POLITICAL SCIENCE 141C: Politics and History in Eastern Europe
Lecture: M-W 6:30-8:00pm, 110 Barrows Hall
Section 101: W 3-4pm, 215 Dwinelle
Section 102: W 1-2pm, 175 Barrows
Jason Wittenberg                               Alice Ciciora
732 Barrows Hall                                   715 Barrows Hall
Office hours: Tu 10:00am-12:00pm                                                                               M 1-3pm
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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? What can we learn from the East European experience?
This course is designed to help you answer these and similar questions. In one semester
it will not be possible to cover all countries and all periods equally. Since this is a course
on contemporary Eastern Europe, the bulk of the course will focus on the countries
between Russia and Germany during the 20th century and after. However, to
understand these societies it is necessary to know some of their history, so we will also
spend a little time surveying the past 1,000 years. Russia, other former Soviet Republics,
and the recent Yugoslav wars will figure in, but will not be a central focus.

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 one 5-10 page paper (10%), two midterms (20% each), a
final exam (40%), and class participation (10%). The exams will be a mixture of multiple
choice, identification, and short essay. More information about both the paper and the
exams will be provided during the semester. 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 attend class, write the paper, and take all exams to get a passing
grade in the course.

Academic misconduct, also known as cheating and/or plagiarism, will not be tolerated.
For information on what constitutes misconduct please see:
http://campuslife.berkeley.edu/conduct

COURSE READER: The reader for this course is available at University Copy, 2425
Channing Way (549-2335). These readings are marked as (R) in the syllabus.

BOOKS FOR PURCHASE: The following books are REQUIRED and available for
purchase at the ASUC and/or Ned’s, both near the corner of Bancroft and Telegraph.


Both the reader and required books will also be available on reserve.

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

**Other Rules:** 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 doctor’s note will be required.

**Schedule of Lectures/Reading**

**Week 1, Aug 29-Aug 31: The Making of Modern Eastern Europe: From the Dark Ages to World War I**

- Janos, pp. 3-10; 29-53; 125-156.

**Week 2, Sep 5: No class because of Labor Day! Woohoo!**

**Week 2, Sep 7: Dictatorship and War**

- Janos, pp. 156-217.

**Week 3, Sep 12-14 Pursuing Utopia (Paper topics handed out.)**

· Janos, pp. 229-256.

· David W. Paul, *The Cultural Limits of Revolutionary Politics.* (Columbia University Press, 1979), pp. 16-52. (R)


**Week 4, Sep 19-21: Real Existing Socialism**

· Slavenka Drakulic, *How We Survived Communism and Even Laughed.*

· Janos, pp. 257-328.


**Week 5, Sep 26-28: The Empire Crumbles: 1989**

· Garton Ash, *The Magic Lantern.*

**Week 6, Oct 3: Film, Location and Title TBA**

**Week 6, Oct 5: Midterm**

**Week 7, Oct 10-12: The Mourning After: Who is to Blame?**

· Tina Rosenberg, *The Haunted Land.*

**Week 8, Oct 17-19: Post-Communism – Political Transformation**

· Janos, pp. 379-398.


· Grzegorz Ekiert and Stephen Hanson, eds., *Capitalism and Democracy in Central and Eastern Europe.* (Cambridge University Press, 2003), Chapter 3 (R)
Week 9, Oct 24-26: Post-Communism – Economic Transformation

- Roman Frydman, Kenneth Murphy, and Andrzej Rapaczynski, Capitalism with a Comrade’s Face: Studies in the Postcommunist Transition. (Budapest: Central European University Press, 1998), pp. 42-77. (R)

Week 10, Oct 31-Nov 2: Post-Communist Ethnicity and Nationalism


Week 11, Nov 7: Film, location and title TBA.
Week 11, Nov 9: Midterm

Week 12, Nov 14: Historic Legacies and Their Influence

- Janos, pp. 344-360.

Week 12, Nov 16: Democratization’s Darker Side


Week 13, Nov 21: Returning to Europe I: the EU (and NATO) Move East


Week 13, Nov 23: TBA

Week 14, Nov 28: Returning to Europe II: the EU (and NATO) Move East

Week 14, Nov 30: The End of Post-Communism?


Week 15, Dec 5-7: Reading week, but I will hold office hours

FINAL EXAM: GROUP 14, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 15, 11:30AM-2:30PM