

East European Politics
(CPO 3614/ Section 1E95 & EUS 3930/ Section 1E82)
Spring 2013

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Office hours:

Monday 2.00-2.45& Friday: 2.00-2.45; & by appointment.

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Course Meetings

M W F Period 8 (3:00--3:50)

Anderson 34

Course description

This course aims to provide the students with a survey of communist regimes and post-communist evolutions in Eastern Europe, from WWII up to the present day. Since the region transformed itself a lot in the past twenty years, for instance it changed from 9 nation-states before 1989 to 27 today, we will not cover the entire range of cases in this course. Instead, we will focus in detail on a few cases, East Central Europe, the Balkans, and 3 post-Soviet republics—Ukraine, Belarus and Moldova, and will address the broader themes specific to comparative politics.

The course is divided into 3 sections.

- First, we will delve into the core characteristics and differences of the communist regimes--this way, for instance, you will understand why I, as a Romanian, have a rather negative perspective on what Communism meant, while someone from former Czechoslovakia, Poland, or Hungary may (?) spend a moment trying to assess the regime with a positive eye. In addition, we will consider the 1989 *events*, where various terms such as 'transitions from below', 'transitions from above', 'revolutions', 'transformation' will be used to distinguish between various regime changes in the region.
- The second part will cover in detail a couple of regional patters that we notice across the region. Here we will examine the political and economic developments in particular cases, with the goal of assessing differences within the post-communist region. We will notice that, despite the unique communist legacies, the region differs greatly in terms of “*successful*” economic, political, and social transformations.
- The last part is focused on **thematic** issues across the regions that are important to comparative politics more broadly. Major themes covered in the last part will consist of EU accession, democratization and political participation, economic development, institutional design and parties, and fringe politics.

Course materials

There are 3 textbooks required for this class. The books are available through the UF Bookstore.

- Stephen White, Judy Batt, and Paul G. Lewis(eds.), *Developments in Central and East European Politics 4* (Raleigh: Duke University Press, 2007)
- Gale Stokes. 1993. *The Walls came tumbling down. The collapse of communism in Eastern Europe* (Oxford University press)
- Stephen White. 2001. *Communism and its Collapse* (New York: Routledge)
- The rest of the readings will be available through 'e-Learning in Sakai'

STUDENTS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR ALL MATERIALS COVERED IN LECTURES AND READINGS AS WELL AS HANDOUTS OR POSTINGS ON THE COURSE WEBSITE.

E-Learning in Sakai You should become familiar with 'e-Learning in Sakai'. All electronic materials assigned as readings (beside the 3 textbooks) will be posted here, as well as power point slides for the class. In addition, ALL GRADES will be posted here too.

Course requirements

- 3 in-class tests (60% of the final grade--20% each)
- 3 film reviews (15% of the final grade --5% each)
- Class attendance and participation (25% of the final grade).

Tests 60%:

There will be 3 **in-class tests**, each worth 20% of the final grade. Tests will consist of short answer, multiple choice, identification, true/false and fill-in the blank questions, in addition to 1-2 short essay questions.

3 Movie reviews 15%:

More details will be offered before each deadline: The reviews should be about 900 words, and will consist of a comparison of different sources (the film and a written text), or of short answers arranged in an essay format to a few questions. Most importantly, you will need to state your impressions on the movies.

The films I consider including are (2 of them are on course reserve, but we will watch them in class)

1. *A trial in Prague* (2000). (Zuzana Justman). Available on Course Reserves (ARES)
2. *No Man's Land* (2007) (Directed by Danis Tanović). Available on Course Reserves.
3. *12:08 East from Bucharest* (2006) (Romania, Directed by Corneliu Porumboiu) (provided by the instructor)

Failure to submit the film reviews by the deadline will lead to deductions from the final film review grade.

Class attendance and participation 25%

1. Come to class-- Attendance will be taken randomly. Students with more than three unexcused absences will lose attendance points. **5%**
2. **(Almost) weekly submissions:** Post 1 question related to the readings by **Thursday 5pm**. The postings should be done on SAKAI. We will discuss these questions on Friday. The first week will be the trial week. **9%**
3. Randomly assigned a country from the list below and build up a news country folder with **biweekly news** on your country. The news should be posted on SAKAI as well. **6%**
 - a. Towards the end of the semester, I will organize the students in groups and the groups will present a short summary of the news folders. **5%**

Read the assigned materials for the week-- The success of this course depends upon your active participation in class. Therefore, having read all the material before each class and having thought about the readings is crucial to having a meaningful conversation.

The country list: Albania, Belarus, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Hungary, East Germany, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Kosovo, Macedonia, Moldova, Montenegro, Poland, Romania, Serbia, Slovenia, Slovakia, and Ukraine (each student pick one country).

