Politics of Eastern Europe
Fall 2019

Course Information

Course Name	Politics of Eastern Europe
Course ID & Section	CPO 3614 0W60
Credit Hours	3
Prerequisites	ENC 1102 or POS 2041
Corequisites	None
Semester/Year	Fall 2019
Location	World Wide Web

Professor and GTA Contact

Instructor	Dr. Anca Turcu
Office	Online: Canvas Chat
Office Hours	Online via Canvas Chat Mondays 3:00 PM-5:00PM
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, please seek help through the technical support link on the class Home Page.
GTA	Sandor Fabian sandor.fabian@knights.ucf.edu

Catalogue Description

An examination of the political and economic dynamics of Eastern Europe in the post-1945 era.

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 Learning Outcomes

The course objectives and learning outcomes for Politics of Eastern Europe (CPO 3614) strive to meet the criteria outlined by the Department of Political Science Academic Learning Compacts: https://oeas.ucf.edu/doc/cos/alc_cos_political_science_ba.pdf

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. The book is also available, for free, in electronic format, from the UCF Library.)

- **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 use 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, 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	Module	Topic(s)	Readings
Intro Week (08/26-09/03)	Introductory Module	Introduction and Class Overview	Syllabus
Week 1 (09/03-09)	Module 1	Communism Defined; The Establishment of Soviet Rule in Eastern Europe	Wolchik and Curry: Ch.1 (Page 3-13); White Chapters 1 & 2
Week 2 (09/09- 16)	Module 2	Communist Rule in Eastern Europe: 1950s-1980s	Wolchik and Curry: Ch.1 (Page 13-21); White Chapters 3, 4 & 5
Week 3 (09/16- 23)	Module 3	The Collapse of Soviet Control	Wolchik and Curry: Ch.1 (Page 21- end of chapter); White Chapters 6,7 & 8
Week 4 (09/23- 30)	Module 4	The Political Transition; Re-creating the Market	Wolchik and Curry: Chs. 2 and 3
Week 5 (09/30-10/07)	Module 5	EU and NATO Accession and After	Wolchik and Curry: Chs. 7 & 8
Week 6 (10/07-14)	Module 6	Case Study: Poland	Wolchik and Curry: Ch.9
Week 7 (10/14-21)	Module 7	Case Study The Czech and Slovak Republics	Wolchik and Curry: Ch.10
Week 8 (10/21-28)	Module 8	Case Study: Hungary	Wolchik and Curry: Ch.11 and Ch. 7 pages 171-186
Week 9 (10/28-11/04)	Module 9	Case Study: The Baltic States	Wolchik and Curry: Ch.12
Week 10 (11/04-12)	Module 10	Case Study: Romania	Wolchik and Curry: Ch.14
Week 11 (11/12-18)	Module 11	Case Study: Former Yugoslavia and Its Successors	Wolchik and Curry: Ch. 16
Week 12 (11/18-25)	Module 12	Case Study: Ukraine	Wolchik and Curry: Ch. 17
Week 13 (11/25-12/02)	Final Paper	Final Paper: Due 12/09	None
Week 14 (12/02-09)	Final Paper	Final Paper: Due 12/09	None

Course Requirements

Weekly Assignments Twelve weekly assignments (starting with week 1 09/03-09/10) will test your knowledge of the material from the module covered during each week. Your two lowest scoring weekly assignments will be dropped at the end of class, leaving you with ten weekly assignments scores, worth 7% of your grade each. That is, ten weekly assignments will make up 70% of your final grade. If you miss a weekly 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 and will close by the Monday evening (at 11:59 PM EST), of the following week. After an assignment closes, I will release grades and correct answers within a week and you will have one week to review your answers and let me know if you have questions regarding your grade. After that, assignment questions and correct answers will no longer be visible. Note that no weekly assignments will be due for the introductory week and weeks 13 and 14, when you will be working on your final paper. Weekly assignments may be quizzes, short essays or discussion posts. On some weeks, you might be given a choice between a quiz and a written assignment or discussions. More details to follow in the weekly module overviews.

Final Paper: Students will have to submit a Final Paper. This paper will be worth 30% of your final grade. The final paper will be posted on Monday, 11/25 and will be due on Monday, 12/09 at 11:59 PM. Note that the final assignment must be submitted through the Canvas online submission system. This system 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 cheat, commit plagiarism or engage in any other type of dishonest academic behavior will fail the class, (will receive an FZ grade) and will also be subject to disciplinary proceedings. Please review the UCF Golden Rule: http://goldenrule.sdes.ucf.edu/ Please allow for plenty of time to complete each assignment, so that you avoid last minute submissions and the technical difficulties that sometimes accompany them. Final assignments should not be submitted late and will incur a 10 points penalty for every 24 hours delay post due date. Final assignments submitted more than 48 hours post due date will not be accepted and will be given a grade of 0. **Note:** students who request a review of final paper grading should be aware that I re-grade the whole paper once I receive such a request. This may sometimes result in a lower grade than the one previously granted.

Due Dates

Weekly assignments: due weekly on Monday evenings by 11:59 PM EST EXCEPT for the Introductory Week and Week 14. Also, the assignment for Week 10 will be due 11/12 (due to the Veterans' Day holiday). Modules 1 and 11, and the weekly assignment for Weeks 1 and 11 will be posted on Tuesday, 09/03, and Tuesday 11/12, respectively. **Final Paper:** due by 12/09 2019 at 11:59 PM EST

Missed Assignments/Make-Ups

Students who represent the university in an authorized event or activity (for example, student-athletes) and who are unable to meet a course deadline due to a conflict with that event must provide the instructor with documentation in advance to arrange a make-up. No penalty will be applied. For more information, see the UCF policy.

