

01:450:332:01 Newly Independent States and Eastern Europe, Spring 2008
M/TH, 12:00 – 1:20 pm, Lucy Stone Hall, Room B267

Instructor: Dr. Bojana Blagojevic
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Office Location & Hours:
Lucy Stone Hall Room: B248
Mondays, 1:30-2:30pm

Course Description:

In this course, we will explore the social, political and economic forces that have shaped history and geography of Eastern Europe and former Soviet Union. The course is composed of three sections:

I – Introduction

II – The Turning Points: Reforms, Revolutions, Transformations

III – Transition to Democracy and Market Economy: Challenges and Opportunities

In the first part of the course, we will introduce the people, geography, and history of the region, including a discussion on the establishment of communism and its social, political and economic structures. In the second part, we will discuss the changes that have led the region to move towards democracy. In the last part of the course, we will discuss the actual transition to democracy and market economy in the context of local, regional and global challenges and opportunities.

Throughout the course, we will analyze relevant current news from the region by relating them to the materials we cover in class.

Required Book:

- David S. Mason, Revolution and Transition in East-Central Europe (2nd edition), Westview Press, 1997; ISBN: 0813328357

The book is available at the Livingston Campus Bookstore.

- **Additional required readings are available on our course website in “Doc. Sharing” section.** These readings are listed in the class schedule outlined below.

eCompanion:

This is an eCompanion course: our class meetings are supplemented with a course website that will allow you to access important information and study tools - handouts, announcements, readings, online class discussions, self-tests, exam reviews, etc. To access the website, log in via <http://www.rutgersonline.net>. Further details are provided on our “eCompanion” instructions handout and will be discussed in class.

Grading:

Attendance and participation (in-class participation, news-sharing, online discussions)	20%
Midterm exam	25%
Final Exam	25%
Case study presentation	15%
Case-study essay	15%

Attendance

Attendance is required. You are allowed two unexcused absences. After that, each absence will adversely affect your grade.

News Sharing

For each class, you should be prepared to share current geopolitical news from the region. Your news will be used for class discussions and will count as participation. We will analyze the news by relating them to the materials we cover in class.

Online Discussions

Each week, a discussion topic will be posted on our course website. You are expected to participate *substantively* in each of these discussions. Discussions for each week will be active for one week. Each discussion will be activated at the end of our Friday class and run until the following Friday. For example, our discussion for week 1 will be active from the end of our week 1 Friday class until the day of our next Friday class (week 2).

Midterm and Final Exams

The exams will consist of a combination of multiple choice and essay-type questions. We will have in-class exam reviews and online information regarding the format and content of the exams. The exams must be taken as scheduled. If you need to take a make-up exam due to an emergency, you are required to provide a note/approval from the Dean of Students.

Case Study Presentation and Essay

You are asked to choose a country from the region and explore it in-depth. You will present your case-study to the class and write an essay on one aspect of your study. Further guidelines will be provided in class and online.

Plagiarism:

Please make sure to clearly acknowledge exact sources of information whenever using others' ideas and words. Any student suspected of plagiarism will be reported to the Dean of Students and, if found guilty, will be punished (suspended/expelled) by the university. An educational video module on plagiarism is available at: <http://www.library.camden.rutgers.edu/educationalmodule/plagiarism>

Please read Rutgers Policy on Academic Integrity at: <http://ctaar.rutgers.edu/integrity/policy.html>

This syllabus presents a general "road map" for this course. Some aspects of the syllabus may change during the course of the semester to accommodate the dynamics and needs of the class. Any changes will be announced in advance.

Class Schedule:

I – INTRODUCTION

Week 1

Thu, Jan. 24 **Welcome! ☺ Introductions & Course Overview**

Reading for Week 1:

Online:

- Minton Goldman. "Introduction" in *Revolution and Change in Central and Eastern Europe: Political, Economic, and Social Challenges*, M.E. Sharpe, 1997
- Nations in Transit 2007, Freedom House: Country Summaries
- Nations in Transit 2007, Freedom House: Democracy Score Rankings

Week 2

Mon, Jan. 28 **What and Where are Newly Independent States and Eastern Europe?**
Thu, Jan. 31 Eastern Europe and Russia: People, Geography, History
Overview of the current situation

Readings for Week 2:

Online:

- Keith Crawford, Ch. 1, "East Central Europe" in *East Central European Politics Today: From Chaos to Stability?*, Manchester University Press, 1996

