
Politics of East Central Europe

POLI 4072

INSTRUCTOR INFORMATION

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or by appointment

COURSE INFORMATION

Louisiana State University
Fall 2022
Section 001
206 Williams Hall
MWF 12:30p-1:20p

Course Overview

Course Description

This course provides a regional analysis of political systems in the states of East Central Europe. Emphasis is given to the evolution of domestic institutions and political parties, as well as the current political climate, elections, and the legacies of communism. This comparative politics course is designed to focus on the development of the bloc as a whole, but also features discussion of individual states as case studies. In addition, attention is also given to ethnicity, nationalism and certain aspects of the economy, namely the transition of states from communism to market economies.

LSU Learning Competency Statement for the Social Sciences

LSU graduates will demonstrate an understanding of the informing factors of global interdependence, including economic forces, political dynamics, and cultural and linguistic difference.

Course Objectives

- 1| Obtain an advanced understanding of the core institutions in East Central Europe
- 2| Improve your general understanding of comparative government and governance
- 3| Become equipped with the theoretical knowledge necessary to explain the evolution of East Central European states from the communist era to contemporary times
- 4| Enhance your analytical skills and your ability to think critically

Required Reading

There are required readings for this course. It is the student's responsibility to obtain, access and review the appropriate materials for the assigned class period.

1) The textbook listed below is required for this course. It can be found at university and area bookstores. The textbook is also available online at various online bookstores and websites. You can purchase a used copy or rent the textbook, if possible. You must use the edition indicated.

Csergo, Eglitis and Pickering (2022). **Central and East European Politics: Changes and Challenges, Fifth Edition**. Rowman and Littlefield. (ISBN: 9781538142806)

2) Several topics and class meetings for this course will require book chapters and case file readings not found in the textbook. These readings are listed in the Lecture Topics section of this syllabus, and will

be uploaded to the course Moodle site in .pdf format for download. It is the student's responsibility to access and read the appropriate materials for the assigned class period. If the documents are unavailable or cannot be accessed for any reason, inform the instructor so that technical issues can be corrected/modified.

3) Students will also be required to read select news articles provided by the instructor for in-class quizzes. See 'Graded Items' → 'Quizzes' below for more information.

Graded Items

Composition of Course Grade

Scores for each graded item will be based on a range of 0-100, and weighted according to the table below.

| Graded Item | Percentage of Grade (Weight) |
|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Attendance | 20% |
| Participation (in-class) | 5% |
| Quizzes (2 x 7.5%) | 15% |
| Midterm Exam | 30% |
| Final Exam | 30% |

Attendance

According to LSU policy, students are expected to attend all classes. Therefore, student roll and attendance will be taken for class meetings, at the discretion of the instructor. Tracking student attendance is in conjunction with a University-wide effort to bolster student attendance, as research has shown that students who attend class regularly have improved performance scores. Attendance scores are based on 100 total points.

Each student is allowed two unexcused absences before it affects their attendance score. After two unexcused absences, your attendance score drops 10 points for each unexcused absence thereafter, through the ninth absence. On the tenth absence, a student's attendance score will convert to a zero. See table below:

| Unexcused Absences | Attendance Score | Unexcused Absences | Attendance Score |
|---------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|
| 2 or less | 100 | 6 | 60 |
| 3 | 90 | 7 | 50 |
| 4 | 80 | 8 | 40 |
| 5 | 70 | 9 | 30 |
| →continued → | →continued | 10 or more | 0 |

Participation (in-class)

Student participation in class discussions helps to facilitate learning and is a required component of this course. Forms of participation include making in-class comments related to lectures and assigned readings, as well as asking appropriate questions that contribute to the discussion. Students are expected to participate on an occasional basis. I don't expect you to contribute to every class discussion, but I expect you to do so periodically.

Quizzes (2)

Students will take two in-class quizzes on dates noted by the instructor in the Course Calendar. Content for quizzes will be taken from select news articles provided to you by the instructor. These articles will be posted on Moodle in a labeled quiz folder one week before the quiz date. Quizzes be multiple-choice and you will need a small scantron and a pencil.

Exams (2)

Content for exams are taken from in-class lectures, as well as from assigned textbook chapters, other chapter readings & case file writings. Note that news articles provided in the quiz folders are not required reading material for exams.

-Midterm Exam-

This exam will test for content covered from the beginning of the course through the lecture immediately preceding the Midterm Exam. The format for this exam will be multiple choice and short answer essay. The Midterm Exam will be administered in-class on **October 12, 2022**. You will need a small scantron and a bluebook for this exam.

