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FALL SEMESTER, 2006
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Eastern European Politics and Societies

PL 355

Course description:

This course covers Eastern European politics and societies from the beginning of the XX century to the contemporary time. A historical introduction to the period will be provided. The nations of Eastern Europe will be studied from two points-of-view: development within the single nation, interactions with other countries. Economic, social, and cultural aspects will be treated. The analysis of the post Communist era and current events will conclude the course. Special emphasis will be given to the issues of ethnicity and national minorities. Class format will include lectures, discussion, presentations, and audiovisual materials. The students will be asked to do a small research project, utilizing information technology.

Course goals:

This course attempts to provide the student with a general understanding of the area and its realities. Priority is given to conceptualization of different phenomena and historical development. A major goal is to provide the student with the necessary tools to analyze the area's current events and realities. Critical thinking and comparative analysis will be applied to achieve a clear understanding of the changing picture of Eastern Europe.

Required readings:

Crampton R. J., *Eastern Europe in the Twentieth Century*. London, 1994.
Rothschild J., Wingfield N. M., *Return to Diversity. A Political History of East Central Europe Since World War II*. Oxford, 2000.
Supplementary reading materials to be assigned (assigned readings).

Recommended readings:

Held J., *The Columbia History of Eastern Europe in the Twentieth Century*. New York, 1992.
Walters E. G., *The Other Europe. Eastern Europe to 1945*. New York, 1988.
Rothschild J., *East Central Europe between the Two World Wars*. Seattle, 1977.

Reference/General readings:

Stokes G., (ed.), *From Stalinism to Pluralism. A Documentary History of Eastern Europe since 1945*. Oxford 1996.
Bugajski J., *Ethnic Politics in Eastern Europe. A Guide to Nationality Policies, Organizations, and Parties*. Armonk, 1994.
Legters L. H., *Eastern Europe. Transformation and Revolution, 1945-1991. Documents and Analyses*. Toronto, 1992.
Ferenca G. C., (ed.) *Chronology of 20th-Century Eastern European History*. Detroit, 1994.

Atlases:

Magocsi, P. R., *Historical Atlas of East Central Europe*. Seattle, 1993.
Hupchick, D. P., Cox, H. E., *A Concise Historical Atlas of Eastern Europe*. New York, 1996.
Stern, G., (ed.) *Atlas of Communism*. New York, 1991.

Program:

<u>Unit 1</u> (Sep. 4, 6)	Introduction. Methodology. Definitions.	(assigned readings)
<u>Unit 2</u> (Sep. 11, 13)	Eastern Europe Defined. Before the Twentieth Century. The Interwar Background.	(Crampton, 1-30; Rothschild, 1-22; assigned readings)
<u>Unit 3</u> (Sep. 18, 20, 22)	The Interwar Years. Poland, 1918-1939. Czechoslovakia, 1918-1938.	(Crampton, 31-77; assigned readings)
<u>Unit 4</u> (Sep. 25, 27)	Hungary, 1918-1941. The Baltic States, 1918-1940. Romania, 1918-1941.	(Crampton, 78-118; assigned readings)
<u>Unit 5</u> (Oct. 2, 4)	Bulgaria, 1918-1941. Yugoslavia, 1918-1941. Albania, 1918-1939. Ideological Currents in Interwar period.	(Crampton, 119-178; Rothschild, 23-74; assigned readings)
<u>Unit 6</u> (Oct. 9, 11)	WWII in Eastern Europe. The Communist Takeovers. Totalitarianism.	(Crampton, 179-239; Rothschild, 75-124; assigned readings)
<u>Unit 7</u> (Oct. 16, 18*)	The Communist System. East European Stalinism, 1948-1953.	(Crampton, 240-274; Rothschild, 125-146; assigned readings)
	* MIDTERM EXAM	
<u>Unit 8</u> (Oct. 23, 25)	The Retreat from Stalinism, 1953-1956. The Revenge of the Repressed.	(Crampton, 275-306; Rothschild, 147-190; assigned readings)
<u>Unit 9</u> (Oct. 30)	Eastern Europe, 1956-1968. A Precarious Stalemate.	(Crampton, 307-325; Rothschild, 191-226; assigned readings)
<u>Unit 10</u> (Nov. 6, 8)	The Decline of Socialism. Czechoslovakia, 1968-1969. Eastern Europe 1969-1980	(Crampton, 326-366; assigned readings)
<u>Unit 11</u> (Nov. 13, 15)	The Death of Socialism. The Solidarity Crisis. Poland, 1980-1981. The Various Endgames.	(Crampton, 367-378; Rothschild, 227-264; assigned readings)
<u>Unit 12</u> (Nov. 20, 22)	Eastern Europe, 1980-1989. The Revolutions of 1989-1991.	(Crampton, 379-415; assigned readings)
<u>Unit 13</u> (Nov. 27, 29)	The Postcommunist Decade. Democracy and Development. Ethnicity and Politics.	(Rothschild, 265-323; assigned readings)
<u>Unit 14</u> (Dec. 4, 6*)	Current Events and Politics in Eastern Europe. Conclusions.	(assigned readings)
	* FINAL PAPER *PORTFOLIO *WRITTEN PRESENTATION	
(Dec. 9 -15, tba*)	* FINAL EXAM	

