

## **PSC 351: Politics of Eastern European Nations**

Spring 2017, Tuesday/Thursday 3:30-4:50 Talbert 115

**Professor:** Collin Anderson

**Office:** Park 516

**Office Hours:** Monday 12:30-1:00, Tuesday 1-3:20

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### ***Course Description and Objectives***

Eastern Europe has had a wide and storied history unique amongst the world. Various European powers have laid claim to this area at one time or another, and each change in power brought with it vast changes for the nations involved. The last major change experienced was the collapse of the Soviet Union and the transition from the Communist regimes to Western style capitalist democracies. All of the social and political changes involved in that transition meant that each nation had differing levels of success from those around it. We will begin this course by first briefly learning about the history and geography of Eastern Europe. Then, we will move into learning about the structure of Soviet style socialism, and the differences between Communism and Capitalism. We will then look at the varying factors that accounted for the success and failures of these nations – such things as democratic stability, economic reforms, etc. Additionally, we will look at the role of the EU, nationalist movements, ethnic movements, and in-depth looks at the states themselves.

### ***Required Texts***

Timothy G. Ash, *The Magic Lantern: The Revolution of '89 Witnessed in Warsaw, Budapest, Berlin, and Prague* (Vintage, 1993), ISBN-0679740481.

Sharon Wolchik and Jane Curry, *Central & East European Politics: From Communism to Democracy* (Rowman & Littlefield Publishing Group, 2011) 2nd Edition, 9780742567344

### ***Course Requirements***

- 1.) Geography Quiz: 10%** This is an upper level political science course, and it would be difficult to discuss these nations without knowing where they are and who their neighbors are. This quiz will be given February 9th.

- 2.) **Participation: 10%** It is expected that students will attend class and actively engage in the material. If participation or attendance begins to drop, I retain the right to give out pop quizzes that will count towards this grade.
- 3.) **Professionalism: 10%** This is determined by your demeanor and conduct during the course. You're expected to treat myself and each other with respect during discussions, emails, and any other exchanges that you might have during the semester.
- 4.) **Midterm Exam: 35%** This exam will be given **March 16th**. It will consist of approximately 120 questions covering all material up to that point in the course. Questions will be drawn from readings, presentations, and class discussions.
- 5.) **Final Exam: 35%** The final exam will follow the same format as the midterm, however, it is **not cumulative**. The Final Exam is **May 11<sup>th</sup>, in class**.

### ***Assessment***

Outlined below are the learning outcomes this course hopes to achieve, and the assessment measures related to those learning outcomes.

<b>LEARNING OUTCOMES</b>	<b>ASSESSMENT MEASURE(S)</b>
DEMONSTRATE AN UNDERSTANDING OF EASTERN EUROPEAN POLITICS AND THE POST COMMUNIST TRANSITION	Reading discussions, Examinations
EVALUATE THE CURRENT POLITICAL CLIMATE IN EASTERN EUROPE	Examinations
GAIN AN UNDERSTANDING OF EASTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES	Geography Quiz, reading discussions, Examinations

### ***Grading Scale***

94- 100	A	77- 79	C+	0-64	F
90- 93	A-	74- 76	C		
87-89	B+	70- 73	C-		
84-86	B	67-69	D+		
80-83	B-	64- 66	D		

### ***Course Expectations***

It is expected that you will be in class, on time, prepared to discuss the assigned readings for that day. Since participation is part of your grade, failure to attend class will result in loss of those points. This is an upper level class, so there will be many opportunities for in class

discussion of the material. In order to successfully participate in the discussions, you will need to have completed the readings.

### ***E-mail Policy and office hours***

You will receive a response from me within 48 hours of emailing me. I will do my best to be as prompt as possible with emails, but you will always have a response from me within 48 hours. Please direct all emails to [collinan@buffalo.edu](mailto:collinan@buffalo.edu) and please list the course number (PSC 351) in the subject line.

My office hours are on Tuesday between 1 and 3:20. My office is located on the 5<sup>th</sup> floor of Park Hall, in Park 516. If you need to set up another time to meet, please email me, or see me after class to arrange a meeting.

### ***Disability Services***

Disability Service: It is University policy to provide, on a flexible and individual basis, reasonable accommodations to students who have disabilities that may affect their ability to participate in course activities or meet course requirements. Students with disabilities, which have been verified through the Office of Student Disability Services, are encouraged to contact their instructors to discuss their individual needs for accommodations.

### ***Academic Integrity***

The University has set forth an academic integrity policy outlined here:

<http://undergrad-catalog.buffalo.edu/policies/course/integrity.html>

In addition to the University's policy, my own policy for class is this: if you're caught cheating, you will receive a 0 on that assignment. If it happens more than once, you will receive a 0 in the class and your case will be brought to the attention of the Academic Integrity Board.

