Course Overview

This course will focus on some of the countries that joined the European Union in 2004 and 2007 (Poland, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary, the Baltic States, Bulgaria and Romania). We will begin with a brief survey of the political history of the region and the establishment and sustenance of Communist rule in the Eastern Bloc, and proceed to analyze events that led to the transformation. The course will focus on the political and economic transformation in the region and the path to membership in the European Union. We will compare new EU members with the countries of Western Europe. We will conclude with a survey of the current situation in the countries of "New Europe" and their relations with "Old Europe" and other countries.

Academic Requirements

The requirements are as follows:

- Class attendance and participation: Students are expected to attend classes, to have read the assigned readings and participate actively in class discussions.

- The participation grade will be based on contribution to class discussion (10 out of 15 possible points) as well as successfully completing at least 5 out of approximately 15 short assignments given throughout the semester (worth 1 point each).

- Three in class midterms during the semester. No final exam. Make-up exams will be given only under the most exceptional circumstances.

Grading

Grading for the course will be determined as follows:

- Midterm I: 25%
- Midterm II: 30%
- Midterm III: 30%
- Class Participation 15%
Readings

In this course we will read a combination of book chapters and articles. Journal articles as well as some book chapters are accessible through the Library's electronic reserves in Blackboard. I recommend purchasing the following books:


Course Schedule

**Thursday January 16: Introduction to the Course**
Reading: none

**Tuesday January 21: Creation of Communist Regimes in Post War Central Europe**
Reading:


**Thursday January 23: Consolidation of Communist Regimes in Central Europe**
Reading:


**January 28: Command Control Economy**
Reading:


**January 30: Political Transformation**
Reading:

- Developments in Central and East European Politics. Chapter 2

**February 4: Economic Transformation**
Reading:

- Developments in Central and East European Politics. Chapter 15.

**February 6: Results of Transformation**
Reading:

- Developments in Central and East European Politics. Chapter 16.
February 11: NO CLASS

February 12: Optional Review Session 4-5pm

February 13: Midterm I

February 18: Constitutional Design
Reading:

• Developments in Central and East European Politics. Chapter 8.


February 20: Electoral Systems
Reading:

• Developments in Central and East European Politics. Chapter 9.


February 25: Party Systems
Reading:

• Developments in Central and East European Politics. Chapter 11.

February 27: Party Systems: The Left and The Right
Reading:


March 4: Party Systems: Stability and Change
Reading:


March 6: Voters
Reading:


March 11 and 13: Spring Break No Class

March 18: Citizens
Reading:

• Letki, Natalia. 2004. “Socialization for Participation? Trust, Membership, and Democrati-

• Developments in Central and East European Politics. Chapter 12.

March 20: Democracies of ‘Old’ and ‘New’ Europe. Differences and Similarities.
Reading:

• Sitter, Nick. 2002. “Cleavages, party strategy and party system change in Europe, East and

March 25: Midterm II

March 27: European Integration: Process
Reading:

• Developments in Central and East European Politics. Chapter 7.

April 1: European Integration: Political Challenges
Reading:

• Europe Undivided. Chapters 3.

• Grzymala-Busse Anna and Abby Innes. 2003. “Great Expectations: The EU and Domestic
Political Competition in East Central Europe.” East European Politics and Societies 17(1):
64-73.

April 3: No Class: Midwest Political Science Association Conference

April 8: European Integration: Economic Challenges
Reading:

• Europe Undivided. Chapter 7.

April 10: European Integration: Attitudes in Countries of ‘Old’ Europe
Reading:

• de Vreese Claes H. and Hajo G. Boomgaarden. 2005. “Projecting EU Referendums: Fear of
Immigration and Support for European Integration.” European Union Politics 6(1): 59-82.


April 15: European Integration: Attitudes in Countries of ‘New’ Europe
Reading:

European Integration in East Central Europe.” European Union Politics 3(3): 297-326.
April 17: EU Accession: Consequences
Reading:
• Europe Undivided. Chapter 8

April 22: EU Politics after the 2004 Enlargement
Reading:


April 24: ‘Old’ vs ‘New’ Europe divide?
Reading: none

April 29: Midterm III