

CAS IR 543, UNI SS 543, CAS PO 557

THE CHANGING FACE OF EASTERN EUROPE

Fall 2008

Tuesday/Thursday 12:30 - 2 p.m.

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SCOPE AND OBJECTIVES

Focused primarily on the period since 1989, this course analyzes the domestic and foreign policies of Poland, Germany, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary, and the former Yugoslavia. Eastern Europe, to use an old-fashioned label, has undergone significant economic and political reforms. Their objective has been the introduction of market economy and political democracy. Some reforms have been successful, others have failed. The course aims at providing you with tools for discerning and understanding both the successes as well as the failures.

Since the collapse of communism, Eastern Europeans have been able to live, think, and act as free human beings. They have regained their sovereignty, become members of NATO, and the European Union. These are great, historic achievements.

At the same time, the region has been confronted with a long list of new challenges: the privatization of centrally-planned economies, launched without a proper legal framework, provided opportunities for theft of public wealth; international organized crime has spread throughout the area; corruption has infected post-communist law-enforcement organizations, political parties, and government ministries to a degree that would have been unimaginable even under the corrupt old regime; intellectual shallowness has invaded the media, and trashy entertainment has choked off sources of genuine culture.

The course studies the nature of these processes – good and bad – and places them within the context of each nation's political and historical developments.

OFFICE HOURS

My office is at 745 Commonwealth Ave., room 634. I am available for consultations during my office hours, every Tuesday and Thursday from 8:30 to 10:30 a.m. Of course, you can always talk to me before and after each lecture. If you are unable to see me during my office hours I will be happy to make a prompt arrangement to see you within a short time when it is convenient for both of us.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

There will be a midterm and a final examination, each worth c. 50 percent of the final grade. This arrangement is not mathematically perfect because I need space to reward active course participation or to penalize less than perfect attendance and failure to study the assigned texts.

The midterm will be on 30 October 2008. The final examination is scheduled by Boston University for 18 December 2008, 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. Please note that I am not able to change this arrangement.

Familiarity with assigned texts is essential. Attendance and active participation are required. I start each lecture with a review of the material covered so far. Please come prepared to be challenged.

It is your responsibility to know and understand the provisions of the Academic Conduct Code; a copy can be obtained in the Dean's Office.

Please no eating or drinking in the classroom. If you wear a baseball hat take it off for the duration of the class. Please turn off your cell-phones.

POLICY ON INCOMPLETES

No incomplete grades will be reported unless the student has presented a plausible explanation why the coursework cannot be finished on time. The student will then fill in a form requesting an incomplete grade; this will include a written commitment to satisfy the outstanding obligations by a specific date, which must be no later than one calendar year from the date on which the final examination took place.

REQUIRED READINGS

Timothy Garton Ash. *The File: A Personal History*. New York: Vintage Books, 1997.

J. F. Brown. *The Grooves of Change: Eastern Europe at the Turn of the Millennium*. Durham: Duke University Press, 2001.

J. F. Brown. *Hopes and Shadows: Eastern Europe After Communism*. Durham: Duke University Press, 1994.

ADDITIONAL READINGS

Timothy Garton Ash. *The Magic Lantern: The Revolution in '89 Witnessed in Warsaw, Budapest, Berlin, and Prague*. New York: Random House, 1990.

J. F. Brown. *Surge to Freedom*. Durham: Duke University Press, 1991.

Sabrina Ramet. *Eastern Europe: Politics, Culture, and Society Since 1939*. Bloomington, IN: Indiana University Press, 1998.

Gale Stokes. *The Walls Came Tumbling Down: The Collapse of Communism in Eastern Europe*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1993.

Benjamin Weiser, *A Secret Life: The Polish Officer, His Covert Mission, and the Price He Paid to Save His Country* (New York: BBS, 2004).