-Final Exam-

This exam will test for content covered after the Midterm Exam. While this exam is not cumulative, you will still need a fundamental grasp of the concepts and ideas discussed in the first half of the semester to be effective on this exam. The format for this exam will be multiple choice and short answer essay. The Final Exam will be administered on **Thursday, December 8, 2022 at 7:30am**. The location for the Final Exam will be the normal classroom. You will need a small scantron and a bluebook for this exam.

Grade Calculation

A graded item is an exam, quiz, attendance, etc. Each graded item is based on a point total (0-100). Your score for each graded item is the number of points received. Final grades for students will be calculated by multiplying their score for each graded item times (x) the weighted percentage for each graded item. The weighted graded items are then added together and a final grade given based on 100-point totals.

Grading Policies

Absences, Missed Exams and Make-ups

Allowance for excused absences and the make-up of missed exams & quizzes will be in accordance with University policy, which outlines valid reasons for such occurrences (LSU Policy Statement 22). Valid reasons for an absence include, but are not limited to, serious illness, death in the family, religious observances, and scheduled trips for academic purposes. Proper documentation is required for any excused absence, missed quiz, or missed examination. If you have documentation that notes your excused absence, you are required to email me a scanned version or photo of the document.

You must let the instructor know in advance of missing a quiz or exam. Only in rare and extreme circumstances will an after-the-fact excuse be accepted. In any case, do not delay in contacting me to provide documentation and to make arrangements for missed assignments. If you wait in excess of 48 hours after the scheduled class/exam/quiz, you will not be able to make-up the missed assignment or receive credit. This also applies the excusing of class absences for attendance purposes, as you must provide the documentation within a reasonable amount of time. Students who wait until near the end of the semester to provide documentation for absences will not be credited. In cases where make-ups are

allowed, you will be given an alternate make-up exam or quiz that is different from the in-class examination.

Students should note that the Final Exam schedule is set by the University and cannot be amended or changed by the instructor, meaning that make-ups are not allowed for this exam. Approval for changes to the Final Exam schedule can only be made by the Dean of the College of Humanities and Social Sciences.

If you miss a class lecture, feel free to obtain notes from a classmate on an occasional basis, as it is the student's responsibility to procure any missed material. You can then ask me specific questions concerning the material for clarification. But I cannot provide you with lecture notes or presentation slides. And I do not post my lecture notes or presentation slides online.

General Grading Policy

Grades are based on the academic performance of the student, as it pertains to assigned coursework and examinations, and in accordance to the grading scale, weighting, and policies listed in this syllabus. Once all coursework is complete, final grades are assigned according to scores reflected on the course assignments listed in this syllabus. Any questions or concerns about graded work are welcome, and should be directed toward the instructor in-person during office hours or by appointment, or via email.

Typically, I do not give the option for an extra credit assignment during the course. However, if there is any type of extra credit assignments for students, an announcement will be made in class or via a class-wide email. Do not ask me at the end of the semester to give out extra points, allow for last-minute extra credit assignments, or allow make-ups for long-past quizzes, exams and attendance/participation marks.

Grading Scale

Grading for this course will be consistent with the plus/minus grading scale adopted by the University, and as outlined in the LSU General Catalog.

| Letter grade | Score | | | | |
|--------------|-------------|---|-------------|----|-------------|
| A+ | 100-97.00 | A | 96.99-94.00 | A- | 93.99-90.00 |
| B+ | 89.99-87.00 | B | 86.99-84.00 | B- | 83.99-80.00 |
| C+ | 79.99-77.00 | C | 76.99-74.00 | C- | 73.99-70.00 |
| D+ | 69.99-67.00 | D | 66.99-64.00 | D- | 63.99-60.00 |
| F | <60 | | | | |

Course Policies & Expectations

Note on Participation and Preparation

Students are expected to come to class on-time, prepared and ready to engage with the material, as well as ready to participate in classroom discussions concerning the week's topics. This means that students should be familiar with the assigned readings prior to class. Students should frequently check the course Moodle page in order to access additional readings or supplemental materials posted by the instructor at an on-going basis.

Diversity

Diversity is fundamental to LSU's mission and the University is committed to creating and maintaining a living and learning environment that embraces individual difference. Cultural inclusion is of highest priority.

Special Accommodations

LSU is committed to providing adequate accommodations to all students with documented and approved disabilities. Per University policy, special accommodations approved by LSU Disability Services will be incorporated into individual student learning, and will remain confidential. Eligible students should notify and provide the instructor with all proper documentation during the first week of the semester. Students who want to initiate this process, or who would like more information about accommodations, can contact Disability Services at 115 Johnson Hall or reach them by phone at 225-578-5919.

