Politics of Eastern Europe
Summer 2015

Course Information

Course Name	Politics of Eastern Europe
Course ID & Section	CPO 3614 DW 59
Credit Hours	3
Semester/Year	Summer 2015
Location	World Wide Web

Instructor Contact

Instructor	Dr. Anca Turcu
Office	Online through Canvas Chat Tab
Office Hours	Wednesday 2:00 PM-4:00 PM EST
E-mail	anca.turcu@ucf.edu You may also e-mail me by using the Canvas e-mail/ message system. I will use that system to send out updates, important messages or announcements. If you e-mail me, I will do my best to get back to you quickly, but I may take up to 48 hours to respond. Please note that I do only respond to e-mail during regular business hours.
Academic and Content Related Questions	If you have questions about the academic material or class content, do not hesitate to contact me! Questions, feedback or comments are all welcome. For non-academic (not course content related questions), please see below.

Other Contact Information	If you have questions regarding technical support or any other non-academic, non course content related issues, you have to seek help through the technical support link on the class Home Page.

Course Description

This class will explore the government and politics of Eastern European countries, while providing a comparative insight into the institutions, electoral systems and processes that are specific to their governments. We will also examine historical contexts, political culture, social realities and policy outcomes specific to each country.

Course Objectives

On completing this course students will be able to:

1. discuss the historical roots and ideological teachings of Marxism, Marxism-Leninism, Socialism and Communism
2. understand the impact of communist rule on Eastern European countries
3. analyze the impact of the transition to market economy and democracy on the institutions and government policies upon the democratization process in each country
4. discuss the impact of EU and NATO membership on Eastern European countries
5. describe and compare institutions, policies and political culture in various Eastern European countries

Required Texts

- "Central and Eastern European Politics: From Communism to Democracy" by Sharon L. Wolchik (Editor), Jane L. Curry (Editor); Third Edition; Published 2014;
- " Communism and its Collapse" by Stephen White; First Edition; Published 2001. ISBN 10: 0415171806; ISBN 13: 978-0415171809

Note: Political Science texts change significantly from one edition to the next, as elections and current events reshape institutions and societies. Thus, it is imperative that you purchase the edition listed above.

Other Materials: Documentaries and Clips

For some modules in this class, you will be asked to watch documentaries, clips and other multimedia materials. Most of these clips will be available for free online via YouTube, PBS.org, TEDTalks and other sources. But, some documentaries might only be available on for-pay web streaming services providers such as Netflix or Amazon Instant Video. If that will be the case, I will at that time ask you to subscribe to those services. That means that for now you should not subscribe to these providers, but wait for my prompt to do so during the semester. I will provide further details about these video materials in each individual module and provide you with links or a clear indication where you can find the material. Not

viewing these documentaries or clips is not an option, since they are a central part of the class and quizzes and the written projects will draw on these materials quite extensively.

Academic Calendar

Week	Date	Module	Topic(s)	Readings
Week 1	05/18-25	Introductory Materials AND Module 1	Introduction and class overview AND Communism Defined; The Establishment of Soviet Rule in Eastern Europe	Syllabus and Introductory Materials Wolchik and Curry: Ch.1 (Page 3-17); White Chapters 1 & 2
Week 2	05/25-06/01	Module 2	Communist Rule in Eastern Europe: 1950s-1980s	Wolchik and Curry: Ch.1 (Page 17-25); White Chapters 3, 4 & 5
Week 3	06/01-08	Module 3	The Collapse of Soviet Control and the End of Communist Regimes in Eastern Europe	Wolchik and Curry: Ch.1 (Page 25- end of chapter); White Chapters 6,7 & 8
Week 4	06/08-15	Module 4	Case Study: Poland	Wolchik and Curry: Ch.10
Week 5	06/15-22	Module 5	Case Study: Hungary	Wolchik and Curry: Ch.12
Week 6	06/22-29	Module 6	Case Study The Czech and Slovak Republics	Wolchik and Curry: Ch.11
Week 7	06/29-07/06	Module 7	Case Study: Ukraine	Wolchik and Curry: Ch.18
Week 8	07/06-13	Module 8	Case Study: Romania	Wolchik and Curry: Ch.15
Week 9	07/13-20	Module 9	Case Study: Former Yugoslavia	Wolchik and Curry: Ch. 17

Due Dates

Weekly Assignments

Due every week by Monday evening, at 11.59 PM, EST; with the exception of the assignment for week 1, which is due at the same time as the assignment for week 2, on June 1st.