Course requirements:

Two in-class Exams (midterm exam and final exam).

A Final Paper (with a Portfolio).

A Presentation.

Regular attendance and participation in class.

Exams: Midterm and final exams have the same format. The exam has two parts of equal value. The first part is an essay, the student will choose one theme out of three proposed, and will write a well organized essay. The second part of the exam is made of ten terms to be concisely defined.

Final paper: The final paper (six to eight typed pages) will be on any topic of the student's choice related to the class program. The topic should be precisely defined and worthy of investigation. **Portfolio:** In order to produce their final papers, students will keep a portfolio of research materials during the semester. The portfolio will be shared with, and evaluated by the instructor. The production of the final paper is a work in progress during the semester. The portfolio and the paper project are progressive steps toward completion of the final paper.

Final paper format:

Cover page - title, student's name, course name, instructor's name, semester, year.

Text pages - a well organized research paper with an introduction, a body with critical analyses and evidence presented, and conclusion.

Additional materials (when appropriate) - charts, maps, photos, other materials.

Bibliography pages, listing the journal articles and electronic references.

Presentation: Students are encouraged to give a short individual or team presentation on a specific topic of their choice related to the class program. The presentation will be well-organized, concise, and include (when opportune) audiovisual and electronic materials. A separate written (three pages) presentation in substitution of the oral presentation is accepted.

Grading:

The final grade will be computed as follows: midterm exam, 30%; final exam, 30%; final paper, 30%; portfolio, presentation, and other assignments, 10%. Absences, lateness, and missed deadlines will lower the final grade by 10%. Improvement over the semester will be rewarded. Letter grades correspond to the numerical scale:

A to A- = 100% to 90%. B+ to B- = 89% to 80%. C+ to C- = 79% to 70%. D+ to D- = 69% to 60%. F = <60%.

Papers retrieval:

All papers are retrievable from the instructor's office up to the end of the following semester. Students can have their papers mailed to them by giving the instructor a self-addressed stamped envelope.

Library sessions:

The class will meet sometimes in the library to receive instruction on electronic tools and sources. Individual assistance will be provided to the students for their research. To be announced.

Guest speakers:

Guest speakers expert in the fields related to the program may be invited during the semester. To be announced.

Field trips:

Field trips may be scheduled during the semester in connection with ongoing cultural events of interest in Rome. To be announced.

Journals:

East European Quarterly. The Slavic Review. Nationalities Papers. The Polish Review. Eastern European Politics and Societies.

Data bases:

EBSCO. Social Sciences Abstracts. Historical Abstracts. JSTOR.

Recommended films:

Some class viewing may be scheduled during the semester. To be announced.

A. Wajda, *Man of Marble*. A. Wajda, *Man of Iron*. A. Holland, *Europa Europa*. Kadar, *The shop on main street*. N. Michalkov, *Burnt by the sun*. A. Wajda, *Korczak*. A. Wajda, *Land of promise*. S. Spielberg, *Schindler's list*. A. Konchalovsky, *The inner circle*. E. Kusturica, *When father was away on business*.

Internet Sites:

<http://www.ceeol.com>

This syllabus is on line: www.gabrielesimoncini.it