Note: I expect you to have completed the relevant assigned readings prior to class and to be ready to discuss them. To facilitate this process I assigned a relative **low number of pages** to be read for each meeting. 😊

Policies

1. **Assignments:** All assignments must be submitted on line by the deadline, and handed in to the instructor, at the beginning of the class (for movie reviews and research papers). Extensions will be granted **at my discretion** and, if granted, they will require **proper documentation**. Make sure you ask for an extension only **PRIOR** (at least 24 hours) to the deadline date.
2. **Cheating/plagiarism:** Any student caught violating the honor code will fail the class. For more information, read the Code of Student Conduct <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/honorcode.php>
3. **Courtesy:** Don't come late and turn off your cell-phones. Any disruptive behavior (reading newspapers or materials related to other courses, talking outside of class discussions) will not be tolerated and you will be asked to leave the class.
4. **Special Needs:** If you have a disability that requires special arrangements (e.g. note- and/or test-taking), please register with UF's Office of Students with Disabilities and contact me **within the first week** of class. Every effort will be made to accommodate those with registered disabilities.

Grading scale: (<http://www.registrar.ufl.edu/catalog/policies/regulationgrades.html>):

A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D	D-	E
94-100	90-93.9	87-89.9	83-86.9	80-82.9	77-79.9	73-76.9	70-72.9	67-69.9	63-66.9	60-62.9	< 59.9

Course Schedule
Part I: EVOLUTIONS PRE-1989

Week 1: January 7--11

Course introduction

- White et al. Chapter 1
- Stokes, pp1-14.
- White (2001) Chapter 1: What was communism and its establishment
 - We will submit a question on Sakai, but this is a trial session

Week 2: January 14--18

Communism (I) — characteristics

- White (2001) Ch 3,4,5
- Stokes (1993): 15-56; 57-79; 95-117.
 - Submit a question on SAKAI
 - Country folder news

Week 3: January 23 --25

The Fall of Communism

- Monday, NO CLASS, Martin Luther King Jr. Day
- White et al. Chapter 2

- Stokes. pp 79-94; 157-202.
 - Submit a question on Sakai

Week 4: January 28-February 1

- Catch up on the readings
- Film: *A trial in Prague* (2000). (Zuzana Justman), followed by a film discussion on Friday. The film review will be due the first meeting after watching the film in class.
- Country folder news

Week 5: February 4-8

Transitions from communism (I)

- Stokes—read the following pages:
 - Hungary: pp95-117; 158-162
 - East Germany: 162-168
 - Poland: 123-151
 - Czechoslovakia: 148-157
- Submit a question on Sakai

Week 6: February 11-February 15

Transitions from communism (II)

- Stokes—read the following pages:
 - Bulgaria: 49-52; 168-174
 - Romania: 55-59; 158-167
- Michnik, Adam. 2000. “Reflections on the Collapse of Communism”. *Journal of Democracy*. 11(1): 119-126 (on SAKAI)
- Submit a question on Sakai
- Country folder news

Week 7: February 18-February 22

Transitions from communism (III)

- Film –12:08 from Bucharest, followed by a film discussion on Friday. The film review will be due the first meeting after watching the film in class.

Week 8: February 25-March 1

Test week

- Test review on Monday
- **Test on Wednesday**
- Overview of the EU: Stokes: pp259-264 or White et al. Chapter 7
- Submit a question on Sakai
- Country folder news

Part II: REGIONAL PATTERNS

Week 9: March 4-8

Spring break

Week 10: March 11-15

The Visegrad Four

- White et al. Chapter 3
- Stokes: Chapter 8

- Submit a question on Sakai

Week 11: March 18-22

The other Europeans

- White et al. Chapter 4
- Stokes pp306-317
- The Baltic States
- Submit a question on Sakai
- Country folder news

Week 12: March 25-29

Section dedicated to Yugoslavia and the former Soviet Republics in the East

- White et al. Chapter 6
- Way, Lucan.2002. "Pluralism by Default in Moldova". *Journal of Democracy* 13(4): 127-141.
- Yugoslavia: Chapter 6 Stokes **or** White et al. Chapter 5
- Film: *No man's land*

Week 13: April 1-5

Test week

- Monday: Finish watching the film
- Wednesday: test review
- **Friday: In-class test 2**
- Country folder news

Part III: ISSUES ACROSS THE REGION

Week 14: April 8-12

Comparing Institutions

- White et al. Chapters 8 & 9
- White et al. Chapters 10 & 11
- Submit a question on Sakai
- Organize the groups for country-news presentations

Week 15: April 15-19

Social and economic issues

- White et al. Chapters 13 & 15
- Zoltan Barany, 2000. "Politics and the Roma in state –socialist Eastern Europe," *Communist and Post-Communist Studies* 33: 421-437 (SAKAI)
- Submit a question on Sakai
- Prepare the group presentations

Week 16: April 22-24

Student in-class presentations (Monday and Wednesday)

- **Classes end on Wednesday April 24**

Week 17: Final cumulative test

Monday 29: Class time