

SYLLABUS

**Political Science 597.02
Political Problems of the Contemporary World
Democratization and Post-communist Europe.
Winter 2006**

Instructor: Katja Michalak, M.A.
Class: M and W: 09:30 to 11:18 AM, Hall, MQ 161
Office Hours: M and W: 02:00 PM to 04:00 PM, Derby Hall, RM 3078. (or by appointment)
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Course Description

'Many forms of government have been tried and will be tried in this world of sin and woe. No one pretends that democracy is perfect or all wise. Indeed, it has been said that democracy is the worst form of government, except all those other forms that have been tried from time to time.'

Winston Churchill, 1947

The purpose of this comparative politics course is to familiarize students with some of the basic democratic concepts and theories in comparative politics. This course will focus in particular on the process of transition and democratization in Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union. The course will be divided into two parts: 1) the components comprising the theory of democratization generally (transition and consolidation), and 2) its application to Eastern Europe and Russia specifically. In this realm, theoretical topics, such as the political system, economic development, and social aspects will be applied to Post-communist Europe.

Course Requirements

Students will be evaluated upon the following:

Midterm Examination I	20%	(February, 6)
Midterm Examination II	20%	(March, 1)
Geography Test	10%	(February, 15)
Participation & Presentation	10%	
Bibliography for Final Paper	10%	(February, 20)
Final Paper	30%	(March 8, 5pm via email)

Students are responsible for all the required readings and the material required in the course. Class will combine lecture with as much discussion as possible. You will be graded on the basis of your performance on the midterm, the geography test, the final examination, the final paper, and class participation. The midterm exam I (worth 20% of final grade) will cover all the material discussed up to that point. The midterm exam II (worth 20 % of final grade) will cover all the material discussed after midterm examination. The written assignment is a two-step process. First, students will submit a 2 to 3 page comprehensive bibliography that should include both books and journal articles related to their topic of choice as well as along with one paragraph outline of their final paper. This will be worth 10% of the final grade. Second, students will submit a final paper (6-8 pages, excluding bibliography) applying what they have learned to their selected country. The final paper will be worth 30% of the final grade. The geography test (10% of final grade) will evaluate whether students have a spatial understanding of Eastern Europe and Russia. Finally, participation is essential for fruitful class progress. Everyone will present their respective projects in class. Combined, in-class participation and presentations are worth 10% of the final grade.

Required Readings

The following three books are required for this class and are available for purchase at campus bookstores: (i.e. SBX)

1. Berglund, Sten et al. 2001. Challenges to Democracy. Cheltenham, UK: EE Publishing. (reading materials are placed at the Closed Reserve – Main library)
2. Diamond, Larry and Marc F. Plattner. (eds.) 1996. The Global Resurgence of Democracy. 2nd ed. Johns Hopkins.
3. White, Stephen, Judy Batt and Paul Lewis. (eds.) 1998. Developments in Central and East European Politics. Duke University.

Additional required readings may be distributed in class.

Grading

Grading Curve:

A (90-100), **A-** (87-89.99), **B+** (84-86.99) **B** (80-83.99), **B-** (77-79.99), **C+** (74-76.99), **C** (70-73.99), **C-** (67-69.99), **D+** (64-66.99), **D** (60-63.99), and **E** (59.99 and below).

Academic Honesty:

All of the work done in this course is expected to be your own. Absolutely no cheating or plagiarism (using someone else's words or ideas without proper citation) will be tolerated. Any cases of cheating and/or plagiarism will be reported to the University Committee on Academic Misconduct and handled according to university policy. Penalties can include: failing this class and/or expulsion from the university. If you have any doubts in regards to what is considered cheating and/or plagiarism, please do not hesitate in contacting me for clarification purposes.

Students with Disability:

Students with disabilities are responsible for making their needs known to the instructor and seeking available assistance in the first week of the quarter. Course materials are available in alternative formats upon request. For such materials, please contact Mr. Wayne DeYoung, 2150 Derby Hall, 154 N. Oval Mall, 292-2880.

Class Schedule

In the listing below, the Diamond and Plattner book will be abbreviated “DP”, the White et al. book will be abbreviated “W”, and the Berglund et al. book will be abbreviated “B”. I reserve the right to make changes to the syllabus during the quarter. Any changes will be announced in class in advance.

Schedule:

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| W, January 4: | Organizational meeting |
| M, January 9: | What is democracy?: DP pp. 49 – 62 |
| W, January 11: | Dangers and dilemmas of democracy: DP pp. 76-93, and pp. 36-48.

The third wave of democratization: DP pp. 3 – 25, and pp. 26 – 35. |
| M, January 16: | No classes – Martin Luther King Day |
| M, January 18: | Democratic Consolidation: B pp. 9 – 43. |
| W, January 23: | Institutional choice: DP pp. 124 – 142, and pp. 154 – 161.
Electoral laws: DP pp. 175 – 180. |
| M, January 25: | Institutions and the impact on democracy: DP pp. 181 – 186, W pp. 131 – 133. |
| W, January 30: | Parties, and Voting Behavior: W pp. 147 – 179. |
| M, February 1: | Economic and Social factors and democracy: W pp. 191 – 207, and pp. 216 – 230. |
| W, February 6: | Midterm Examination I |

- M, February 8: Civil Society and Democracy: DP pp. 241 – 250, and pp. 290 – 306.
- W, February 13: The Challenge of Human Rights: B. pp. 119- 146.
Democratization and Nationalism: B pp. 79 – 119.
- W, February 15: **MAP Quiz**
Introduction to Eastern Europe: W. pp.1 – 19.
(An overview)
East-Central Europe: Poland and Hungary
W pp. 23 – 42., pp. 90 – 93, pp. 118 – 122, pp. 177-178, and p. 183.
- M, February 20: **Bibliography for Final Paper**
East-Central Europe: The Czech Republic and Slovakia
W pp. 23 – 42, pp. 116 -118, pp. 170 – 171, and pp. 181 – 182.
- W, February 22: East-Central Europe: Romania and Bulgaria
W pp. 43 – 58, pp. 113 – 116 and pp. 171 – 173.
- M, February 27: Russia (reading materials will be announced)
- M, March 1: **Midterm Examination II**
- M, March 6: East Germany (reading materials will be announced)
- W, March 8: Paper Due (5pm)