Course Description:

The political development of Central and Eastern Europe is filled with bloody revolutions, conflicts over religion and nationality, sweeping economic changes and transitions to democracy. This course explores the changes and developments in the region and explores how the countries of the region have dealt with many of the challenges associated with political and economic modernization. From a comparative perspective, the region’s diversity makes it an excellent place to study and compare the major theories of comparative politics. Theories and questions that address political phenomena including state-building, democratization, economic reform, nationalism/ethnic violence, and institutional development can be examined and tested using different examples from within the region. Over the course of the semester, we will cover material that addresses both the developments of the region in general as well as specific cases that demonstrate or highlight certain changes in individual countries and societies. At the end of the semester, each student will possess a greater understanding of the developments in the region and the applicability of many of the major theories of comparative politics.

Requirements:

Your grade in this course will consist of five assignments over the course of the semester. First, there will be two in-class exams during the course; a mid-term (Feb. 3rd) and a final exam (Apr. 21st). The format for these exams will be announced prior to each exam date.

Second, you will be assigned one take-home essay exam. Your response to the exam question will be no longer than 5 pages in length. I will distribute the question on Monday and be due by Friday of that same week. You will be expected to answer the prompt/question using data and information from the readings/lectures to support your answer.

Third, you will be assigned to write a research paper on the topic of your choosing. This paper should be 12-15 pages (double-spaced) and address an interesting puzzle or problem found in East European politics. Please note that a research proposal of
your topic is due February 17th, so please begin thinking about what you would like to research and write on this semester.

Fourth, each week (except the week of the mid-term and take home essay) I have provided a question that addresses the topics covered in the assigned readings for that week. You will be asked to provide a response to these questions and they will be due every Thursday in class or via e-mail. The responses will be 2-3 pages long and should answer the question using evidence from the readings to support your answer (total of 10 responses).

**Grading:**

- Mid-term Exam- 15% (Feb. 3rd)
- Response Essay- 15% (Feb. 25th)
- Reading Responses- 20%
- Research Paper- 20%
  - Research Proposal Due
  - Final Paper
- Final Exam- 20%
- Class Attendance and Participation: 10%

**Academic Integrity:**

While all students sign the honor code, there are still specific skills most students need to master over time in order to correctly cite sources, especially in this new age of the internet; as well as deal with the stress and strain of college life without resorting to cheating. Please know that as your professor I will notice instances of cheating on exams or plagiarizing on papers. General information about the honor code can be found at honorcode.byu.edu. Details about Academic Honesty are found at [http://honorcode.byu.edu/content/academic-honesty-details](http://honorcode.byu.edu/content/academic-honesty-details).

Writing submitted for credit at BYU must consist of the student's own ideas presented in sentences and paragraphs of his or her own construction. The work of other writers or speakers may be included when appropriate (as in a research paper or book review), but such material must support the student's own work (not substitute for it) and must be clearly identified by appropriate introduction and punctuation and by footnoting or other standard referencing.

The substitution of another person's work for the student's own or the inclusion of another person's work without adequate acknowledgment (whether done intentionally or not) is known as plagiarism. It is a violation of academic, ethical, and legal standards and can result in a failing grade not only for the paper but also for the course in which the paper is written. In extreme cases, it can justify expulsion from the University. Because of the seriousness of the possible consequences, students who wonder if their papers are within these guidelines should visit the Writing Lab or consult a faculty member who specializes in the teaching of writing.
or who specializes in the subject discussed in the paper. Useful books to consult on the topic include the current Harbrace College Handbook, the MLA Handbook, and James D. Lester's Writing Research Papers.