COURSE OUTLINE

CAS IR 543 / UNI SS 543 / CAS PO 557THE CHANGING FACE OF EASTERN EUROPEFall 2008

Lecture 1: September 2	Introduction
Lecture 2: September 4	1989: A Miracle Year
Lecture 3: September 9	After the Jubilation: The Reality of Today
Lecture 4: September 11	The Rich, the Poor & the Economic Reform
Lecture 5: September 16	The Rich, the Poor & the Economic Reform
Lecture 6: September 18	Central Europe in NATO and EU
Lecture 7: September 23	The Lustrace Law
Lecture 8: September 25	The Lustrace Law
Lecture 9: September 30	Poland
Lecture 10: October 2	Poland
Lecture 11: October 7	Poland
Lecture 12: October 9	Poland
Lecture 13: October 16	Czechoslovakia
Lecture 14: October 21	The Czech Republic
Lecture 15: October 23	Slovakia
Lecture 16: October 28	Havel, Klaus and others
Lecture 17: October 30	MIDTERM
Lecture 18: November 4	Germany
Lecture 19: November 6	Germany
Lecture 20: November 13	Hungary
Lecture 21: November 18	Hungary
Lecture 22: November 20	Yugoslavia 1918-39
Lecture 23: November 25	Yugoslavia During World War II
Lecture 24: December 2	Yugoslavia 1945-1989
Lecture 25: December 4	Bosnia-Herzegovina
Lecture 26: December 9	Kosovo
Lecture 27: December 11	Conclusion

Lecture 1
Introduction

Description of the course & a discussion of the required readings; logistical matters, such as policy on incompletes, the Academic Code of Conduct, assignments and grading, etc.

Lecture 2
1989: A Miracle Year

Timothy Garton Ash, *The Magic Lantern*, 11-23 and 131-156.

J.F. Brown, *Surge to Freedom*, 1-43.

J. F. Brown, *Hopes and Shadows*, 1-21.

Lecture 3
After the Jubilation: The Reality of Today

Sabrina Ramet, *Eastern Europe*, 396-403.

Timothy Garton Ash, *The File: A Personal History*, 181-207.

J. F. Brown, *The Grooves of Change*, 78-106.

Lectures 4-5
The Rich, The Poor & The Economic Reform

J. F. Brown, *Hopes and Shadows*, 121-171.

J. F. Brown, *Grooves of Change*, 60-73.

Lecture 6
Central Europe in NATO and EU

J. F. Brown, *The Grooves of Change*, 215-240.

Igor Lukes, "NATO Expands into Central Europe: The Continuing Search for a More Perfect Habsburg Empire," *SAIS Review* (July 1999).

Lectures 7-8
The Lustrace Law

Timothy Garton Ash, *The File: A Personal History*, 1-24, 84-127, 174-175, 208-227.

Lectures 9-12
Poland

Sabrina Ramet, *Eastern Europe*, 126-158.

J.F. Brown, *Surge to Freedom*, 71-98.

J. F. Brown, *Hopes and Shadows*, 66-80.

J. F. Brown, *Grooves of Change*, 111-115.

Benjamin Weisner, *A Secret Life* – read as much as you can, especially the parts dealing with the imposition of the Martial Law.

Lectures 13-16
Czechoslovakia, the Czech Republic, and Slovakia

Sabrina Ramet, *Eastern Europe*, 35-70.

J.F. Brown, *Surge to Freedom*, 149-179.

J. F. Brown, *Grooves of Change*, 115-122.

J. F. Brown, *Hopes and Shadows*, 51-66.

Lecture 17
MIDTERM
 30 October 2008

Lectures 18-19
Stalin's Germany and the East Germany Mirage

Sabrina Ramet, *Eastern Europe*, 94-125.

Timothy Garton Ash, *The File: A Personal History*. New York: Vintage, 1997, pp. 176-180.

J.F. Brown, *Surge to Freedom*, 125-147.

Gale Stokes, *The Walls Came Tumbling Down*, 137-41, 182-88, 192-94.

Lectures 20-21
Hungary

Sabrina Ramet, *Eastern Europe*, 71-93.

J.F. Brown, *Surge to Freedom*, 99-123.

J. F. Brown, *Hopes and Shadows*, 80-92.

J. F. Brown, *Grooves of Change*, 122-128.

Lectures 22-26
Yugoslavia, the Yugoslav War, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Kosovo

Sabrina Ramet, *Eastern Europe*, 159-185.

J.F. Brown, *Surge to Freedom*, 221-248.

J. F. Brown, *Hopes and Shadows*, 229-270.

J. F. Brown, *Grooves of Change*, 144-199.

Charles G. Boyd, "Making Peace with the Guilty," *Foreign Affairs*, 74, 5 (September/October 1995): 22-38.

Lecture 27
Conclusion