- Ivan Volgyes, Ch. 1-3 in *Politics in Eastern Europe*, Dorsey Press, 1986 (Ch. 1, "The People of Eastern Europe"; Ch. 2, "The Geographical Setting"; Ch. 3, "The History of Eastern Europe")

Week 3

Mon, Feb. 4 **Establishment of Communism; Social, Political and Economic Structures**
Thu, Feb. 7

Readings for Week 3:

Textbook:

- Mason, parts of Ch. 1, p. 9-16

Online:

- Keith Crawford, Ch. 2, "Communism and Totalitarianism" in *East Central European Politics Today: From Chaos to Stability?*, Manchester University Press, 1996
- Joni Lovenduski and Jean Woodal, Ch. 4, 7 & 9 in *Politics and Society in Eastern Europe*, Indiana University Press, 1987; (Ch.4, "The Structure and Development of Centrally Planned Economies in Eastern Europe"; Ch. 7, "The Logic of Party Rule (I)"; Ch. 9, "The State Institutions")
- Denis Healey, "The Cominform and World Communism", *International Affairs (Royal Institute of International Affairs)*, Vol. 24, No. 3, Jul. 1948

II – THE TURNING POINTS: REFORMS, REVOLUTIONS, TRANSFORMATIONS

Week 4

Mon, Feb. 11 **The Collapse of Communism**
Thu, Feb. 14

Readings for Week 4:

Textbook:

- Mason, Ch.1, "The Establishment and Decay of Communism in East-Central Europe"

Online:

- Giuseppe di Palma, "Legitimation from the Top to the Civil Society: Politico-Cultural Change in Eastern Europe", *World Politics*, Vol. 44, Oct. 1991
- John A. Hall, "A View of a Death: On communism, ancient and modern", *Theory and Society*, Vol. 27, No. 4, Aug. 1998

Week 5

Mon, Feb. 18 **Movie: Goodbye Lenin (TBC)**
Thu, Feb. 21 **Guest speaker (TBC)**

Readings for Week 5:

To be announced

Week 6

Mon, Feb. 25 **Reforms and Revolutions**
Thu, Feb. 28

Readings for Week 6:

Textbook:

- Mason, Ch. 2, "Reform and Revolution in the Soviet Union and East-Central Europe"

Online:

- Milovan Djilas and Maja Samolov, "A Revolutionary Democratic Vision of Europe" *International Affairs (Royal Institute of International Affairs)*, Vol. 66, No. 2, April 1990
- Valerie Bunce, "Eastern Europe: Is the Party Over?" *Political Science and Politics*, Vol. 22, No. 2, June 1989

Week 7

Mon, Mar. 3 **Redrawing the Borders**
Thu, Mar. 6 *Midterm Exam Review, Case-study topics are due*

Readings for Week 7:

Textbook:

- Mason, Ch. 3, "Redrawing the Borders in Europe: Germany, the Soviet Union, Yugoslavia, Czechoslovakia"

Online:

- Chauncy D. Harris, "Unification of Germany in 1990", *Geographical Review*, Vol. 81, No. 2. Apr., 1991
- Paal Sigurd Hilde, "Slovak Nationalism and the Break-Up of Czechoslovakia", *Europe-Asia Studies*, Vol. 51, No. 4., Jun., 1999
- Dusko Sekulic; Garth Massey; Randy Hodson, "Who Were the Yugoslavs? Failed Sources of a Common Identity in the Former Yugoslavia", *American Sociological Review*, Vol. 59, No. 1., Feb., 1994

Week 8

Mon, Mar. 10 Study Day – No Class!
Thu, Mar. 13 **MIDTERM EXAM**

Week 9

Mon, Mar. 17 **SPRING BREAK – NO CLASSES**
Thu, Mar. 20

III – TRANSITION TO DEMOCRACY AND MARKET ECONOMY: CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

Week 10

Mon, Mar 24 **Problems of Transition; Rebuilding the Political Order**
Thu, Mar 27 *Student presentations*

Readings for Week 10:

Textbook:

- Mason, parts of Ch. 4, "Rebuilding the Political and Economic Orders", p. 99-120

Online:

- Minton Goldman, Ch.2, "Problems of Post-Communist Development" in *Revolution and Change in Central and Eastern Europe: Political, Economic, and Social Challenges*, M.E. Sharpe, 1997
- Helga A. Welsh, "Political Transition Processes in Central and Eastern Europe", *Comparative Politics*, Vol. 26, No. 4. Jul., 1994
- Conor O'Dwyer, "Runaway State Building: How Political Parties Shape States in Postcommunist Eastern Europe", *World Politics*, Vol. 56, No. 4. July, 2004

