NYU Prague

Class code: POL-UA 9522

Instructor Details:
Dr. Michal Kubát
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Class Details:
East European Government and Politics
Monday, 4.30-7.30PM
Location to be confirmed.

Prerequisites:
None

Class Description:
This course is an introduction to the modern politics and government of Central and Eastern Europe in the twentieth century and present. We will examine five periods in the class: 1918-1939 (between World War I and World War II), 1939-1945 (the World War II), 1944-1948 (sovietization), 1949-1989 (communist era), after 1989. All these periods will be studied through a comparative approach. You will not only learn about the most important and contemporary political events but you will also learn to apply basic theories of political science to Central and East European political practice, or more precisely analyze them by means of these periods.

Teaching methodology: lectures and discussions.

Desired Outcomes:
Upon successful completion of this course, student should be able to:

1) understand the fundamentals of politics and government in East-Central Europe,
2) identify the main turning points in the development of politics and government in the 20th century and present,
3) evaluate particularities of politics and government in the region.

Assessment Components:
Class participation/attendance: 10 %
Midterm exam: 25 %
Book review: 25 %
Final exam: 40 %

Midterm exam will consist of an in-class test (with open questions).
**Book review** is due April 29, 2013. Students hand in a hard copy of their book review to the professor in class. Book review should be 3-5 pages long. Students are welcome to choose any relevant academic book on politics and government in East-Central Europe (available in the NYU library) but **have to** consult their choice with the instructor.

**Final exam** will consist of an in-class test (with open questions).

**Students will receive additional information on all assessment components in the first class**

Failure to submit or fulfill any required course component results in failure of the class.

**This must include number of pages of written work and time of oral presentations.**

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**Assessment Expectations**

**Grade A:** Excellent performance. The student has shown originality and a deep analytical understanding of the subject.

**Grade B:** Good work. The student has demonstrated high competence and an ability to answer the given set of problems with some insights.

**Grade C:** Passable work. The student made significant mistakes. Makes attempt to answer the problem but in a rather mechanical way and lacking individual insights.

**Grade D:** Poor work. Meets minimum requirements.

**Grade F:** Fails to meet the requirements.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade conversion</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A=94-100</td>
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<tr>
<td>A-=90-93</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B+=87-89</td>
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<tr>
<td>B=84-86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B-=80-83</td>
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<tr>
<td>C+=77-79</td>
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<tr>
<td>C=74-76</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-=70-73</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D+=67-69</td>
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<tr>
<td>D=65-66</td>
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<tr>
<td>F=below 65</td>
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</tbody>
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**Grading Policy**

NYU Prague aims to have grading standards and results similar to those that prevail at Washington Square. At the College of Arts and Sciences, roughly 39% of all final grades are in the B+ to B- range, and 50% in the A/A- range.

We have therefore adopted the following grading guideline: in any non-Stern course, class teachers should try to ensure that no more than 50% of the class receives an A or A-.

A guideline is not a curve. A guideline is just that—it gives an ideal benchmark for the distribution of grades towards which we work.

**Attendance Policy**

Each unexcused absences will result in your final grade being reduced by 3%. Absences only for medical reasons will be excused. To obtain an excused absence, you are obliged to supply either a doctor’s note or corroboration of your illness by a member of the housing staff (either an RA or a Building Manager). Absences due to travel will not be excused.
Late Submission of Work

Late work will not be accepted.

Plagiarism Policy

According to the Liberal Studies Program Student Handbook, plagiarism is defined as follows:

Plagiarism is presenting someone else’s work as though it were one’s own. More specifically plagiarism is to present as one’s own a sequence of words quoted without quotation marks from another writer, a paraphrased passage from another writer’s work; facts or ideas gathered, organized and reported by someone else, orally and/or in writing. Since plagiarism is a matter of fact, not of the student’s intention, it is crucial that acknowledgment of the sources be accurate and complete. Even where there is no conscious intention to deceive, the failure to make appropriate acknowledgment constitutes plagiarism.

The College of Arts and Science’s Academic Handbook defines plagiarism similarly and also specifies the following:

“Presenting an oral report drawn without attribution from other sources (oral or written), writing a paragraph which, despite being in different words, expresses someone else’s idea without a reference to the source of the idea, or submitting essentially the same paper in two different courses (unless both teachers have given their permission in advance).

Receiving help on a take-home examination or quiz is also cheating – and so is giving that help – unless expressly permitted by the teacher (as in collaborative projects). While all this looks like a lot to remember, all you need to do is give credit where it is due, take credit only for original ideas, and ask your teacher or advisor when in doubt.”

“Penalties for plagiarism range from failure for a paper, failure for the course or dismissal from the university.” (Liberal Studies Program Student Handbook)

Required Text(s)

Required reading is assigned for each week. Students are required to read all assigned readings and actively participate in class discussions. Students will be given occasional handouts that will be discussed in class.

