CRISIS AND CHANGE IN RUSSIA AND EASTERN EUROPE  
RUES 60, POLI 58, PWAD 58, SOCI 60  
FALL 2004  
GARDNER 210  
MONDAY & WEDNESDAY 10:00-11:15  

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.

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.
- For the final two thirds of the course, articles constitute the majority of readings. Many 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 ejournals at the UNC library. The URL for this link is [http://eresources.lib.unc.edu/ejournal/](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](http://eresources.lib.unc.edu/eid/description.php?EIDID=752).
- A few books chapters and articles are required and will be available 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:
- 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](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 participate in class discussions. 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 (30% 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 Monday, October 25, 2004. Electronic submission (e-mail) is strongly preferred.**
3. **Group Projects (25% of final grade)**

Students will be required to select a post-communist country and work in groups of about 4 persons to create Web pages providing factual overviews of the country. The main organization of the Web pages will be around five themes:

- rise and fall of communism (with brief historical background),
- post-communist politics,
- ethnic and nationalism situation,
- economic reform and performance,
- international relations.

In addition, each home page should have a map of the country and there should be a page with additional links. Web pages will be evaluated based upon information content not esthetic presentation. A schedule of due dates for web page production will be distributed separately, with Additional instructions for each theme to be provided.

4. **Final Examination (30% of final grade)**

A comprehensive final examination combining identification, short answer, and essay questions will be given at the scheduled final examination period: **Monday, December 13, 2004, 8:00 a.m.**

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**COURSE OUTLINE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>COURSE TOPIC</th>
<th>READINGS</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Aug. 25</td>
<td>Introduction</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sep. 8 &amp; 13</td>
<td>Communism Comes to Eastern Europe</td>
<td>Swain &amp; Swain, <em>Eastern Europe since 1945</em>, pp. 1-84.</td>
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</tbody>
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Oct. 6, 11, & 13 | The Challenges of Post-Communism: Democracy, Economy, Nationalism & State

Oct. 18 | Midterm Examination: Take Home Distributed. Due Oct. 25, 5:00 p.m.

Oct. 18, 20, 25, & 27 | Post-Communist Central Europe
Swain & Swain, *Eastern Europe since 1945*, pp. 232-244.
Economist Intelligence Unit. *Country Report*. Choose most recent full report on one of the Central European Countries.

Nov. 1, 3, 8 & 10 | Post-Soviet Russia
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>References</th>
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* Economist Intelligence Unit. *Country Report*. Read the most recent full report on Russia.  
Swain & Swain, *Eastern Europe since 1945*, pp. 244-271.  
* Economist Intelligence Unit. *Country Report*. Choose the most recent full report on one of the successor states. |
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>References</th>
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<tr>
<td>Dec. 6</td>
<td>Conclusion</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dec. 13 8:00 a.m.</td>
<td>Final Examination</td>
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