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Political Science 452
Spring 2004
217 Thomas
T R 1:00P - 02:15P

THE POLITICS AND GOVERNMENT OF EASTERN EUROPE

Description of the course: The course covers the political development of Eastern Europe since the Second World War. Stress will be placed on the region's experience with the Soviet-type system and contemporary efforts towards political and economic reform. The course is designed for upper-level undergraduates.

Prerequisites: PLSC 3, 20, or 22, or 6 credit hours of other political science courses, or an equivalent offering from another department (e.g. HIST 142). Undergraduates who are not prepared for the course may consult with the instructor for permission to enroll in the course.

Requirements: Attendance of all lectures and the completion of all required readings is mandatory. This in itself is not sufficient to do well in the course. Students must demonstrate mastery of the course material in tests, class discussion, and projects.

Informed and intelligent class participation is encouraged. A number of class sessions will be devoted to discussion rather than lecture. Reading assignments should be completed as indicated by the instructor in class.

There will be three in-class exams in the course of the semester. The dates of the exams will be February 5, March 4, and April 8. For the first exam, students are expected to be able to identify the countries of the region on an unmarked map, and list their capital cities.

All students will work together on substantial group projects, researching post-revolutionary developments in one of four critical areas -- political institutions, parties and elections, economic reform, or European integration. The findings of these projects will be presented to the class as a whole. Students will also write up their findings in lieu of a final.

Grading Criteria:

Attendance and participation.....	15%
Exams.....	45%
Group project.....	40%

Required Readings:

All students are expected to read The New York Times (or another newspaper of high quality) on a daily basis to keep track of current developments in Eastern Europe. Any and all material on the region may well (and probably will) appear on the exams. Students will be expected to have read that day's Times prior to class, except on exam days. Students with access to e-mail are encouraged to subscribe to the RFE/RL Daily Report (www.rferl.org)

The following books have been ordered at the Penn State Bookstore and placed on reserve at Pattee Library. In the rest of the syllabus they will be referred to by the abbreviations in brackets that precedes them:

[JR] Joseph Rothschild, Return to Diversity: A Political History of East Central Europe since WW II, 3rd Edition.

[GS] Gail Stokes, The Walls Came Tumbling Down: The Collapse of Communism in Eastern Europe.

[Doc] Gail Stokes, ed. From Stalinism to Pluralism, A Documentary History of Eastern Europe since 1945, Second Edition.

All other required readings have been put on reserve at Pattee.

COURSE OUTLINE

I. Organizational Meeting.

II. Historical Background.

Textbooks:

[JR] chs. 1 & 2, [GS] pp. 3-11.

Other Required Readings:

George Schopflin, "The Political Traditions of Eastern Europe," Daedalus 119:1 (1990), pp. 55-90.

Recommended:

Joseph Rothschild, East Central Europe between the Two World Wars.

C.A. Macartney and A.W. Palmer, Independent Eastern Europe.

Daniel Chirot, ed. The Origins of Backwardness in Eastern Europe.

Ivan T. Berend and Gyorgy Ranki, Economic Development in East-Central Europe in the 19th and 20th Centuries.

III. Stalinism.

Textbooks:

[JR] ch. 3 & 4, [Doc] pp. 9-77.

Other Required Readings:

George Schopflin, "The Stalinist Experience in Eastern Europe," Survey 30:3 (1988), pp. 124-147.

Isaac Deutscher, "The Tragic Life of a Polrugarian Minister," in Heretics and Renegades, pp. 23-34.

Recommended:

Ferenc Fejto, A History of the People's Democracies.

Czeslaw Milosz, The Captive Mind.

Zbigniew Brzezinski, The Soviet Bloc.

Charles Gati, Hungary and the Soviet Bloc (Part 1).

Hugh Seton-Watson, The East European Revolution.

Eugen Loeb, My Mind on Trial.

Milovan Djilas, Conversations with Stalin.

IV. Destalinization..

A. General Discussion.

Textbooks:

[JR] ch. 5.

Other Required Readings:

Jeremy Azrael, "Varieties of De-Stalinization," Change in Communist Systems, Chalmers Johnson, ed., pp. 135-151.

B. The Polish October.

Other Required Readings:

Jakub Karpinski, Countdown, Chapter 2.

C. The Hungarian Revolution.

Textbooks:

[Doc] pp. 81-93.

D. The Prague Spring.

Textbooks:

[Doc] pp. 122-130.

Recommended:

Bill Lomax, Hungary 1956.

Zdenek Mlynar, Nightfrost in Prague.

Zbigniew Brzezinski, The Soviet Bloc.

H. Gordon Skilling, Czechoslovakia's Failed Revolution.

Jiri Valenta, Soviet Intervention in Czechoslovakia.

Charles Gati, Hungary and the Soviet Bloc (Part 2).

Paul Zinner, ed. National Communism and Popular Revolt in Eastern Europe.

Chris Harman, Bureaucracy and Revolution in Eastern Europe.

Paul Zwick, National Communism, pp. 73-126.

V. From Stalemate to Revolution.

A. The International Dimension

Textbooks:

[JR] ch. 6.5, 6.6, [GS] pp. 68-77, [Doc] pp. 131-134, 289-294.

Recommended:

Charles Gati, The Bloc that Failed.

Karen Dawisha, Eastern Europe, Gorbachev, and Reform.

B. Poland.

Textbooks:

[JR] ch. 6.1, 7.1, 7.2, [GS] ch. 1 & 4, [Doc] pp. 107-114, 139-143, 188-215, 235-242.

C. Hungary

Textbooks:

[JR] ch. 6.2, 7.4, [GS] ch. 2, pp. 131-6, [Doc] pp. 144-49, 175-180, 184-87, 232-241, 265-69.

D. Czechoslovakia.

Textbooks:

[JR] ch. 6.3, 7.2, [GS] pp. 65-68, 148-158, [Doc] pp. 150-55, 163-174, 216-223, 249-253.

E. East Germany.

Textbooks:

[GS] pp. 59-65, 136-141, [Doc] 158-162, 244-48.

Other Required Readings:

Timothy Garton Ash, "Sketches from Another Germany, " in The Uses of Adversity.

F. Bulgaria.

Textbooks:

[JR] ch. 6.4, 7.6, [GS] pp. 46-52, 141-148, [Doc] pp. 262-264, 270-72.

G. Romania.

Textbooks:

[GS] pp. 52-9, 158-167, [JR] ch. 7.5, [Doc] pp. 259-61.

Recommended:

Charles Gati, Hungary and Soviet Bloc, pp. 179-216.

Abraham Brumberg, ed. Poland, Genesis of a Revolution.

Timothy Garton Ash, The Polish Revolution, Solidarity.

Teresa Rakowska-Harmstone, ed., Communism in Eastern Europe, 2nd ed.

Milan Simecka, The Restoration of Order.

Frantisek Silnitsky, et al. Communism and Eastern Europe.

Timothy Garton Ash, The Uses of Adversity.

Timothy Garton Ash, The Magic Lantern.

J.F. Brown, Surge to Freedom.

VII. Post-revolutionary Developments.

All should read:

[JR] ch. 8, [GS] chs. 6, 8.

Group Project Reports.