Supplemental Text(s) (not required to purchase as copies are in NYU-L Library)

N/A

Internet Research

N/A
Session 1
Introduction Session
February 11

Course Overview

Introduction, overview of the course: syllabus reading

Session 2
Politics and Government in Central and Eastern Europe Before 1918 I.
Friday, February 15

Politics and Government in Central and Eastern Europe Before 1918 II.


Session 3
Politics and Government in Central Europe 1918-1939 (Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Poland)
February 18


Politics and Government in the Baltic States, 1918-1940


Session 4
Politics and Government in the Balkans 1918-1939 (Albania, Bulgaria, Romania, Yugoslavia)
February 25

R. J. Crampton, Eastern Europe in the Twentieth Century. London and New York:
Politics and government in the Soviet Union until the World War II


Politics and Government in Central and Eastern Europe During World War II

March 4


The communist takeovers – sovietization in Central and Eastern Europe 1944-1948

March 11


Politics and Government in Central Europe 1944-1989 (Czechoslovakia, East Germany)


Politics and Government in Central Europe 1944-1989 (Hungary, Poland)


Péter Hanák, Joseph Held, Hungary on a Fixed Course: An Outline of Hungarian
Session 7
March 18

Politics and Government in the USSR and Yugoslavia, 1944-1990


Politics and Government in the Balkans 1944-1990 (Albania, Bulgaria, Romania)


Session 8
March 25

Midterm exam

Fall Break
April 1 – 5

Session 9
April 8

Totalitarianism and Authoritarianism in Central and Eastern Europe


The Breakdown of Communist Regimes – Transition to Democracy in Central and Eastern Europe
Politics and Government in Central Europe After 1989 (Czechoslovakia, Czech Republic, Slovakia)

Constitution of the Czech Republic
http://www.psp.cz/cgi-bin/eng/docs/laws/1993/1.html
Charter of Fundamental Rights and Basic Freedoms
http://www.psp.cz/cgi-bin/eng/docs/laws/1993/2.html

Constitution of the Slovak Republic
http://www.nrsr.sk/default.aspx?SectionId=124

Politics and government in Central Europe after 1989 (Hungary, Poland)


http://www.mkab.hu/index.php?id=constitution

http://www.euractiv.com/sites/all/euractiv/files/CONSTITUTION_in_English__DRAFT.pdf

Small Constitution of Poland 1992
http://www.servat.unibe.ch/icl/pl02000_.html
The Constitution of the Republic of Poland 1997

Politics and Government in Central Europe After 1989 (Slovenia, Croatia)
April 22
Constitution of the Republic of Slovenia
http://www.us-rs.si/o-sodiscu/pravna-podlaga/ustava/?lang=1

Constitution of the Republic of Croatia
http://www.sabor.hr/Default.aspx?art=2405

Politics and Government in the Baltic States after 1990

The Constitution of the Republic of Estonia

Constitution of the Republic of Latvia
http://www.humanrights.lv/doc/latlik/satver~1.htm

Constitution of the Republic of Lithuania
http://www3.lrs.lt/home/Konstitucija/Constitution.htm

Session 12

Politics and Government in Russia After 1990

April 29

The Constitution of the Russian Federation

Politics and Government in Post-Soviet States After 1990 (Belarus, Ukraine, Moldova)

http://www.law.by/work/EnglPortal.nsf/6e1a652fbefce34ac2256d910056d559/d93bc51590cf7f49c2256dc0004601db?OpenDocument

http://www.uta.edu/cpsees/BELACON2.htm

http://www.law.by/work/EnglPortal.nsf/6e1a652fbefce34ac2256d910056d559/d93bc51590cf7f49c2256dc0004601db?OpenDocument
Constitution of the Republic of Ukraine
http://gska2.rada.gov.ua/site/const_eng/constitution_eng.htm

The Constitution of the Republic of Moldova

Book review due.

**Session 13**

Politics and Government in the former Yugoslavia After 1989 (Except Slovenia and Croatia)

Constitution of the Republic of Serbia

Constitution of the Republic of Montenegro
http://www.skupstina.me/cms/site_data/16122009/USTAV%20CG-engleska%20verzija.pdf

Constitution of the Republic of Macedonia

Constitution of Bosnia and Herzegovina

Constitution of Kosovo
http://www.kushtetutakosoves.info/?cid=2,245

Politics and Government in the Balkans After 1989 (Albania, Bulgaria, Romania)

Constitution of the Republic of Albania
http://www.president.al/english/pub/kushtetuta.asp

Constitution of the Republic of Bulgaria
http://www.parliament.bg/en/const
Constitution of the Republic of Romania

Law for the revision of the Constitution 2003

Session 14

Conclusion: Consolidation of Democracy in Central and Eastern Europe After 1989

May 13
(last day of classes)


Session 15

Final exam

May 20

Final exam

Classroom Etiquette

Mobile phones should be put on silent, no calling or texting during class.

Required Co-curricular Activities

N/A

Suggested Co-curricular Activities

N/A