General Statement on Academic Integrity

Louisiana State University adopted the Commitment to Community in 1995 to set forth guidelines for student behavior both inside and outside of the classroom. The Commitment to Community charges students to maintain high standards of academic and personal integrity. All students are expected to read and be familiar with the LSU Code of Student Conduct and LSU's Commitment to Community, found online at www.lsu.edu/saa. It is your responsibility as a student at LSU to know and understand the academic standards for our community.

Students who are suspected of violating the Code of Conduct will be referred to the Office of Student Advocacy and Accountability. For undergraduate students, a first academic violation could result in a zero grade on the assignment or failing the class and disciplinary probation until graduation. For a second academic violation, the result could be suspension from LSU. For graduate students, suspension is the appropriate outcome for the first offense.

In general, academic dishonesty refers to any unauthorized behavior or action that gives the student an unfair advantage during a graded assessment. More specifically, academic dishonesty includes (but is not limited to) viewing other students' answers during quizzes/exams, viewing unauthorized material or notes during an examination/quiz, accessing & viewing testing materials from previous courses or previous semesters, and sharing notes through group email chains or note swapping websites. I have no problem with you obtaining notes from an individual classmate on an occasional basis when you miss class. But this must not occur regularly and may not be done through any type of collective group effort (exceptions are made for students with appropriate and documented Special Accommodations).

Plagiarism

Students will refrain from plagiarizing the academic property of others and to utilize appropriate citation method for all coursework. For this course, it is recommended that you use the APSA citation style, if applicable. Ignorance of the citation method is not an excuse for academic misconduct. Remember there is a difference between paraphrasing and quoting, and how to properly cite each respectively.

Technology Use

Laptop use in class is for note-taking, research purposes and academic-centered use. This privilege is contingently permitted, but may be rescinded at any time. It is an obvious concern that laptop use is a distraction to students during lectures, and I encourage you to keep the use of electronics to a minimum. Sustained abuse of laptop privileges may result in punitive adjustments to a student's participation grade when it becomes apparent to the instructor that technology is being used for purposes other than academic learning. Cell phone use is not allowed and should be avoided. Likewise, use of other technological devices is prohibited, unless approved by the instructor. Students may not record lectures or class discussions using any type of electronic device. Concerns related to this or any policy listed above should be discussed with the instructor, as amicable modifications will be based on genuine needs of the student, as it relates to learning in a university environment.

Communication and Conduct

All communication with the instructor and all written work should be prepared using formal, standard language. In other words, do not use “texting” language or other abbreviated jargon to communicate your thoughts and ideas for this class.

Additionally, all students are required to conduct themselves appropriately at all times and in a professional, courteous manner. This means it is necessary for you to treat others with respect and courtesy. Talking while the instructor or another student is talking will not be tolerated. Conduct that is disruptive and/or not respectful of an academic environment will also not be tolerated. Severe violation of these guidelines will be reported to the LSU Office for the Dean of Students.

General Statements

If in doubt about any policy, requirement, or content-related matter, please contact the instructor. Also, it would greatly benefit students to read and become familiar with the LSU General Catalog. This catalog contains the official policies and regulations of the University. I am more than willing to provide additional information or explanation to questions related to course content posed by students. Questions or concerns may be addressed in-class, through email, in-person during office hours, or by appointment. I will respond to emails within a timely manner, but allow up to 24 hours for responses. I am also available to meet before/after class to discuss questions or concerns.

LSU provides each student with a University-affiliated email (ex. jsmith4@lsu.edu) which you should have already activated and currently use. If you have not activated your University email account, you should do so immediately, as all course communication will be sent to this email address.

Check your email, check the course Moodle page, and check the Course Calendar (see below) on a regular basis. Be proactive!

The instructor reserves the right to amend any of the policies, requirements, or statements pertaining to this course/syllabus. Any modification of the syllabus or class schedule (for unexpected events such as emergencies, extenuating circumstances, etc.) will be conveyed to student either in-class or via email, with as much advance notice as reasonably possible.

Covid-19 Protocols & Student Learning

It is the individual’s right to decide what is best for them. However, LSU strongly encourages all students, faculty and staff to get vaccinated for COVID-19. Visit www.lsu.edu/roadmap/vaccines/ to learn how to get vaccinated on campus. Vaccination helps keep our campus community safe, helps protect those among us who are most vulnerable to COVID-19, and is our path back to more normal operations and the full college experience that our students deserve.

For the Fall 2022 semester, LSU is once again scheduled to hold on-campus learning. Note that if the university mandates a return to remote learning, the instructor will transition the course to an online class. I will provide a detailed and thorough plan if this were to be the case.

