Post-Communist Politics, Political Science 949
University of Wisconsin, Madison
Spring 2012
Mondays, 12:05 pm - 2:00 pm, EDUCATION L150

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See Learn@UW for more course information

Course Description
This course is an overview of the politics of the states of the former Soviet Union and Eastern Europe. More than 20 years after the collapse of the Soviet Union and its satellite regimes in Eastern Europe, the post-communist states have evolved into vastly different polities. Some are market-oriented democracies and have joined the European Union and NATO, while others still oscillate between semi-authoritarian and semi-democratic governance, and a few have reverted to full-blown dictatorship. In this course, we will explore the unprecedented "triple transition" in political institutions, economic systems, and national identities that resulted from this systemic breakdown of communism in the region. The focus of this course will be on politics broadly understood to include not only on the transformation of explicitly political institutions, but also on changes in market institutions and social identities.

Course Requirements

(1) Reading: Reading is perhaps the core activity of the course; keeping up with all readings is essential for making the most of the opportunity that this course provides. Readings will consist of assigned articles and books for each week, plus brief discussion papers and questions written by students.
   a. Availability of readings:
      • Books that are available for electronic download from the UW libraries are marked as such.
      • All other readings will be on Learn@UW under the "content" tab.
      • In two cases entire books are assigned and probably should be purchased. Chapters will not be on Learn@UW, but books will be on reserve:
      • Discussion papers will be posted on Learn@UW by Sunday at 8 pm.
   b. It is recommended that you read the material in order that it appears on the syllabus.
(2) **Writing:** There are two writing components in the course: six short discussion papers and one final paper.

For six of the weekly sessions, students will write a short discussion paper which critically reviews the readings. In the discussion paper, consider your job to be that of a discussant on a panel; you can't ignore one or more of the readings, even if you don't like it, and you have to think of a way to make connections between readings so that your comments are coherent. Also rather than just summarizing the readings, you should highlight positive or negative aspects of the works, and raise questions for discussion. All papers should:

a. Discuss all of the week's readings, though there does not have to be an equal amount of space for each reading;

b. Include two discussion questions at the end;

c. Be completed by 8 PM on the evening before the seminar (Sunday night) and posted on the "discussion" tab of the class website;

d. Be no longer than 1,000 words (approximately 2 single-spaced pages), and include page numbers and a word count at the top next to your name. Single spacing saves paper for those that print the papers.

e. Paper grading criteria (point values given in parentheses):
   - A = Raised interesting or innovative points in essay and questions + fulfilled all A/B requirements (100)
   - A/B = Made connections between readings in essay and questions + fulfilled all B requirements (90)
   - B = Accurately captured the main arguments or critical points in all of the readings in the essay and provided relevant discussion questions (85)
   - B/C = Discussed some readings and provided discussion questions (80)
   - C = Egregiously inaccurate or incomplete discussion of readings or missing questions (75)

   • Late papers will be marked down one grade if not posted by 8 pm Sunday, 2 grades down if not posted by 9 am on Monday.
   • Papers with a significant number of grammatical or spelling errors will be marked down one grade. Make sure to proofread.

In addition, there is a final paper. The final paper should be related to post-communist politics on a substantive topic of your choosing and should contain original research. You should not be constrained by the course readings, but should discuss them where appropriate. I recommend you discuss your final paper with me in office hours

- A one-page, single-spaced, paper proposal will be **due on March 5**, in class.
- For the paper proposal, include the following three sections under separate headings:
  1. Description of substantive topic, including research question to be addressed
  2. Short description of course readings to be analyzed
  3. Data sources
- Other important requirements:
  1. The final paper is **due Monday, May 14, 2012, at 9 am** by email as a .pdf.
  2. The paper should be no longer than 10,000 words total (20-25 double-spaced pages);
please double-space, use at least 1 inch margins, and font not smaller than 12 points.

3. Cite all your sources fully and properly; and proofread before turning in. Plagiarism or failure to cite sources properly will result in an F on the paper and in the course.

4. Any paper extensions must be approved in advance; late papers will be marked down.

(3) Participation: This course is a discussion seminar and your active participation will determine how much you get out of this course. Students should come to class prepared to discuss the material and student papers. Grades for participation will be posted to Learn@UW each week and will be based on the following scheme:

\[
\begin{align*}
A & = \text{Actively participated and seemed in command of readings (100)} \\
A/B & = \text{Spoke only minimally or not in command of the readings (87)} \\
C & = \text{Attended but did not speak (75)} \\
F & = \text{Did not attend (0)}
\end{align*}
\]

Grading:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Class participation</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Six critical review papers (5% each)</td>
<td>30%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final paper</td>
<td>60%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Note: Final grades are calculated using a 100-point scale; point values for letter grades are given in parentheses.