I will not grant extensions if you fail to submit your work due to technical difficulties. You are solely responsible if you fail to submit 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 and I will work with you to determine the best course of action. Other circumstances, which may be considered "unavoidable", include medical or legal emergencies. Pertinent official documentation will be required if you plan on requesting to make up a quiz or assignment due to unavoidable circumstances. You have to submit such documentation no later than a week after the due date of the missed assignment has passed. Documentation submitted after that date will not be deemed acceptable.

Extra Credit

Your professor does not anticipate offering any extra credit assignments in this class. Should this change, you will be notified in a timely manner via Canvas e-mail.

Evaluation and Grading

(Grades will be recorded and released via Canvas/ Webcourses.)

Assignment	Percentage of Grade
Weekly Assignments (10)	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 (Canvas does not display final grades correctly. Use this formula to calculate your final grade)

(final project*.30) + [(sum of 10 highest scoring weekly assignments assignments/10) *.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 before the due date, will receive 0 points. Missed quizzes cannot be retaken.

Deployed Active Duty Military Students

Students who are deployed active duty military and/or National Guard personnel and require accommodation should contact their instructors as soon as possible after the semester begins and/or after they receive notification of deployment to make related arrangements.

Religious Observances

Students must notify their instructor in advance if they intend to miss class for a religious observance. For more information, see the UCF policy.

Academic Honesty

Students should familiarize themselves with UCF's Rules of Conduct. According to Section 1, "Academic Misconduct," students are prohibited from engaging in

1. Unauthorized assistance: Using or attempting to use unauthorized materials, information or study aids in any academic exercise unless specifically authorized by the instructor of record. The unauthorized possession of examination or course-related material also constitutes cheating.
2. Communication to another through written, visual, electronic (including GroupMe or similar apps or chat rooms), or oral means: The presentation of material which has not been studied or learned, but rather was obtained through someone else's efforts and used as part of an examination, course assignment, or project.
3. Commercial Use of Academic Material: Selling of course material to another person, student, and/or uploading course material to a third-party vendor without authorization or without the express written permission of the university and the instructor. Course materials include but are not limited to class notes, Instructor's PowerPoints, course syllabi, tests, quizzes, labs, instruction sheets, homework, study guides, handouts, etc.
4. Falsifying or misrepresenting the student's own academic work.
5. Plagiarism: Using or appropriating another's work without any indication of the source, thereby attempting to convey the impression that such work is the student's own.

6. Multiple Submissions: Submitting the same academic work for credit more than once without the express written permission of the instructor.
7. Helping another violate academic behavior standards.

For more information about Academic Integrity, students may consult The Center for Academic Integrity.
For more information about plagiarism and misuse of sources, see "Defining and Avoiding Plagiarism: The WPA Statement on Best Practices."

Responses to Academic Dishonesty, Plagiarism, or Cheating

Students should also familiarize themselves with the procedures for academic misconduct in UCF's student handbook, *The Golden Rule*. UCF faculty members have a responsibility for students' education and the value of a UCF degree, and so seek to prevent unethical behavior and when necessary respond to academic misconduct. 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, click here.

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 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 the Friday of the first week of classes. 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.

Student Complaints and Appeals

Procedures regarding student complaints and appeals can be found here:
https://www.sdes.ucf.edu/student-complaints-and-appeals/

Student Accessibility

The University of Central Florida is committed to providing access and inclusion for all persons with disabilities. Students with disabilities who need disability-related access in this course should contact the professor as soon as possible. Students should also connect with Student Accessibility Services (SAS) <http://sas.sdes.ucf.edu/> (Ferrell Commons 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. Determining reasonable access and accommodations requires consideration of the course design, course learning objectives and the individual academic and course barriers experienced by the student.

Campus Safety Statement for Students in Online-Only Courses

Though most emergency situations are primarily relevant to courses that meet in person, such incidents can also impact online students, either when they are on or near campus to participate in other courses or activities or when their course work is affected by off-campus emergencies. The following policies apply to courses in online modalities.

To stay informed about emergency situations, students can sign up to receive UCF text alerts by going to ucf.edu and logging in. Click on “Student Self Service” located on the left side of the screen in the toolbar, scroll down to the blue “Personal Information” heading on the Student Center screen, click on “UCF Alert”, fill out the information, including e-mail address, cell phone number, and cell phone provider, click “Apply” to save the changes, and then click “OK.” Students with special needs related to emergency situations should speak with their instructors outside of class.

Viruses

A virus can spell disaster. Your use of a reputable anti-virus program is a requirement for participation in this course (good ones include McAfee or Norton).

Also, back up your files: “My hard drive crashed.” “My modem doesn’t work.” “My printer is out of ink.” These are today’s equivalents of “My dog ate my homework.” These events really do occur and they are really inconvenient when they do. However, these are not valid excuses for failing to get your work in on time.

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.

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.

Technical Assistance

For specific problems in any of the areas below or for further information go to the corresponding link for assistance.

UCF Home Page will help find UCF resources.

UCF Service Desk – You can also call the Service Desk at 407-823-5117.

Learning Online This site provides information on study skills for distance learners, the library and the writing center.

Buying a new computer or upgrading your current equipment – http://www.cstore.ucf.edu/

Technical Discussion Topic: If you have technical questions and/or problems, please post a message to the Technical Discussion Topic. I encourage members of the class who are technically proficient to also monitor this discussion topic and assist your classmates.

If your equipment problems prevent you from using e-mail from home, there are many computer labs on campus and virtually every public library offers Internet access.

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.

Important Disclaimer

These descriptions and timelines are subject to change at the discretion of the professor. I will provide notification of such changes in a timely manner.