

# IR 222: Politics of New Europe

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Spring 2014  
Tuesday and Thursday 11:05–12:20  
LeChase 103

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Office: Harkness 101F  
Office Hours: Tuesday and Wednesday 2:00-3:00pm and by appointment

## 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:

- White Stephen, Judy Barr, and Paul G. Lewis (eds.). 2013. *Developments in Central and East European Politics 5*. Duke University Press.
- Vachudova, Anna Milada. 2005. *Europe Undivided*. Oxford University Press.

## Course Schedule

### Thursday January 16: Introduction to the Course

Reading: none

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

Reading:

- Rothschild, Joseph. 1989. *Return to Diversity: a Political History of East Central Europe since World War II*. Oxford University Press. Chapter 3

### Thursday January 23: Consolidation of Communist Regimes in Central Europe

Reading:

- Crampton, R.J. 1997. *Eastern Europe in the Twentieth Century and After*. Routledge. Chapter 14

### January 28: Command Control Economy

Reading:

- Paul Gregory. 1990 "The Stalinist Command Economy." *Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science* January 1990: 18-25.
- Sachs, Jeffrey. 1993. *Poland's Jump to the Market Economy*. The MIT Press Cambridge, Massachusetts. Chapter 1.

### 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.
- Lijphart, Arend. 1992. "Democratization and Constitutional Choices in Czecho-Slovakia, Hungary and Poland 1989-1991." *Journal of Theoretical Politics* 4(2): 207-223.

**February 20: Electoral Systems**

Reading:

- Developments in Central and East European Politics. Chapter 9.
- Birch, Sarah. 2001. "Electoral Systems and Party Systems in Europe East and West." *Perspectives on European Politics and Society* 2(3): 355-377.

**February 25: Party Systems**

Reading:

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

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

Reading:

- Grzymala-Busse Anna. 2002. "The Programmatic Turnaround of Communist Successor Parties in East Central Europe, 1989-1998." *Communist and Post-Communist Studies* 35(1): 51-66.
- Minkenberg, M. 2002. "The Radical Right in Postsocialist Central and Eastern Europe: Comparative Observations and Interpretations." *East European Politics and Societies* 16(2): 335-362.

**March 4: Party Systems: Stability and Change**

Reading:

- Bakke, Elisabeth and Nick Sitter. 2005. "Patterns of Stability. Party Competition and Strategy in Central Europe since 1989." *Party Politics* 11(2): 243-263.

**March 6: Voters**

Reading:

- Kostadinova, Tatiana. "Voter turnout dynamics in post-Communist Europe." *European Journal of Political Research* 42(6): 741-759.
- Pacek, Alexander C., Grigore Pop-Eleches, and Joshua A. Tucker. 2009. Disenchanted or Discerning: Voter Turnout in Post-Communist Countries. *Journal of Politics* 71(2): 473-491.

## **March 11 and 13: Spring Break No Class**

### **March 18: Citizens**

#### Reading:

- Letki, Natalia. 2004. "Socialization for Participation? Trust, Membership, and Democratization in East-Central Europe." *Political Research Quarterly* 57: 665-679.
- 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 West." *Perspectives on European Politics and Societies* 3: 425-451.

### **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.
- Vliegthart Rens, Andreas R. T. Schuck, Hajo G. Boomgaarden, and Claes H. De Vreese. 2008. "News Coverage and Support for European Integration, 1990-2006." *International Journal of Public Opinion Research* 20(4): 415-439.

### **April 15: European Integration: Attitudes in Countries of 'New' Europe'**

#### Reading:

- Kopecký Petr and Cas Mudde. 2002. "The Two Sides of Euroscepticism: Party Positions on 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:

- Thompson, Robert. 2009. "Actor Alignments in the European Union before and after Enlargement." *European Journal of Political Research* 48(6): 756-781.
- Hix, Simon and Abdul Noury. 2009. "After Enlargement: Voting Patterns in the Sixth European Parliament." *Legislative Studies Quarterly* 34(2): 159-174.

**April 24: 'Old' vs 'New' Europe divide?**

Reading: none

**April 29: Midterm III**