SCOPE AND OBJECTIVES

Focused primarily on the period from the fifties to the present, this course analyzes the domestic and foreign policies of Poland, Germany, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary, the Baltic countries (Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania), Bulgaria, Romania, and the successor states of the former Yugoslavia.

Following the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989, Eastern Europe has undergone significant economic and political reforms. Their objective was the introduction of market economy and political democracy. Some reforms have been successful, others have failed. The course seeks to provide you with the necessary tools for discerning and understanding both the successes and the failures.

Since the collapse of communism, Eastern Europeans have been able to live, think, and act as free human beings. All have regained their sovereignty, most have become members of NATO and the European Union. These are historic achievements. At the same time, the region has been confronted with a long list of new challenges: the privatization of centrally-planned economies provided countless opportunities for theft of public wealth; international organized crime has spread throughout the area; corruption has infected post-communist law-enforcement organizations and government ministries to a degree that would have been unimaginable even under the criminal 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 and places them within the context of each nation’s political and historical evolution.
My office is at 154 Bay State Road, room 101. I am available for consultations every Monday and Wednesday from 9:15 a.m. to 11:00 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 for us to meet within a day or two.
COURSE REQUIREMENTS

There will be a take-home midterm and a take-home final examination. Both involve a five-page analytical essay on a theme you will choose from a list of three or more topics. The topics are selected to provide you with an opportunity to demonstrate your command of the material covered in the assigned texts and discussed in class. The midterm examination will be handed out on 15 October 2013. You will need to turn it in on 23 October 2013. The final examination will be handed out after the last lecture, on 11 December 2013, and will be due no later than on 20 December 2013 at 10 a.m. in my office. Your essays have to demonstrate that you have developed a critical understanding of the assigned texts and are familiar with the points made during class lectures and discussions. You should be able to engage the texts and lecture themes and also to offer your own point of view.

Secondly, you are asked to write an analytical essay on two movies – *Black Thursday* (dir. Antoni Krauze, 2011) and *The Man of Iron* (dir. Andrzej Wajda, 1981) – that capture the two most pivotal events in the history of the Cold War, the suppression of the strike in Gdansk in 1970 and the birth of Solidarity a decade later. You should focus the essay on those aspects of the story that reflect some of the themes covered in the course, e.g., the postwar imposition of Communism in Poland, the crises in 1956, 1968, 1970, 1980, the imposition of the Martial Law in 1981, and the collapse of Communism in 1989. The movies can be seen at the Krasker Film Library in the Mugar Memorial Library. The essay is due on the last day of class, 11 December 2013; please bring it to class.

Finally, you are also asked to select one of the lecture dates and start the class with a short (5 min) summary of the most current events that pertain either to Eastern Europe or to one of the specific countries covered in this course. A sheet with available dates will be circulated.

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.

ACADEMIC CONDUCT CODE

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 observe the no eating or drinking in the classroom rule. If you wear a baseball hat, take it off for the duration of the class. And 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 could not be finished on time.
REQUIRED READINGS


ADDITIONAL READINGS


IMPORTANT DATES

4 September 2013  Course begins
7 October 2013  Last day to drop the class without a W
15 October 2013  Midterm examination hand-out
23 October 2013  Midterm examination hand-in
11 December 2013  The essay is due, final hand-out, the course ends
20 December 2013  Final hand-in at 10:00 a.m.
COURSE OUTLINE

CAS IR 543

THE CHANGING FACE OF EASTERN EUROPE
Fall 2013

Lecture 1: September 4  Introduction
Lecture 2: September 9  Cold War Ends: Outside Factors, Local Actors
Lecture 3: September 11  1989: The Miracle Year and Its Mysteries
Lecture 4: September 16  After the Jubilation: The Reality of Today
Lecture 5: September 18  Economic Reform: Challenges and Solutions
Lecture 6: September 23  Restitutions, Auctions & Vouchers
Lecture 7: September 25  What to Do With an Ugly Past?
Lecture 8: September 30  Transitional Justice: the Lustrace Law
Lecture 9: October 2  Eastern Europe in NATO and European Union
Lecture 10: October 7  Postwar Poland
Lecture 11: October 9  Poland on the Verge of Rebellion
Lecture 12: October 15  Solidarity: Victory, Defeat, Triumph, Decline
Lecture 13: October 16  Czechoslovakia and the Prague Spring
Lecture 14: October 21  From “Normalization” to the Velvet Rev.
Lecture 15: October 23  The Czech Republic and Slovakia
Lecture 16: October 28  Germany
Lecture 17: October 30  The Stasiland: German Democratic Republic
Lecture 18: November 4  Hungary post 1956
Lecture 19: November 6  Hungary: An Uneven Recovery
Lecture 20: November 11  Bulgaria
Lecture 21: November 13  Romania
Lecture 22: November 18  The Baltic States
Lecture 23: November 20  Yugoslavia 1918-39
Lecture 24: November 25  Yugoslavia During World War II
Lecture 25: December 2  Yugoslavia 1945-1989
Lecture 26: December 4  Servia, Croatia, Bosnia-Herzegovina
Lecture 27: December 9  Kosovo
Lecture 28: December 11  Final Reflections and Review
Lecture 1
Introduction

Description of the course, requirements, midterm, final, and the essay.

Lecture 2
Cold War Ends: Outside Factors vs. Local Actors

Lukes: “The End of the Cold War: The Night the Masks Fell.”


Lecture 3
1989: The Miracle Year and Its Mysteries


Lecture 4
After the Jubilation: The Reality of Today

Wolchik and Curry, *Central & East European Politics*, 33-53.


Lectures 5-6
Economic Reform: the Challenges and Solutions

Wolchik and Curry, *Central & East European Politics*, 55-84.

Lectures 7-8
Dealing With an Ugly Past and the Lustration Law

Lecture 9  
Central Europe in NATO and EU

Wolchik and Curry, *Central & East European Politics*, 129-160.


Lukes, “NATO Expands into Central Europe: The Continuing Search for a More Perfect Habsburg Empire.”

Lectures 10-12  
Poland

Wolchik and Curry, *Central & East European Politics*, 165-188.


Benjamin Fischer, “Solidarity, the CIA, and Western Technology.”

Lectures 13-15  
Czechoslovakia: the Czech Republic, and Slovakia

Wolchik and Curry, *Central & East European Politics*, 191-212.


Lectures 16-17  
The *Stasiland*: German Democratic Republic


Benjamin Fischer, “Deaf, Dumb, and Blind: The CIA and Germany.”

Lectures 18-19

**Hungary**


Lecture 20

**Bulgaria**

Wolchik and Curry, *Central & East European Politics*, 253-277.


Lecture 21

**Romania**


Lecture 22

**The Baltic States**

Wolchik and Curry, *Central & East European Politics*, 233-251.
Lectures 23-27
Yugoslavia, the Yugoslav War, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Kosovo

Wolchik and Curry, *Central & East European Politics*, 281-310.
