

CRISIS AND CHANGE IN RUSSIA AND EASTERN EUROPE

RUES 260, POLI 260, PWAD 260, SOCI 260

FALL 2006
313 DEY HALL
TUESDAY & THURSDAY 9:30-10:45

Office hours: Monday 1:30-3:00, Thursday 11:00-12:00, and by appointment

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This course is designed to provide students with a broad, interdisciplinary perspective on the problems of social change in the former Communist states of Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union. Drawing on historical, political, economic, and sociological perspectives, the course enables the understanding of issues in their cultural and institutional context. Student participation is actively encouraged, with the format for class meetings combining a mixture of lectures and discussion, as well as video resources.

The course also promotes knowledge of contemporary events through regular use of Internet resources. Internet access will be available in the classroom during the course meeting time. Group projects will be required using Internet and other electronic sources.

The readings have been designed to provide a broad overview of issues and events in the region as well as specific details for selected countries. The instructor has chosen to focus on Russia, Central Europe (Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Slovakia), and the former Yugoslavia (Bosnia-Herzegovina, Croatia, Serbia, Kosovo). Specific readings reflect this choice.

Goals for the course:

- Understand the evolution of communism in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe;
- Learn about the crises of communist regimes and the challenges of post-communist reform;
- Analyze the specific trajectories of political transformation and state building;
- Assess the impact of nationalism on politics;
- Evaluate economic transition and reform efforts;
- Gain knowledge about the complicated issues surrounding ethnic conflict;
- Study the interplay of international affairs and domestic politics;
- Appreciate differences among countries in their historical experience and future possibilities;
- Succinctly express your ideas on these topics in written and verbal manner.

Required Readings

- There are two required texts which have been ordered from Student Stores.
 - McAuley, Mary. 1992. *Soviet Politics 1917-1991*. Oxford: Oxford Univ. Press
 - Swain, Geoffrey, and Nigel Swain. 2003. *Eastern Europe since 1945, Third Edition*. New York: Palgrave.
- For second part of the course, articles constitute the majority of readings. Articles have been selected to provide easy electronic access. A number of readings are available at web sites on the internet. URLs are listed for these readings. Readings marked with an asterisk (*) are available through e-journals at the UNC library. The URL for this link is <http://eresources.lib.unc.edu/ejournal/>.
- Very important electronic resources for contemporary post-communist politics and economics are the “Country Reports” produced by the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) of London. These reports provide quarterly reviews and selected monthly updates of politics, economic policy, and economic performance. Students are expected to review the most recent EIU report for Russia, one of the Central European countries, and one of the Yugoslav successor states. The URL for the Country Reports is <http://eresources.lib.unc.edu/eid/description.php?EIDID=752>.
- A few books chapters and articles that are not available in electronic format are required and will be posted on Blackboard. Reading assignments may be updated during the semester.
- Students are encouraged to explore Internet resources on their own. The following sources are central to keeping track of ongoing events:
 - Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty: <http://www.rferl.org/>
 - British Broadcast Company (BBC): <http://news.bbc.co.uk/worldservice>
 - Cable News Network (CNN): <http://www.cnn.com/>
 - LexisNexis Academic: http://web.lexis-nexis.com/universe/form/academic/s_guidednews.html
- Other sites will be given for group projects and specific topics. For a wide variety of Internet links, please visit the Center for Slavic, Eurasian and East European Studies Web site: <http://www.unc.edu/depts/slavic/resources/countries.htm>

Course Assignments

There are a number of diverse assignments throughout the semester. Final grading will be based upon the weights assigned to each assignment.

1. Active Participation (15% of final grade)

Students are expected to attend class and participate in discussions. Much information will come from class lectures and discussion. Failure to attend to class will disadvantage you on the examinations. You are also strongly encouraged to bring ideas and materials to share with others in the course. News articles, Web sites, cultural artifacts, and other information are useful additions to the required readings.

2. Take-home Midterm Exam (25% of final grade)

A take-home midterm examination will be given utilizing short answer and essay questions. A premium will be placed on clear written expression. **The take-home midterm will be due at 5:00 p.m. on Friday, October 6, 2006. Electronic submission (e-mail) is strongly preferred.**

3. Group Projects (25% of final grade)

Student groups will be required to research and report on a post-communist issue or policy topic related either to an individual country or to a broader set of countries. The issue or policy need not be limited to those countries covered on the syllabus. Examples of appropriate policy issues include human rights implementation, democratization and political participation, European Union and NATO membership, ethnic conflict, economic reform, and environmental problems. Other issues or policies can be defined in consultation with Dr. Jenkins. Groups should be composed of about four or five students.

A 10-15 page written report is required from the group and will be posted on Blackboard for review by other students in the class. These reports should include (1) a definition of the issue or policy problem, (2) an historical overview of the issue, (3) analysis of the current status of the issue or policy, including the involvement of international actors, and (4) an assessment of future prospects. In addition, each group will be required to make a 15-20 minute presentation on their research during class. Additional instructions for these projects will be provided during the semester. While some time will be provided for group work during class periods, students are expected to meet outside of class to work on these projects.

