

Post-Soviet Democratization: Central Europe

PLSC 390 section 600 / PLSC 390H section 600 / INAS 425 section 600 (3 credits)

Spring 2014

Tuesdays from 3:30-4:45 p.m. in Dinkins 103

Instructors:	Dr. Scott Huffmon	Mrs. Michelle Wolf, M.Ed.
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“From Stettin in the Baltic to Trieste in the Adriatic an iron curtain has descended across the Continent. Behind that line lie all the capitals of the ancient states of Central and eastern Europe. Warsaw, Berlin, Prague, Vienna, Budapest, Belgrade, Bucharest and Sofia, all these famous cities and the populations around them lie in what I must call the Soviet sphere, and all are subject in one form or another, not only to Soviet influence but to a very high and, in some cases, increasing measure of control from Moscow.” — Winston Churchill, March 5, 1946

Course Goals

This course is designed to help you understand and experience the development of Central Europe in the years since the “Iron Curtain” described above fell. After World War II the countries of Central Europe fell under virtual and literal Soviet occupation. Since the revolutions of 1989, the countries of Central Europe have taken – sometimes divergent, but never easy – paths toward the establishment of democracies and market economies. The goal of this course is to help you understand those paths and what they mean for current and future Europe and to experience contemporary Central Europe first hand.

Student Learning Outcomes

Students who successfully complete this course will demonstrate 1) an understanding of the regional history that led to Soviet dominance in Central Europe in the Post-WWII era; 2) familiarity with the revolutions of 1989 in Central Europe; 3) familiarity with the process of transition to democracy and market economies in Central Europe; 4) an understanding of current difficulties faced by Central European countries with regard to cultural and monetary unification with the European Union; 5) an appreciation of the cultural and historical significance of several of the countries through travel to those countries

Student Learning Activities

Grades will be calculated using the following formula:

Activity	Percent of Final Course Grade
Readings Notes	15%
Participation	20% (half in class/ half on trip)
Exam 1	15%
Exam 2	15%
Presentation	20%
Contemplative Paper	15%

Grades for students taking the class for Honors' credit will be calculated using the following formula:

Activity	Percent of Final Course Grade
Readings Notes	10%
Participation	15% (half in class/ half on trip)
Exam 1	15%
Exam 2	15%
Presentation	20%
Contemplative Paper	15%
Book Review	10%

Students planning to graduate in May 2014 will have the same activities as students taking the class for Honors credit, EXCEPT: (1) the entirety of the participation grade will be based on in class participation and (2) in lieu of a contemplative paper, students will do a solo class presentation in addition to the group presentation.

This course employs Winthrop's +/- grading system. The distribution along the number line which triggers a plus or minus will be, roughly, a normal distribution (slightly skewed to the students' favor). Note: grades themselves will NOT be artificially forced into a normal distribution. The "0" grade will move into the next highest letter grade range. By way of explanation, the following will be the cut points for the "C" grade range: 70 - 72.4999 =C-; 72.5 - 77.4999 = C ; 77.5 - 79.9999 = C+

Exams:

There will be **two** exams over the course of the semester on the dates below. Each exam will have a take home component and an in-class component and will be entirely essay. Material for the exams will be drawn from readings, lectures, and class discussions. Make up exams must be scheduled one week in advance in the case of an *unavoidable* planned absence; otherwise, make ups will be given only in the case of a **documented** illness or emergency. "Documented" means a legitimate doctor's note dating from *prior* to the exam. Any student health center note describing vague symptoms dated the day of or after the exam will not be acceptable.

Readings Notes:

For each of the 12 assigned readings, the student must take notes on that reading and turn in a copy at the beginning of class on the day that reading is discussed. Remember, you will ALSO need a copy to aid you in class discussion for that class. The notes may be in outline or summary form. Each set of notes will be graded by assigning points as determined by the professor using the scale below. Your final Readings Notes grade will be based on the proportion of points out of a maximum of 120 points that you received.

10 points: OUTSTANDING! These notes could be college level lecture notes!

9 points: Excellent

8 points: Good

7 points: Adequate

6 points: Hit major themes/ got broad gist, but poor job overall

3 points: Well technically, you DID turn something in, but we should both be embarrassed

0 points: Nothing turned in.

Participation:

Most classes will be led as a seminar and student participation is critical to the success of the course. Student participation will be based on frequency AND quality. Frequently participating in class in a manner that (1) makes it clear you did not do the readings, (2) is disruptive, or (3) disrespectful to other students in word or deed will hurt your grade.

Half of your participation grade will be assigned based on your in-class participation and half will be based on your participation and engagement while travelling abroad. The majority of your abroad participation will come from keeping a daily journal which will be checked by faculty each day.

Presentation:

Each student will be assigned to a group for the purpose of presenting a cumulative course project in the form of a multimedia case study of one Central European country. The case study will explore the unique history of that country, describe its experience under Soviet influence, explain its transition from Soviet influence, and explore its individual path toward democratization and European integration. The number of groups will depend on the total number of students in the course.