All students in this class are expected to adhere to the University’s Honor Code and Academic Honesty Policy. The availability and convenience of accessing information electronically has transformed the study of political phenomena but also requires more diligence on the part of scholars/students producing such work. Therefore, I consider it important to clarify the course policy regarding plagiarism and other forms of academic misconduct. Students must completely and unambiguously cite the sources that they use or draw upon in developing new ideas, theories and explanations that they present to their peers and the broader scholarly community (including this class). Failure to do so constitutes plagiarism and will result in a failing grade for the course and notification will be given to the University’s Honor Code Office. In addition, other forms of academic misconduct (cheating, fabrication of material, etc.) outlined in the Academic Honesty Policy will also result in a possible failing grade for the assignment or course. If you have any concerns or remaining doubts regarding the different forms of academic misconduct please come and discuss them with me.

Class Conduct:

Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 prohibits sex discrimination against any participant in an educational program or activity that receives federal funds. The act is intended to eliminate sex discrimination in education. Title IX covers discrimination in programs, admissions, activities, and student-to-student sexual harassment. BYU’s policy against sexual harassment extends not only to employees of the university but to students as well. If you encounter unlawful sexual harassment or gender-based discrimination, please talk to an administrative official and contact the Equal Employment Office at 422-5895 or 367-5689 (24-hours); or contact the Honor Code Office at 422-2847.

Special Assistance:

Brigham Young University is committed to providing a working and learning atmosphere which reasonably accommodates qualified persons with disabilities. If you have any disability which may impair your ability to complete this course successfully, please contact the Services for Students with Disabilities Office (422-2767). Reasonable academic accommodations are reviewed for all students who have qualified documented disabilities. Services are coordinated with the student and instructor by the SSD office. If you need assistance or if you feel you have been unlawfully discriminated against on the basis of disability, you may seek resolution through established grievance policy and procedures. You should contact the Equal Employment Office at 422-5895, D-282 ASB.

Required Texts:
There are three required texts for this course (each of them are available at the BYU bookstore or can be purchased online).


*Please note that we will be using the latest editions of this text. Be sure to purchase the appropriate edition or you will not be able to follow the required readings for the course.

All other texts listed will be available through databases located through the Library website (i.e. JSTOR, INFOTRAC, etc.) or via the class website on Blackboard.

All assigned readings listed on the schedule below are required. In order to effectively understand and synthesize the material in the course it is imperative that you come prepared to participate in each class session. You should review the material before you come to class. Most of the lectures will not directly address the literature but rather use the analysis and information from the literature as a frame for our discussion. As a result, it is expected that everyone should be prepared to contribute and discuss the readings/topics each class.

**Reading and Assignment Schedule:**

**Week 1 - Introduction**

1/04- Introduction and Class Overview

1/06- Understanding the Region

**Assigned Readings:** Wolchik and Curry, Ch. 1; Gale Stokes, *Three Eras of Political Change in Eastern Europe*, (Oxford University Press, 1997), pg. 3-22.

**Week 2- Examining the Political Development of the Region**

**Reading Response Question #1:**

What were the most defining characteristics of the region’s social, economic and political structure prior to World War I and how did the presence of those factors affect the political and economic development of societies in the region?
1/11- Comparing Modern States and Empires

Assigned Reading:

1/13- World War I and Interwar Politics

Assigned Readings:

Week 3- The Imposition of Communism in the Region
Reading Response Question #2:
Do international or domestic factors best explain why communist regimes came to power in the region following the conclusion of World War II?

1/18- World War II and Rise of Communism

Assigned Reading:

1/20- Communists Come to Power

Assigned Readings:
Rothschild and Wingfield, *Return to Diversity*, Ch. 3, pg. 61-99;
Janos, *East Central Europe in the Modern World: Politics of the Borderlands from Pre- to Post-Communism*, Ch. 5 pg. 218-256

Week 4- Diversity in Communist Regimes
Reading Response Question #3:
What were the common factors that pushed societies to revolt against their communist regimes and why did the Soviet Union respond differently to each rebellion?