Final Paper:

Final Paper requirements will be posted on the class website on 07/06, and will be due on Friday, 7/17 at 11:59 PM. See below for submission details.

Course Requirements

Weekly Assignments

Weekly assignments will test your knowledge of material from weekly modules, readings and clips or documentaries.

For weekly assignments you will have the choice between taking a quiz (20 multiple choice questions, 20 minutes) OR completing a written assignment every week.

Please only complete one of the two assignments. If you complete both, only the quiz will be graded. **Make sure that you only click the "quiz" tab if you have chosen to take the quiz that week. Clicking the tab to only look at quiz questions is not allowed. Once you click on that tab, the system will give you a grade for that quiz, even if you have only been on that page for only a couple of seconds. In that case, the quiz grade will be the only one to count for that week, even if you submit a written paper for that week. So please, no 'peeking' at quizzes! Click the quiz tab only if you have committed to the quiz and you are ready to complete it.** You will have to answer twenty multiple choice or true/ false questions at 5 points each, for 100 points total.

The alternative will be a written assignment which you can read prior to submission and which will be made up of some short questions about the topic of the week and other instructions.

I am aware that some students do better with quizzes than written answers, or vice versa. This is why I am giving you the choice. But, I encourage you to try each one of the two at least once during the semester **(not both during the same week!).** Even if you do not like writing, I encourage you to complete at least one weekly written assignment, so that you know what to expect and how to go about answering a written assignment, given that the final will be very similar to such written assignments.

If you complete all nine weekly assignments, your two lowest assignment scores will be dropped at the end of class, leaving you with seven assignments worth 10% of your grade each. That is, seven assignments will make up 70% of your final grade. If you miss an assignment, or fail to submit it on time, you will automatically be assigned a grade of 0 for that assignment. Assignments will be available, with the rest of the content for each module, on the Monday of each week. Assignments will close each week by Monday evening of the following week, at 11.59 PM EST and

may be completed only once. Please avoid last minute submissions in order to avoid technical difficulties.

The last weekly assignment for the class will be due on 07/20/ 2015 and will open a week before that.

Final Paper

You will have to complete a final paper that will cover numerous topics discussed in the various modules. The final paper assignment will be posted on the class website on 07/06 and you will have until 07/17 at 11:59 PM to complete and submit your work. The final paper must be submitted through Canvas written submission, just like written assignments during the semester. This site is designed to help me identify plagiarism, so make sure to take all necessary measures needed to avoid plagiarism. If you are not sure what constitutes plagiarism and how to avoid it, take this UCF library tutorial: http://infolit.ucf.edu/students/modules/#article116 Students who plagiarize will receive and automatic FZ grade for the entire class. Please allow for plenty of time to complete the assignment, so that you avoid last minute submissions and the technical difficulties that sometimes accompany them. Assignments submitted late will be penalized by 10 points/24 hours, up to (but no later than) 72 hours post due date, including weekend days.

Missed Assignments/Make-Ups

No extensions will be granted if you fail to submit your work due to technical difficulties. Should you encounter technical problems, please contact Canvas web support. I cannot help you with technical issues. Also, please keep in mind that you are solely responsible if you fail to submit a quiz or an assignment due to technical difficulties, save for a major natural disaster (i.e. a hurricane). In the event of a hurricane, which causes power outages and evacuations, do not panic about your online assignments. Your safety and that of your family is your first priority. When power is restored, contact me. I will work with individual students to determine the best course of action. Remember, your professor could be experiencing the same or similar problems in the event of a hurricane! Other circumstances, which may be considered "unavoidable", include medical emergencies. Pertinent documentation, deemed acceptable by the professor, will be required for any delayed assignment. If you miss an assignment due to illness, e-mail me (scan) an official notification form a doctor or hospital at the latest a week after due date, in order to be allowed to make up missed work.

