

IR 222: Politics of New Europe

Spring 2014
Tuesday and Thursday 11:05{12:20
LeChase 103

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Office Hours: Tuesday and Wednesday 2:00-3:00pm and by appointment

Course Overview

This course will focus on some of the countries that joined the European Union in 2004 and 2007 (Poland, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary, the Baltic States, Bulgaria and Romania). We will begin with a brief survey of the political history of the region and the establishment and sustenance of Communist rule in the Eastern Bloc, and proceed to analyze events that led to the transformation. The course will focus on the political and economic transformation in the region and the path to

Readings

In this course we will read a combination of book chapters and articles. Journal articles as well

February 11: NO CLASS

February 12: Optional Review Session 4-5pm

February 13: Midterm I

February 18: Constitutional Design

Reading:

Developments in Central and East European Politics. Chapter 8.

Lijphart, Arend. 1992. "Democratization and Constitutional Choices in Czecho-Slovakia, Hungary and Poland 1989-1991." *Journal of Theoretical Politics* 4(2): 207-223.

February 20: Electoral Systems

Reading:

Developments in Central and East European Politics. Chapter 9.

Birch, Sarah. 2001. "Electoral Systems and Party Systems in Europe East and West." *Perspectives on European Politics and Society* 2(3): 355-377.

February 25: Party Systems

Reading:

Developments in Central and East European Politics. Chapter 11.

February 27: Party Systems: The Left and The Right

Reading:

Grzymala-Busse Anna. 2002. "The Programmatic Turnaround of Communist Successor Parties in East Central Europe, 1989-1998." *Communist and Post-Communist Studies* 35(1): 51-66.

Minkenbergh, M. 2002. "The Radical Right in Postsocialist Central and Eastern Europe: Comparative Observations and Interpretations." *East European Politics and Societies* 16(2): 335-362.

March 4: Party Systems: Stability and Change

Reading:

Bakke, Elisabeth and Nick Sitter. 2005. "Patterns of Stability. Party Competition and Strategy in Central Europe since 1989." *Party Politics* 11(2): 243-263.

March 6: Voters

Reading:

Kostadinova, Tatiana. "Voter turnout dynamics in post-Communist Europe." *European Journal of Political Research* 42(6): 741-759.

Pacek, Alexander C., Grigore Pop-Eleches, and Joshua A. Tucker. 2009. Disenchanted or Discerning: Voter Turnout in Post-Communist Countries. *Journal of Politics* 71(2): 473-491.

March 11 and 13: Spring Break No Class

March 18: Citizens

Reading:

Letki, Natalia. 2004. "Socialization for Participation? Trust, Membership, and Democratization in East-Central Europe." *Political Research Quarterly* 57: 665-679.

Developments in Central and East European Politics. Chapter 12.

March 20: Democracies of 'Old' and 'New' Europe. Differences and Similarities.

Reading:

April 17: EU Accession: Consequences

Reading:

Europe Undivided. Chapter 8

April 22: EU Politics after the 2004 Enlargement

Reading:

Thompson, Robert. 2009. "Actor Alignments in the European Union before and after Enlargement." *European Journal of Political Research* 48(6): 756-781.

Hix, Simon and Abdul Noury. 2009. "After Enlargement: Voting Patterns in the Sixth European Parliament." *Legislative Studies Quarterly* 34(2): 159-174.

April 24: 'Old' vs 'New' Europe divide?

Reading: none

April 29: Midterm III