1/25- Revolution and Stalemate
**Assigned Readings:** Rothschild and Wingfield, *Return to Diversity*, Ch. 6 (pg. 153-180)

1/27- Life Under Communism

**Assigned Readings:**


**Week 5- The End of Communism**

No Reading Response Due

2/1- The 1989 Revolutions


2/3- Mid-Term Exam

**Week 6- Transition Politics and Economics**

Reading Response Question #4:

The political and economic transitions in Central and Eastern Europe produced varying levels of consolidated democracy and liberal market economies. What best explains the diversity of outcomes during the transition phase?

2/8- Examining the Transition

**Assigned Reading:**


2/10- Rebuilding Markets

**Assigned Reading:**

Week 7 - Rebuilding Post-Socialist States
Reading Response Question #5:

The dismantling and rebuilding of post-socialist states has not been as effective as many presumed. Why do many post-socialist states remain weak and what are the most implications from this development?

2/15 - Post-Socialist State-building

Assigned Reading:


2/17 - Politicization of the State
*Research Proposals Due

Assigned Reading:


Week 8 - Citizens and Society after Socialism
Take Home Essay Question Distributed on Monday, February 21st

2/22 - No class (Monday Instruction Day)

Assigned Readings:

Marilyn Reuschemeyer, “Woman’s Participation in Postcommunist Politics,” in Wolchik and Curry (Ch. 5); Cas Mudde, “Civil Society,” in Developments in Central and East European Politics 4 (pg. 213-228)

2/24 - Political Parties and Civic Involvement

Take Home Essay Due, Friday, February 25th @ 5 PM

Week 9- Examining “New” Europe
Reading Response Question #6:

What are the main reasons (economic development, communist legacy, geographic proximity, etc.) that best explain why some states have successfully “re-joined” Europe while others remain on Europe’s periphery?

3/1- Developments in the “Visegrad 4”

Assigned Reading:
Cases Studies on Poland, Czech and Slovak Republics and Hungary in Wolchik and Curry (Ch. 8-10)

3/3- Baltic States

Assigned Reading:
Case Study on Baltic States in in Wolchik and Curry (Ch. 11)

Week 10-Nationalism and Extreme Politics

Reading Response Question #7:

Why have societies in Eastern Europe been more susceptible to certain forms of extreme politics and nationalism?

3/8- The Politics of Extremism

Assigned Reading:

3/10- The Politics of Extremism (cont’d)

Assigned Reading:

Week 11- Ethnic Violence, Genocide and War
Reading Response Question #8:
Can ethnic tension best explain the outbreak of war and resulting genocide in the Balkans or are there other factors that are often overlooked? If so, what are those other factors?

3/15- War and Genocide in the Balkans

Assigned Reading:


3/17- Kosovo and the Balkans Today

Assigned Readings:


Week 12- International Influences on Central and Eastern Europe

Reading Response Question #9:

Membership in supranational organizations has not produced as dramatic economic or political effect as many scholars once predicted? Why hasn’t membership “had its privileges” for many countries in Eastern Europe?

3/22- EU Accession and NATO Membership

Assigned Reading:


3/24- Developments in Romania and Bulgaria

Assigned Reading:

Chapters on Bulgaria and Romania in Wolchik and Curry (Ch. 12 and 14)

Week 13- Developments in Russia’s Near Abroad

Reading Response Question #10:
Some scholars have posited that the Russian influence continues to limit the political and economic development of countries in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia. Do you agree/disagree with this theory and what evidence best supports your argument?

3/29- Examining Developments in Ukraine, Belarus and Moldova

Assigned Reading:

See case study of Ukraine in Wolchik and Curry (Ch. 15); Lucan Way, “Authoritarian State Building and the Sources of Regime Competitiveness in the Fourth Wave. The Cases of Belarus, Moldova, Russia, and Ukraine,” World Politics, v.57, no.2 (2005), pg. 231–261.

3/31- Politics and Power in the Caucasus and Central Asia

Assigned Reading:


Week 14- Conclusion

4/5- No Class (Writing Day)

4/7- The Region Moves Forward
*Research Papers Due

Assigned Reading:


4/12- Concluding Thoughts

4/21- Final Exam 2-5 PM