POLITICAL SCIENCE 141C
Politics and Government in Eastern Europe

Version August 27, 2018

Lecture: Tu 2-5pm, 126 Barrows Hall
Section 101: Wed 9-10, 136 Barrows Hall
Section 102: Wed 2-3, 140 Barrows Hall

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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 politics, 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 (30% each), a research paper (20%), and class/section participation (20%). 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.

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

MATERIAL FOR PURCHASE: The following are required and available for purchase at the ASUC bookstore.


iClicker+ ISBN 9781319149246

NOTE: 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 two days of receiving the grade. I reserve the right not to effect a grade change if an issue is reported after more than two days.
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
(NOTE: WE WILL VIEW SOME YOUTUBE CLIPS IN CLASS; OTHERS ARE OPTIONAL)

Aug 28: Introduction: Why Eastern Europe?
Wolchik and Curry, Part I: Introduction (Democracy, the Market, and the Return to Europe: From Communism to the European Union and NATO).

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ya55Q-WdIrQ (Is it time to scrap “Eastern Europe”? 2 minutes)

Sept 4: State-Socialism and Its Collapse (Paper topics handed out; papers due)

Film (Firemen’s Ball, DVD 1063)
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VmZy8TMFKI4 (Socialism in One Family: Romania, 52 minutes)

Sept 11: Creating Democracy and Capitalism? Political and Economic Transition
Wolchik and Curry, Chapter 2 (The Political Transition).
Wolchik and Curry, Chapter 3 (Re-Creating the Market).

Sept 18: Accounting for the Past? Transitional Justice
Wolchik and Curry, Chapter 6 (Transitional Justice and Memory).


https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Cj4pHuMQguU (Bulgaria: Wrestled to the Ground, 25 minutes)

**Sept 25: Ethnicity and Nationalism**

Wolchik and Curry, Chapter 5 (Ethnicity, Nationalism, and the Challenges of Democratic Consolidation).


https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0L-oI2yvo5o (Slovakia: Anti-Muslim rhetoric ahead of elections, 16 minutes)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a7ow9qa8whU (Hungary: Towards the Abyss, 25 minutes)

**Oct 2: Defeating Autocratic Incumbents**

Wolchik and Curry, Chapter 17 (Ukraine)


**Oct 9: Midterm (2-4pm)**

**Oct 16: Liberal Democratic Disillusionment**


https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dr0HPZwVQBM (Promise and Peril of Democracy, 47 minutes)

Oct 23: Case Studies: Hungary and Poland

Wolchik and Curry, Chapter 9 (Poland); Chapter 11 (Hungary).
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k_7EjaMu0ic (Hungary-political chaos on the streets of Budapest, 28 minutes)
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tafqx31M0Tw (Poles Apart: Is Poland’s democracy under threat?, 25 minutes)

Oct 30: Influences on East European Politics: EU, NATO

Wolchik and Curry, Chapters 7 and 8 (The EU and Its New Members: Forging a New Relationship; Security Issues: NATO and Beyond).

Nov 6: Influences on East European Politics: Russia

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sPoinjn_CfQ (Sphere of Influence—Russia’s Foreign Policy, 25 minutes. Start at 5:45.)
Nov 13: Influences on East European Politics: Economy and Society

Valerie Bunce, “The Political Economy of Postsocialism,” *Slavic Review* 58, no. 4 (Winter 1999), pp. 756-793 (Focus on the tables.)

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1pOw-9zasDc](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1pOw-9zasDc) (Romania’s War on Corruption, 25 minutes)

Nov 20: Sources of East European Politics: Historical Legacies (papers due)


Nov 27: Midterm (2-4pm)