Politics of Eastern Europe
Summer 2018

Course Information

Course Name	Politics of Eastern Europe
Course ID & Section	CPO 3614 DW 60
Credit Hours	3
Semester/Year/Location	Summer D 2018; World Wide Web

Instructor Contact

Instructor	Dr. Anca Turcu
Office	Online through Canvas Chat Tab
Office Hours	By appointment via Canvas conference chat. If you would like to chat with me, please e-mail me and we can make arrangements for an online discussion during regular business hours, Monday-Friday.
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.
GTA	Sandor Fabian Sandor.Fabian@Kights.ucf.edu

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 and Student Learning Outcomes

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); Fourth Edition; Published 2018 (available through UCF bookstore)
- " Communism and its Collapse" by Stephen White; First Edition; Published 2001. ISBN 10: 0415171806; ISBN 13: 978-0415171809 (order online, or from non-UCF bookstore)

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 editions 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, TED Talks 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	05/14-21	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 3-13); White Chapters 1 & 2
Week 2	05/21-05/29	Module 2	Communist Rule in Eastern Europe: 1950s-1980s	Wolchik and Curry: Ch.1 (Page 13-21); White Chapters 3, 4 & 5
Week 3	05/29-06/04	Module 3	The Collapse of Soviet Control and the End of Communist Regimes in Eastern Europe	Wolchik and Curry: Ch.1 (Page 21- end of chapter); White Chapters 6,7 & 8
Week 4	06/04-06/11	Module 4	Case Study: Poland	Wolchik and Curry: Ch.9
Week 5	06/11-18	Module 5	Case Study: Hungary	Wolchik and Curry: Ch.11 and Ch. 7 pages 171-186
Week 6	06/18-25	Module 6	Case Study The Czech and Slovak Republics	Wolchik and Curry: Ch.10
Week 7	06/25-07/03	Module 7	Case Study: Ukraine	Wolchik and Curry: Ch.17
Week 8	07/03-09	Module 8	Case Study: Romania	Wolchik and Curry: Ch.14
Week 9	07/09-16	Module 9	Case Study: Former Yugoslavia	Wolchik and Curry: Ch. 16

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 Tuesday, May 29th (Monday, May 28th is Memorial Day and UCF is closed).

Final Paper:
Final Paper requirements will be posted on the class website on 06/25, and will be due on Monday, 7/09 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. Therefore 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 (see above for exception on Memorial Day, May 28th). Assignments will close each week by Monday evening of the following week, at 11:59 PM EST (see above for exception on Memorial Day, May 28th) and may be completed only once. Please avoid last minute submissions in order to prevent technical difficulties.

The last weekly assignment for the class will be due on 07/16/ 2018 and will open on 7/09/2018.Weekly assignments submitted post due will not receive credit.

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 06/25 and you will have until 07/09 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. Final papers submitted late will be penalized by 10 points/24 hours, up to (but no later than) 48 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.

Federal Financial Aid Requirement

UCF must comply with a federal financial aid regulation that states that in order to receive federal aid, students must be actively academically engaged (according to a federal definition) in each course in which they are enrolled. All faculty are required to document students' academic activity at the beginning of each course. Without verification of this engagement, students will not receive their financial aid.

In order to document that you began this course, you will be required to complete a short quiz in Canvas during the first week of classes, no later than May 18th. Failure to do so may result in a delay in the disbursement of students' financial aid or will mean that students will not receive their aid.

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

Course Policies

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

The Center for Academic Integrity (CAI) defines academic integrity as a commitment, even in the face of adversity, to five fundamental values: honesty, trust, fairness, respect, and responsibility. From these values flow principles of behavior that enable academic communities to translate ideals into action.

http://www.academicintegrity.org/icai/assets/FVProject.pdf

***UCF Creed*:** Integrity, scholarship, community, creativity, and excellence are the core values that guide our conduct, performance, and decisions.

1. Integrity: I will practice and defend academic and personal honesty.
2. Scholarship: I will cherish and honor learning as a fundamental purpose of my membership in the UCF community.
3. Community: I will promote an open and supportive campus environment by respecting the rights and contributions of every individual.
4. Creativity: I will use my talents to enrich the human experience.
5. Excellence: I will strive toward the highest standards of performance in any endeavor I undertake.

The following definitions of plagiarism and misuse of sources comes from the Council of Writing Program Administrators <http://wpacouncil.org/node/9> and has been adopted by UCF's Department of Writing & Rhetoric.

Plagiarism
In an instructional setting, plagiarism occurs when a writer deliberately uses someone else's language, ideas, or other original (not common-knowledge) material without acknowledging its source. This definition applies to texts published in print or on-line, to manuscripts, and to the work of other student writers.

Responses to Academic Dishonesty, Plagiarism, or Cheating
UCF faculty members have a responsibility for your education and the value of a UCF degree, and so seek to prevent unethical behavior and when necessary respond to infringements of academic integrity. Penalties can include a failing grade in an assignment or in the course, suspension or expulsion from the university, and/or a "Z Designation" on a student's official transcript indicating academic dishonesty, where the final grade for this course will be preceded by the letter Z. For more information about the Z Designation, see http://goldenrule.sdes.ucf.edu/zgrade.

For more information about UCF's Rules of Conduct, see http://www.osc.sdes.ucf.edu/.

Unauthorized Use of Class Materials
There are many fraudulent websites claiming to offer study aids to students but are actually cheat sites. They encourage students to upload course materials, such as test questions, individual assignments, and examples of graded material. Such materials are the intellectual property of instructors, the university, or publishers and may not be distributed without prior authorization. Students who engage in such activity are in violation of academic conduct standards and will face penalties.

In-Class Recording Policy
Outside of the notetaking and recording services offered by Student Accessibility Services, the creation of an audio or video recording of all or part of a class for personal use is allowed *only* with the advance and explicit written consent of the instructor. Such recordings are only acceptable in the context of personal, private studying and notetaking and are not authorized to be shared with *anyone* without the separate written approval of the instructor.

Student Accessibility Statement

The University of Central Florida is committed to providing access and inclusion for all persons with disabilities. This syllabus is available in alternate formats upon request. Students with disabilities who need specific access in this course, such as accommodations, should contact the professor as soon as possible to discuss various access options. Students should also connect with Student Accessibility Services (Ferrell Commons, 7F, Room 185, sas@ucf.edu, phone (407) 823-2371). Through Student Accessibility Services, a Course Accessibility Letter may be created and sent to professors, which informs faculty of potential access and accommodations that might be reasonable.

Deployed Active Duty Military Students
If you are a deployed active duty military student and feel that you may need a special accommodation due to that unique status, please contact your instructor to discuss your circumstances.

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 courteous. Remember, you are addressing your college professor and your colleagues. Decorum is a must. “Please” and “thank you” go a long way, and show a minimum level of civility. Be patient. Don’t expect an immediate response when you send a message. Generally, two business 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.