There are two appendices to this syllabus:

- 1) **Lecture Topics**, which provides topical information that is to be discussed during the course, along with assigned reading chapters. It is your responsibility to keep with where we are in terms of topics and lecture material.
- 2) **Course Calendar**, which list the dates for: class meetings, exams & quizzes, university holidays, and other notations needed by the student.

Have a great semester and Geaux Tigers.

LECTURE TOPICS
(in order of class discussion)

[Fall 2022]

- Topic I. Introduction to East Central Europe**
Required Reading: No Required Reading
- Topic II Early Twentieth Century States and Context of World War II**
Required Reading: Textbook, pp. 3-16
- Topic III. The Sovietization of East Central Europe**
Required Reading: Textbook, pp. 16-20
Bialer, pp. 175-185 & pp. 191-212
- Topic IV. Life Under Communism**
Required Reading: Case Files No. 1
- Topic V. The Cold War in East Central Europe and Elsewhere**
Required Reading: Textbook, pp. 20-24
- Topic VI. Revolutions of 1989**
Required Reading: "1989 Intro Essay"
- Topic VII. Challenges of Transformation: Democratic Systems**
Required Reading: Ramet & Hassenstab, Ch. 2,, Post-Socialist Models
- Topic VIII. Challenges of Transformation: Economy**
Required Reading: Textbook, Ch. 5
- Topic IX. Challenges of Transformation: Nationalism & Demography**
Required Reading: Textbook, Ch. 3
Textbook, Ch. 6
- Topic X. Case Study: East Germany and Poland**
Required Reading: Textbook, Ch. 11
- Topic XI. Case Study: Czech Republic and Slovakia**
Required Reading: Textbook, Ch. 12
- Topic XII. Case Study: Hungary and Romania**
Required Reading: Textbook, Chs. 13 & 16
- Topic XIII. Case Study: The Yugoslav Republics**
Required Reading: Textbook, Ch. 18
- Topic XIV. Looking West: Joining the European Union**
Required Reading: Textbook, Ch. 9

Topic XV. Regional Concerns and Contemporary Relations

Required Reading: Case Files No. 2

Topic XVI. International Threats: Russia & Others

Required Reading: Textbook, Ch. 10

| DATE | CLASS TYPE | GRADED ITEM / NOTES |
|-------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|
| Aug 22 (M) | Syllabus / Course Outline | First Class Meeting |
| Aug 24 (W) | Lecture | - |
| Aug 26 (F) | Lecture | - |
| | | |
| Aug 29 | Lecture | - |
| Aug 31 | Lecture | - |
| Sept 2 | Lecture | - |
| | | |
| Sept 5 | *No Class* | Labor Day |
| Sept 7 | Lecture | - |
| Sept 9 | Lecture | - |
| | | |
| Sept 12 | Lecture | - |
| Sept 14 | Lecture | - |
| Sept 16 | Lecture | |
| | | |
| Sept 19 | Lecture | - |
| Sept 21 | Lecture | - |
| Sept 23 | Lecture | Quiz #1 |
| | | |
| Sept 26 | Lecture | - |
| Sept 28 | Lecture | - |
| Sept 30 | Lecture | - |
| | | |

| | | |
|--------|--------------------|--------------|
| Oct 3 | Lecture | - |
| Oct 5 | Lecture | - |
| Oct 7 | Lecture | - |
| | | |
| Oct 10 | Lecture | - |
| Oct 12 | Examination Period | Midterm Exam |
| Oct 14 | *no class* | Fall Holiday |
| | | |
| Oct 17 | Lecture | - |
| Oct 19 | Lecture | - |
| Oct 21 | Lecture | - |
| | | |
| Oct 24 | Lecture | - |
| Oct 26 | Lecture | - |
| Oct 28 | Lecture | - |
| | | |
| Oct 31 | Lecture | - |
| Nov 2 | Lecture | - |
| Nov 4 | Lecture | - |
| | | |
| Nov 7 | Lecture | - |
| Nov 9 | Lecture | - |
| Nov 11 | Lecture | Quiz #2 |
| | | |
| Nov 14 | Lecture | - |
| Nov 16 | Lecture | - |
| Nov 18 | Lecture | - |

| | | |
|---------------|--------------------|---|
| Nov 21 | Lecture | - |
| Nov 23 | *no class* | Thanksgiving |
| Nov 25 | *no class* | Thanksgiving |
| | | |
| Nov 28 | Lecture | - |
| Nov 30 | Lecture | - |
| Dec 2 | Lecture | - |
| | | |
| | | |
| Dec 8 (Thur.) | Examination Period | FINAL EXAM 7:30am – 9:30am |
| | | |
| | | |