### ***Class Schedule***

#### **Week 1: East European Geography and History**

- January 31<sup>st</sup>: Syllabus
- February 2<sup>nd</sup>: Wolchik and Curry, pp. 3–27.

#### **Week 2: Socialism in Theory and Practice**

- February 7<sup>th</sup>: \*Stokes, pp 3-90.
- February 9<sup>th</sup>: Geography Quiz

#### **Week 3 : Sources of Change**

- February 14<sup>th</sup>: \*Hayek, The Road to Serfdom.
- February 16<sup>th</sup>: \*Adam Przeworski, 1999. Democracy and the Market, pp. 1–9.

#### Week 4: The Collapse of Communism

- February 21<sup>st</sup>: Ash, first half.
- February 23<sup>rd</sup>: Ash, rest of book.

#### Week 5: Transition to What?

- February 28<sup>th</sup>: \*John Muller, “Democracy, Capitalism, and the End of Transition” in Michael Mandelbaum (ed.), Post-Communism: Four Perspectives (New York: Council on Foreign Relations Press, 1996), 102-67.
- March 2<sup>nd</sup>: \*Stephen Holmes, “Cultural Legacies or State Collapse? Probing the Post-Communist Dilemma,” Michael Mandelbaum (ed.), Post-Communism: Four Perspectives (New York: Council on Foreign Relations Press, 1996), pp. 83-146.

#### Week 6: Democratization in Eastern Europe

- March 7<sup>th</sup>: \*Roeder, F. The Rejection of Authoritarianism
- March 9<sup>th</sup>: Wolchik and Curry, pp. 31-51.

#### Week 7: Prospects and Problems of Dual Transition

- March 14<sup>th</sup>: \*Adam Przeworski, 1999. Democracy and the Market, Chapter 4.
  - Wolchik and Curry, pp. 53-82.

#### March 16<sup>th</sup>: Midterm

#### Week 8 - March 20<sup>th</sup>-25<sup>th</sup>

- Spring Break

#### Week 9: Political Regime Change: Democratization and Backsliding \*

- March 28<sup>th</sup>: \*Steven Fish, “The Dynamics of Democratic Erosion.”
- March 30<sup>th</sup>: \*Steven Levitsky and Lucan A. Way, “Elections Without Democracy: The Rise of Competitive Authoritarianism,” The Journal of Democracy, April 2002, pp. 51–65.

#### Week 10: Elections and the Development of Competitive Party Systems\*

- April 4<sup>th</sup>: Joshua Tucker, “Economic Conditions and the Vote for Incumbent Parties in Russia, Poland, Hungary, Slovakia and the Czech Republic from 1990-1996.” Post-Soviet Affairs, 17, no. 4 (2001): 309-331.
- April 6<sup>th</sup>: Wolchik and Curry: 167-171; 197-201; 221-223; 239-241; 254-262; 291-297; 319-322; 341-355; 376-386.

#### Week 11: Economic Reforms and Economic Policy

- April 11<sup>th</sup>: \*Steven Fish, “The Determinants of Economic Reform in the Post-Communist World.” East European Politics and Societies, 12 (Winter 1998): 31-78.
- April 13<sup>th</sup>: \*Joel Hellman, “Winners Take All: The Politics of Partial Reform in Postcommunist Transitions.” World Politics, 50 (January 1998): 203-34.

#### Week 12: Civil Society and Social Cleavage Structure

- April 18<sup>th</sup>: Wolchik and Curry: 171-173, 179-181; 201-203, 204-207; 225-226; 234-235; 243-246; 262-263; 265-269; 297-304; 326-327.
- April 20<sup>th</sup>: \*Marc Morje Howard, “The Weakness of Postcommunist Civil Society,” Journal of Democracy (January, 2002).

#### Week 13: Nationalism and Ethnic Politics

- April 25<sup>th</sup>: Wolchik and Curry, pp. 83-107.
- April 27<sup>th</sup>: Zoltan Barany, “Ethnic Mobilization without Prerequisites: The East European Gypsies.” World Politics, 54 (April 2002): 277-307.

#### Week 14: European Union Enlargement and Democratization in Eastern Europe

- May 2<sup>nd</sup>: Wolchik and Curry, pp. 125-158.
- May 4<sup>th</sup>: \*European Union Politics, pp. 26–41; 226–240

#### Week 15: Examination

- May 9<sup>th</sup>: TBD
- May 11<sup>th</sup>: **Final Exam**