4. Final Examination (35% of final grade)

A comprehensive final examination combining identification, short answer, and essay questions will be given at the scheduled final examination period: **Thursday, December 14, 2006, 8:00 a.m.**

COURSE OUTLINE

| DATE | COURSE TOPIC | READINGS |
|-----------------------------|---|--|
| Aug. 24 | Course Overview | No Reading |
| Aug. 29 | Introduction | Do an Internet search on “What is socialism” and “What is communism” |
| Aug. 31 & Sep. 5 | Communist Revolution and Consolidation in Russia | McAuley, <i>Soviet Politics 1917-1991</i> , pp. 1-61 (Chaps. 1-4). |
| Sep. 7 & 12 | Communism Comes to Eastern Europe | Swain & Swain, <i>Eastern Europe since 1945</i> , pp. 1-84 (Chaps. 1-3). |

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| Sept. 14, 19, & 21 | Post-Stalin Crises & Change | McAuley, <i>Soviet Politics 1917-1991</i> , pp. 62-88 (Chaps. 5-6); Swain & Swain, <i>Eastern Europe since 1945</i> , pp. 85-145 (Chaps. 4-6). |
| Sept. 26 & 28, Oct. 3 | The End of Communist Rule | McAuley, <i>Soviet Politics 1917-1991</i> , pp. 89-123 (Chaps. 7-8, Conclusion); Swain & Swain, <i>Eastern Europe since 1945</i> , pp. 200-230 (Chaps 7-8). |
| Sept. 28 | Midterm Examination: Take Home Distributed. Due Friday, Oct. 6, 5:00 p.m. via email or Blackboard. | |
| Oct. 5, 10, & 12 | The Challenges of Post-Communism: Nation, State, and Economy | *Offe, Claus. 1991. "Capitalism by Democratic Design? Democratic Theory Facing The Triple Transition in East Central Europe." <i>Social Research</i> 58(No. 4):865-893. Brubaker, Rogers. 1996. <i>Nationalism Reframed: Nationhood and the national question in the New Europe</i> . Cambridge Univ. Press. Chap.1, "Rethinking nationhood: nation as institutionalized form, practical category, contingent event," pp. 12-22. *Grzymala-Busse, Anna, and Pauline Jones Luong. 2002. "Reconceptualizing the State: Lessons from Post-Communism." <i>Politics & Society</i> 30(4):529-544. *Lavigne, Marie. 2000. "The Economics of the Transition Process: What Have We Learned?" <i>Problems of Post-Communism</i> 47(No. 4):16-23. |
| Oct. 17 (no class Oct. 19), 24, & 26 | Post-Communist Central Europe | Swain & Swain, <i>Eastern Europe since 1945</i> , pp. 232-244. *Hilde, Paal Sigurd. 1999. "Slovak Nationalism and the Break-up of Czechoslovakia." <i>Europe-Asia Studies</i> 51(4):647-665. *Economist Intelligence Unit. <i>Country Report</i> . Choose most recent full report on one of the Central European Countries. *Saxonberg, Steven. 2003. "The Influence of Presidential Systems: Why the Rights is So Weak in Conservative Poland and So Strong in the Egalitarian Czech Republic." <i>Problems of Post-Communism</i> 50(5):22-36. *Williams, Margit Besseney. 2001. "Exporting the Democratic Deficit: Hungary's Experience with EU Integration." <i>Problems of Post-Communism</i> 48(No. 1):27-38. |

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| <p>Oct. 31, Nov. 2, 7, & 9 (no class Nov. 14)</p> | <p>Post-Soviet Russia</p> | <p>Rutland, Peter. 1997. "The Rocky Road from Plan to Market." Pp. 149-168 in <i>Developments in Russian Politics 4</i>, Stephen White, et al, eds. Duke Univ. Press.</p> <p>*Dunlop, John B. 2000. "Shifting Through the Rubble of the Yeltsin Years." <i>Problems of Post-Communism</i> 47(1):3-15.</p> <p>*Hashim, S. Mohsin. 2005. "Putin's <i>Etatization</i> project and limits to democratic reforms in Russia." <i>Communist and Post-Communist Studies</i> 38(1):25-48.</p> <p>* Economist Intelligence Unit. <i>Country Report</i>. Read the most recent full report on Russia.</p> <p>*Williams, Bryan Glyn. 2001. "The Russo-Chechen War: A Threat to Stability in the Middle East and Eurasia?" <i>Middle East Policy</i> 8(No. 1):128-148.</p> |
| <p>Nov. 16, 21 (no class Nov. 23), 28, & 30</p> | <p>Yugoslav Disintegration and Post- Communist Conflict & Reconstruction</p> | <p>Swain & Swain, <i>Eastern Europe since 1945</i>, pp. 244-271.</p> <p>Andreatta, Filippo. 1997. "The Bosnian War and the New World Order: Failure and Success of International Intervention." Brussels: Institute for Security Studies. Occasional Paper 1. http://www.iss-eu.org/</p> <p>*Papasotiriou, Harry. 2002. "The Kosovo War: Kosovar Insurrection, Serbian Retribution and NATO Intervention." <i>The Journal of Strategic Studies</i> 25(1):39-62.</p> <p>Batt, Judy. 2004. "Introduction: the stabilization/integration dilemma," pp. 7-19 + one other chapter, scan remaining chapters in Judy Batt, ed. <i>The Western Balkans: moving on</i>. Brussels: Institute for Security Studies. Chaillot Paper No. 70. http://www.iss-eu.org/chaillot/chai70.pdf</p> <p>* Economist Intelligence Unit. <i>Country Report</i>. Choose the most recent full report on one of the successor states.</p> |
| <p>Dec. 5</p> | <p>Conclusion</p> | |
| <p>Dec. 14 8:00 a.m.</p> | <p>Final Examination</p> | |