131-217.

V. Simultaneous Transformations: Prospects and Problems

Oct.18, 20 A. Scenarios
Readings: *Philippe C. Schmitter and Terry Lynn Karl, "What Democracy Is...and Is Not," Journal of Democracy, (Summer 1991), pp. 75-88.
*Ken Jowitt, "The Leninist Legacy," in Ivo Banac, ed., Eastern Europe in Revolution (Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 1992), pp. 207-224.

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*George Schopflin, "Postcommunism: The Problems of Democratic Construction," pp. 127-41.

*John Mueller, "Democracy, Capitalism, and the End of Transition," in Michael Mandelbaum, ed., Post-Communism: Four Perspectives (NY: Council on Foreign Relations, 1996), pp. 102-167.

White, Batt, and Lewis, pp. 23-91.

*Charts on democratization

A handout on economic reform will be distributed in class

Oct. 20, 25

B. Economic and Social Transformation

Readings: White, Batt, and Lewis, pp.213-252.

Review Mueller reading.

*Eva Fodor, "Gender and the Experience of Poverty in Eastern Europe and Russia after 1989," Communist and Post-Communist Studies (2002), pp. 369-382.

Review handout on economic reform

Oct. 27

*******MIDTERM*******

Nov. 1, 3

C. Political Transformation

Part I: The State and Governmental Institutions

Readings: White, Batt, and Lewis, pp. 115-152; 190-210.

*Stephen Holmes, "Cultural Legacies or State Collapse? Probing the Post-Communist Dilemma," in Michael Mandelbaum, ed., Post-Communism: Four Perspectives (NY: Council on Foreign Relations, 1996), pp. 83-146.

Nov.3, 8

Part II: Elections and the Development of Competitive Party Systems

Nov.10, 15

Readings: White, Batt, and Lewis, pp. 153-189.

Review handout on recent election results

Nov.17, 22

D. The Creation of Civil Society and a Democratic Political Culture

Readings: *Marc Morje Howard, "The Weakness of Postcommunist Civil Society," Journal of Democracy (January, 2002), pp. 157-169.

*William Mishler and Richard Rose, "Leaning and Re-Learning Support: The Dynamics of Post-Communist Regimes," European Journal of Political Research (January, 2002), 5-36.

Review Holmes reading.

Nov. 24

Thanksgiving

Nov.29, E. Nationalism, Democratization, and the "Return to Europe"
Dec.1 **Readings:** Stokes, pp. 218-252; White, Batt, and Lewis, pp. 253-266.
Review Holmes on nationalism.
*RFE/RL Newslite Special Issue, "EU Expands Eastward," May 3, 2004.

Fri., Dec.2 Research paper due (by 3 pm)

Wed., Dec7th , 1:30-3:18 ***FINAL EXAM*******