POLITICAL SCIENCE 141C
Politics and Government in Eastern Europe

Lecture: Tu 2-5pm, 166 Barrows

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**COURSE DESCRIPTION:** Why are some post-communist countries more politically and economically successful than others? What underlies the many conflicts in this region? What can happen in the future, and what can we learn from the East European experience? This course is designed to help you answer these and similar questions. Topics include state-socialism and its collapse, the emergence of ethnic, the transitions to democracy and market economics, entry into NATO and the European Union, the migrant crisis, democratic backsliding, and the role of Russia.

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS:** Students are expected to attend class regularly, do the assigned reading, complete all exams, and participate in any in-class discussions. The grade for this course will be based on two midterms (25%), one research paper (25%), and class/section participation (25%). More information about the exams will be provided during the term. I do not grade on a curve, so you are not competing with your classmates for A’s. Everyone who does A-level work will receive an A. But you must take both exams to get a passing grade in the course. (Please note that the second midterm is scheduled for our last class meeting; there will be no cumulative final exam.)

Academic misconduct, also known as cheating and/or plagiarism, will not be tolerated. If you are caught cheating I reserve the right to fail you in the course. For information on what constitutes misconduct please see: [http://sa.berkeley.edu/conduct](http://sa.berkeley.edu/conduct)

**SECTION INFORMATION:**

Section 101, Wed 9-10am, 3109 Etcheverry

Section 102, Fri 12-1pm, 3107 Etcheverry

**BOOK FOR PURCHASE:** The following book is REQUIRED and available for purchase at the ASUC bookstore.

**Course Reader:** All readings not in the Wolchik and Curry book are available on bCourses.

**Importation Note:** New and better readings are always coming to my attention. I therefore reserve the right to add and subtract from the syllabus.

**Class Rules**

1. I realize we live in a wired world, but personal technology is a distraction during lecture. Please keep your laptops, smartphones, and other electronic gadgetry off during lecture. For note-taking you will need to bring paper and a writing implement. If you have a disability that necessitates electronic assistance, please see me to request an exception. A DSP note will be required.
2. I do not post my lecture notes online (and in fact do not have notes to begin with), but I will make my lecture slides available on bCourses.
3. I do not allow students to make announcements to the class regarding any extracurricular activity.
4. I do not hand out study sheets before exams, but we will review and discuss exams in class and in section.
5. Please report any suspected errors in the grading of an assignment within one week (the next class meeting) of receiving the grade. I reserve the right not to effect a grade change if an issue is reported after a week has passed.
6. Syllabi are wonderful documents with lots of information on the time and place of office hours, the dates of exams, and course requirements. Please do not ask for information contained in the syllabus.
7. Unless otherwise specified no appointment is necessary to come to my office hours. Just show up!
SCHEDULE OF LECTURES/READING

Week 1, Jan 17: Introduction: Why Eastern Europe?


Week 2, Jan 24: State-Socialism and Its Collapse


Film (Firemen’s Ball, DVD 1063)
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S60WPJpuvBw (Romania, 53 minutes)

Week 3, Jan 31: Creating Democracy and Capitalism? Political and Economic Transition

Wolchik and Curry, pp. 43-65 (The Political Transition).
Wolchik and Curry, pp. 67-98 (Re-creating the Market).

Week 4, Feb 7: Accounting for the Past? Transitional Justice (Paper topic due)

(Reading located in Week 2)
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Cj4pHuMQguU (Bulgaria, 25 minutes)

**Week 5: Feb 14: Ethnicity and Nationalism**

Wolchik and Curry, pp. 121-149 (Ethnicity, Nationalism, and the Expansion of Democracy).

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=I7SHo42id84 (Poland, 16 minutes)

**Week 6: Feb 21: Crime, Corruption, and Inequality**

Wolchik and Curry, pp. 99-120 (Social Aspects of Transformation).

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1pOw-9zasDc (Romania, 25 minutes)

**Week 7: Feb 28: Midterm**

**Week 8, Mar 7: External Influences on Domestic Politics? EU, NATO**

Wolchik and Curry, pp. 189-232 (EU Succession and After; Security Issues: NATO and Beyond).
**Week 9, Mar 14: Liberal Democratic Disillusionment and Backsliding**

Wolchik and Curry, pp. 481-512 (Ukraine: Leaving the Crossroads).

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dr0HPZwVQBM (Promise and Peril of Democracy, 47 minutes)
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0L-oI2yvo5o (Slovakia, 16 minutes)

**Week 10, Mar 21: Case Studies: Hungary and Poland**

Wolchik and Curry, pp. 235-263 (Poland); 293-315 (Hungary).

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k_7EjaMu0ic (Hungary, 28 minutes)

**Week 11, Mar 28: Spring Break**

**Week 12, Apr 4: The Bear Awakens: Russia and Eastern Europe**


**Week 13, Apr 11: Historical Legacies and Post-Communist Politics (Paper due)**


**Week 14, Apr 18: Eastern Europe in Comparative Perspective**


**Week 15, Apr 25: Midterm**

**Week 16, May 2: Reading Week**