Evaluation and Grading

Assignment	Percentage of Grade
Weekly Assignments (7)	70
Final Paper	30
Total	100

Grading Scale

Letter Grade	Points
A	93 – 100
A-	90 – 92
B+	87 – 89
B	83 – 86
B-	80 – 82
C+	77 – 79
C	73 – 76
C-	70 – 72
D+	67 – 69
D	63 – 66
D-	60 – 62
F	59 and below

Grading Formula

(final paper *.30) + [(sum of seven highest scoring weekly assignments/7) *.70]= final grade

Attendance Policy

This course is web-based, fully online and considered a "W" course. Students are expected to fully participate in all online activities and to complete all assignments by the due dates.

Participation and a timely completion of work and assignments are both considered similar to attendance in a face-to-face class. Assignments that are not turned into Canvas by the due date, will receive 0 points.

Academic Honesty

Students must demonstrate a high level of responsibility and academic honesty. Because the value of an academic degree depends upon the absolute integrity of the work done by the student for that degree, it is imperative that a student demonstrate a high standard of individual honor in his or her scholastic work.

Scholastic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, statements, acts or omissions related to applications for enrollment or the award of a degree, and/or the submission as one’s own work or material that is not one’s own. As a general rule, scholastic dishonesty involves one of the following acts: cheating, plagiarism, self-plagiarism, collusion and/or falsifying academic records.

If you are not sure what constitutes plagiarism and how to avoid it, take the UCF library tutorial.

Students who cheat, plagiarize, falsify records or practice any other form of academic dishonesty will receive an automatic FZ grade for the class.

Disability Statement

The University of Central Florida is committed to providing reasonable accommodations for all persons with disabilities. This syllabus is available in alternate formats upon request. Students with disabilities who need accommodations in this course must contact the professor at the beginning of the semester to discuss needed accommodations. No accommodations will be provided until the student has contacted Student

Disabilities Services, and the professor, in order to request accommodations. Students who need accommodations must be registered with Student Disability Services, Student Resource Center Room 132, phone (407) 823-2371, TTY/TDD only phone (407) 823-2116, before requesting accommodations from the professor.

Copyright

This course may contain copyright protected materials such as audio or video clips, images, text materials, etc. These items are being used with regard to the Fair Use doctrine in order to enhance the learning environment. Please do not copy, duplicate, download or distribute these items. The use of these materials is strictly reserved for this online classroom environment and your use only. All copyright materials are credited to the copyright holder.

Third-Party Software and FERPA

During this course you might have the opportunity to use public online services and/or software applications sometimes called third-party software such as a blog or wiki. While some of these could be required assignments, you need **not** make any personally identifying information on a public site. Do not post or provide any private information about yourself or your classmates. Where appropriate you may use a pseudonym or nickname. Some written assignments posted publicly may require personal reflection/comments, but the assignments will not require you to disclose any personally identity-sensitive information. If you have any concerns about this, please contact your instructor.

Religious Holidays

The University of Central Florida welcomes diversity of religious beliefs and practices, recognizing the contributions differing experiences and viewpoints can bring to the community. There may be times when an academic or work requirement conflicts with religious observances and practices. If that happens, students may request reasonable accommodation of their religious practices. In all cases, you must put your request in writing and present it to the instructor at the beginning of the semester. The instructor or supervisor will review the situation in an effort to provide a reasonable accommodation when possible to do so without fundamentally altering a course or creating an undue burden for the department.

E-mail Protocols

E-mail will be an integral part of this course. Make sure you: Check your e-mail at least once every 48 hours during regular business hours (more often is better).

Be patient. Don't expect an immediate response when you send a message. Generally, two days is considered reasonable amount of time to receive a reply. Please not that your professor only checks and answers to e-mails during regular business hours.

Include "Subject" headings: use something that is descriptive and refer to a particular assignment or topic.

Be courteous and considerate. Being honest and expressing yourself freely is very important, but being considerate of others online is just as important as in the classroom.

Make every effort to be clear. Online communication lacks the nonverbal cues that fill in much of the meaning in face-to-face communication.

Do not use all caps. This makes the message very hard to read and is considered "shouting." Check spelling, grammar, and punctuation (you may want to compose in a word processor, then cut and paste the message into the discussion or e-mail).

Break up large blocks of text into paragraphs and use a space between paragraphs.

Sign your e-mail messages.

Never assume that your e-mail can be read by no one except yourself; others may be able to read or access your mail. Never send or keep anything that you would mind seeing on the evening news.

Disclaimer

Please note that the academic calendar, policies, procedures and assignments listed in this syllabus are subject to change at the discretion of the professor.