Class Schedule:

Week 1, January 23: Introduction to the course

No assigned readings

Week 2, January 30: Communism and its Collapse

- Ken Jowitt, New World Disorder: The Leninist Extinction, University of California Press, 1993,
  - Chp. 1, "The Leninist Phenomenon," pp. 1-49
- Katherine Verdery. What Was Socialism and What Comes Next, Princeton University Press, 1996,
  - Chp. 1, "What was socialism and Why Did it Fall?" pp. 19-38.

**Recommended:**

• Valerie Bunce, *Subversive Institutions: The Design and Destruction of Socialism and the State*, Cambridge University Press, 1999,

**Week 3, February 6: Political Change, Transition, and Regime Diversity**

  o Chp. 1, "Introduction," pp. 3-36
  o Chp. 3, "Linkage, Leverage, and Democratization in Eastern Europe," pp. 87-130.


**Recommended:**


**Week 4, February 13: Social Identities, Nationalism, and Conflict**

  - Chp. 1, "From the Impossible to the Inevitable," pp. 1-46.

**Recommended:**

Week 5, February 20: Institutions, Rules, and Corruption

  - Introduction, pp. 1-10

**Recommended**


Week 6, February 27: Remaking the State

• Yoshiko M. Herrera, Mirrors of the Economy: National Accounts and International Norms in Russia and Beyond, Cornell University Press, 2010.
  o Introduction, pp. 1-15
  o Conclusion, pp. 201-216.
  o Introduction, pp. 1-7
  o Chp. 1, “Bringing the Gun Back In: Coercion and the State” pp. 8–35.

Recommended:


• Stephen Hanson, "The Uncertain Future of Russia’s Weak State Authoritarianism" *East European Politics & Societies* 21:1 (February 2007), pp. 67-81


• Lucan A. Way, "Weak States and Pluralism: The Case of Moldova," *East European Politics And Societies* 17:3 (August 2003), pp. 454-482.

**Week 7, March 5: Law: Judicial Politics, Courts, and Transitional Justice**

• Maria Popova, "Political Competition as an Obstacle to Judicial Independence: Evidence From Russia and Ukraine" *Comparative Political Studies*, October 2010; vol. 43, 10: pp. 1202-1229


  o Chp. 1. Introduction: three puzzles of post-communist judicial empowerment, pp. 1-18.
  o Conclusion, pp. 285-304.


  o Introduction, pp. 1-30.

  o Introduction, pp. 1-23.

**Recommended:**


• Maria Popova, "Watchdogs or attack dogs? The role of the Russian courts and the Central Election Commission in the resolution of electoral disputes" *Europe-Asia Studies*, 58:3 (May 2006), 391-414.

• Monika Nalepa, "Captured Commitments: An Analytic Narrative of Transitions with
- Kathryn Hendley. "'Demand' for Law in Russia – A Mixed Picture," East European Constitutional Review 10:4 (Fall 2001), pp. 73-78.

**Week 8, March 12: Elections**

  - Part I, pp. 3-52
  - Part III, pp. 215-352
  - Introduction and chapters 1-5, pp. 1-232

**Recommended:**

**Week 9, March 19: Political Parties**

• Henry Hale, "Why Not Parties? Supply and Demand on Russia's Electoral Market," *Comparative Politics* 27:2 (January 2005), pp. 147-166. (not generally available online)
  o Chp. 2-3, pp. 29-86.
  o Chp. 6- Conclusion, pp. 175-254.

**Recommended:**
Week 10, Mar. 26: Civil Society

  - Introduction, pp. 1-17
  - Chp. 2, pp. 40-66
  - Chp. 5-8, pp. 124-218
  - Chapters TBA.
  - Chapters TBA.

Recommended:

April 2: SPRING BREAK – NO CLASS
Week 11, April 9: Political Economy and Economic Reform

  - Chapters TBA.
  - Introduction, pp. 1-20
  - Conclusion, pp. 244-254.
  - Chp. 1-3, pp. 1-76
  - Chp. 6, pp. 181-218
  - Chp. 9-10, pp. 299-336.

Recommended:

**Week 12, April 16: Inequality and Social Welfare**

  o Chapters TBA.
  o Chapters TBA.
  o Chp. 1-4, pp. 1-134
  o Chp. 7-8, 99. 172-216

**Recommended:**

**Week 13, April 23: Joining Europe and International Institutions (or not)**

• Anna Grzymala-Busse and Abby Innes, "Great Expectations: The EU and Domestic Political Competition in East Central Europe" *East European Politics and Societies* 17:1 (2003), pp. 64-73.
• Milada Vachudova, *Europe Undivided: Democracy, Leverage, & Integration After Communism*, Oxford University Press, 2005,
  o Introduction, pp. 1-10
  o Part I (chp. 1-4), pp. 3-124
  o Part III (chp. 9-11), pp. 231-316
Recommended

Week 14, April 30: Transnational Movements and International Relations
  o Chp. 1, pp. 1-19
  o Chp. 5, pp. 221-276

Recommended:

Week 15, May 7: Discussion of Student Papers
• No assigned readings

Final Paper due Monday, May 14, 2012, at 9:00 am by email as a pdf.