

CPO 4461: Politics of Eastern Europe

Spring 2005

PC 428, M/W 11:00-12:15

Professor Tatiana Kostadinova

Office: DM 481-B

Office hours: M/W 12:45-1:45 or by appointment

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Course Objectives:

This course examines the past and present political and socio-economic development of countries from East Central Europe (ECE), Albania, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Poland, Romania, and former Yugoslavia. Similarities and differences in their historical experience will be revealed to stress the importance of the legacies of the past and their relevance to the process of democratization. Attempts to build new institutions and carry out the transition from central planning to a market economy will be evaluated with an emphasis on the specifics of individual country choices and problems. Finally, issues such as nationalism and aspirations toward European integration and NATO membership will be discussed as important factors for a secure and stable development of post-Communist Eastern Europe.

Course Requirements:

Students will be expected to complete their *reading assignments* before the class meets and to participate in discussions. There will be one *quiz* earlier in the semester and two exams. The quiz will include a section that asks students to correctly place the East European countries and their capital cities on a map. The *midterm* and *final* exam will include identifications and essays. Students need to notify me in cases when they have serious reasons, such as illness or an unavoidable event, not to take the exam at the time scheduled in the syllabus. You will also work in teams on a *group project* and will present in class a group report with the results of your work. At the next class meeting, each student will be required to submit a *paper* (hard copy) with his/her own discussion on the findings from the group project. The work groups will be organized after the first week of classes. I will distribute instructions for the paper and my expectation is that you get familiar with them and follow them strictly. All graded work should be a product of your own thought and creativity. Cheating and dishonesty will be penalized, including failure of the course.

Students with disabilities who need special accommodations with respect to testing and other aspects of their work for the course should identify themselves to the instructor at the beginning of the semester. Whatever is necessary will be done to provide opportunities for participation in class to all students.

Grading:

The final course grade will be assigned according to the following weights:

Quiz	10%
Group project	10%
Paper	20%
Midterm exam	25%
Final exam	35%

Required Texts:

Your daily reading assignments are from three books that are available for purchase at the FIU Bookstore:

Rothschild, Joseph, and Nancy Meriwether Wingfield. 1999. Return to Diversity: A Political History of East Central Europe Since World War II. Oxford University Press.

White, Stephen, Judy Batt, and Paul G. Lewis. 2003. Developments in Central and East European Politics. Duke University Press.

Drakulic, Slavenka. 1996. Café Europa: Life after Communism. New York: Penguin Books.

Schedule of Classes and Assignments:

1/10	Introduction
1/12	Identifying the region White, Batt, and Lewis (WBL), Chapter 1
1/17	No class – Martin Luther King Holiday
1/19	Eastern Europe in the Interwar Period Rothschild & Wingfield (R&W), Chapter 1
1/24	Eastern Europe during World War II R&W, Chapter 2 QUIZ
1/26	The Communists Come to Power R&W, Chapter 3
1/31	Totalitarianism R&W, Chapter 4
2/2	Attempts for Reassertion R&W, Chapter 5
2/7	De-Stalinization R&W, Chapter 6
2/9	The Collapse of Communist Regimes R&W, Chapter 7
2/14	Resurgence of Nationalism WBL, Chapter 5
2/16	Poland WBL, Chapter 2 <u>Report Group I</u>
2/21	Hungary WBL, Chapter 4 <u>Report Group II</u>

- 2/23 Bulgaria
WBL, pp. 74-79
Drakulic, pp. 6-13
Report Group III
- 2/28 Czechoslovakia
WBL, Chapter 3
Report Group IV
- 3/2 Romania
Drakulic, pp. 32-37
Report Group V
- 3/7 MIDTERM EXAM
- 3/9 Yugoslavia
WBL, pp. 80-91
Drakulic, pp. 79-84, 143-194
Report Group VI
- 3/14 Albania
Drakulic, pp. 53-59
Report Group VII
- 3/16 Executive Leadership
WBL, Chapter 7
Drakulic, pp. 100-108, 143-159
- 3/21- SPRING BREAK
- 3/28 The New Parliaments
WBL, Chapter 8
- 3/30 Political Parties
WBL, Chapter 9
- 4/4 Elections and Voting Behavior
WBL, Chapter 10
- 4/6 Constitutional Engineering
WBL, Chapter 11
Drakulic, pp. 93-99
- 4/11 Economies in Transition
WBL, Chapter 12
Drakulic, pp. 38-52, 60-78, 109-117
- 4/13 Changing Societies
WBL, Chapter 13
Drakulic, pp. 14-21, 118-125

- 4/18 Implications of EU and NATO Membership
WBL, Chapter 14
Drakulic, pp. 204-213
- 4/20 Nationalism
TBA
- 4/27 FINAL EXAM - 9:30 -12:15