Week 11

Mon, Mar. 31 **Constructing a Market Economy**
Thu, Apr. 3 *Student Presentations*

Readings for Week 11:

Textbook:

- Mason, parts of Ch. 4, "Rebuilding the Political and Economic Orders", p. 121-141

Online:

- David Granick, "The Pattern of Foreign Trade in Eastern Europe and Its Relation to Economic Development Policy", *The Quarterly Journal of Economics*, Vol. 68, No. 3., Aug., 1954
- Valerie Bunce, "The Empire Strikes Back: The Evolution of the Eastern Bloc from a Soviet Asset to a Soviet Liability", *International Organization*, Vol. 39, No. 1. Winter, 1985
- Ivan Szelenyi; Eric Kostello, "The Market Transition Debate: Toward a Synthesis?" *The American Journal of Sociology*, Vol. 101, No. 4. Jan., 1996

- Tony Killick; Christopher Stevens, "Eastern Europe: Lessons on Economic Adjustment from the Third World", *International Affairs (Royal Institute of International Affairs 1944-)*, Vol. 67, No. 4., Oct., 1991

Week 12

Mon, Apr. 7 **Reemergence of Nationalism and Ethnic Conflicts; Bosnia & Herzegovina**
Thu, Apr. 10 **Movie: *No Man's Land (TBC)*, Student Presentations**

Readings for Week 12:

Textbook:

- Mason, parts of Ch. 4, p. 141-152

Online:

- Bojana Blagojevic, parts of Ch. 4 "Causes of Ethnic Conflict: Case Studies" in *Ethnic Conflict and Post-Conflict Development: Peacebuilding in Ethnically Divided Societies* (Dissertation), Rutgers University – Newark, October 2004
- F. Stephen Larrabee, "Long Memories and Short Fuses: Change and Instability in the Balkans" *International Security*, Vol. 15, No. 3., Winter, 1990-1991
- Vera Tolz, "Conflicting 'Homeland Myths' and Nation-State Building in Postcommunist Russia", *Slavic Review*, Vol. 57, No. 2, Summer 1998

Week 13

Mon, Apr. 14 **Guest Speaker: Dr. Alexander J. Motyl, Russia and the "West"**
Thu, Apr. 17 **Student Presentations**

Readings for week 13:

Textbook:

- Mason, Ch. 5, "The Post-Communist Era in International Politics", p. 155-189

Online:

- James Rosenau, Ch. 5 "Globalization" in *Along the Domestic-Foreign Frontier: Exploring Governance in a Turbulent World*, Cambridge University Press, 1997, p. 78-98
- Michael Radu, "Why Eastern and Central Europe Look West" in *Orbis*, Vol. 41, Issue 1, Winter 1997, p. 39-57
- Alexander J. Motyl, Blair A. Ruble, and Lilia Shevtsova, Eds., Ch. 8 and 13 in *Russia's Engagement with the West: Transformation and Integration in the Twenty-First Century*, M.E. Sharpe, 2005. (Ch. 8 - Stephan Kux, "European Union–Russia Relations: Transformation through Integration", Ch. 13 - Angela E. Stent, "America and Russia: Paradoxes of Partnership")
- Stephen E. Hanson, "Reform and Revolution in the Late Soviet Context", *Slavic Review*, Vol. 63, No. 3, Autumn 2004

Week 14

Mon, Apr. 21 **Guest Speaker: EU expert from the United Nations (TBC), "Regional Context: Role of the European Union in Post-Communist Transition"**
Thu, Apr 24 **Student Presentations**

Readings for Week 14:

To be announced

Mon, Apr. 28 **Geopolitical Future of Newly Independent States and Eastern Europe?**
Thu, May 1 **LAST CLASS - Conclusions/Class Overview, Evaluations, *Final Exam Review*, Student Presentations**

Readings for Week 15:

Online:

- Richard Rose, "Prospects for Democracy in Post-Communist Europe" in Stephen White Et. Al. (Eds), *Developments in Central and East European Politics 2*, Duke University Press, 1998
- Michael McFaul, "The Fourth Wave of Democracy and Dictatorship: Noncooperative Transitions in the Postcommunist World", *World Politics*, Vol. 54, No. 2., Jan., 2002

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- Jeffrey Kopstein; David A. Reilly, "Geographic Diffusion and the Transformation of the Postcommunist World", *World Politics*, Vol. 53, No. 1. Oct., 2000

FINAL EXAM

Fri, May 9

8:00am – 11:00am