Contemplative Paper:

Two weeks after return from Europe, each student must submit a 5 – 7 page paper. This paper should integrate your experiences while travelling abroad with the readings and lectures and reflect on those experiences.

The paper must be double-spaced with 1 inch margins all around (**warning!** This is NOT the default setting for Microsoft Word....you must CHANGE the margins to 1 inch) and a 12 point Times New Roman font, there will be no “headers,” you will use a title page (which does not contribute to your total page count), bottom-center pagination, and an upper-lefthand corner staple [no “paper covers”]

Book Review (students taking class for Honors’ credit only)

Due exam week. Students completing the course for Honors’ credit must submit a 7-9 page book review of a book to be assigned by the instructor.

The paper must be double-spaced with 1 inch margins all around (**warning!** This is NOT the default setting for Microsoft Word....you must CHANGE the margins to 1 inch) and a 12 point Times New Roman font, there will be no “headers,” you will use a title page (which does not contribute to your total page count), bottom-center pagination, and an upper-lefthand corner staple [no “paper covers”]

Class announcements will be made via the class listserv. If you have an active winthrop.edu email account, you should be automatically added to the listserv, otherwise you must add yourself to the listserv. You are EXPECTED to regularly check your email for class announcements! Announcements made over the listserv are considered "official" class announcements. If you are not on the class listserv, it is YOUR RESPONSIBILITY to make sure you are on the listserv and are getting class messages. Directions for subscribing manually are found at: <http://www.winthrop.edu/technology/default.aspx?id=7081>.

This syllabus may be revised throughout the semester.

Withdrawal Date: The last day to withdraw from the course with an automatic grade of “N” is Mar. 12, 2014. Special course fees still apply. Students who drop the course still may be able to participate in the abroad portion of the course with instructor permission.

Students with Disabilities: Winthrop University is dedicated to providing access to education. If you have a disability and require specific accommodations to complete this course, contact Services for Students with Disabilities at 323-3290 and make an appointment to see a professional staff member. Once you have your official notice of accommodations from Services for Students with Disabilities, please inform me as early as possible in the semester.

Required Texts

The following books are required --- you need to be sure you have the **correct editions** of the textbooks:

1. *Central & East European Politics: From Communism to Democracy* (2nd Edition)
2. *Central Europe: Enemies, Neighbors, Friends* (3rd Edition)

The instructor reserves the right to add supplemental readings if necessary.

Academic Misconduct

Academic misconduct will not be tolerated. Winthrop's *Conduct Code* defines academic misconduct as:

"Academic misconduct includes but is not limited to providing or receiving assistance in a manner not authorized by the professor in the creation of work to be submitted for academic evaluation including papers, projects, and examinations; presenting, as one's own, the ideas or words of another for academic evaluation without proper acknowledgment; doing unauthorized academic work for which another person will receive credit or be evaluated; and presenting the same or substantially the same papers or projects in two or more courses without the explicit permission of the professors involved. In addition, academic misconduct involves attempting to influence one's academic evaluation by means other than academic achievement or merit. More explicit definitions of academic misconduct specific to certain academic disciplines may be promulgated by academic departments and schools."

I will prosecute cases of academic misconduct to the fullest extent of university policy, and that can mean expulsion from the university. Obviously, any student caught cheating or plagiarizing, in any manner, on an exam or assignment will receive a zero for that assignment in addition to academic prosecution. Additionally, I reserve the right to award the student an "F" in the course for ANY act of academic misconduct if I feel it is warranted. This is in addition to academic prosecution by the Dean of Students.

****ADDITIONALLY**, the Department of Political Science has its own policies on plagiarism and academic misconduct: [Poli Sci Statement on Plagiarism](#) In the immortal words of Brad Hamilton: "Learn it; Know it; Live it!"**

Class Policies:

Please provide a respectful learning environment for your fellow students. Repeated tardiness, cell phone disruptions, reading materials unrelated to the course (such as the student newspaper), and use of communication technologies (e.g., web browsing/ IMing/ texting during class) during class will adversely affect your grade.

Class Attendance, Travel Participation, and Supplemental Co-curricular Assignments- Due to the hybrid nature of this course, students must attend ALL 14 class meetings, plus the final exam, and participate *fully* in all group activities while in Europe. Active participation is expected, students should make connections to previous class topics and ask questions that stimulate insightful discussion in class and while abroad. Additional on-line supplemental resources associated with Central Europe, such as Mango Languages, will be assigned as out of class work. Students are also required to attend a group Pre-Departure Orientation on Friday, March 28th from 4:30-6:30 pm, before the conclusion of the spring semester.

Please arrive at class on time and **switch off** all pagers, cell phones, and alarms during class. The only exceptions to this rule are if you have children or an emergency family situation (e.g. family member in

surgery). For these circumstances, you must notify the professor and then you may leave your phone on **vibrate** and you **must** leave the class to answer a call.

I do not provide lecture notes for students under any circumstances. To repeat, I do not provide lecture notes for students under **any** circumstances

Grade Appeals: If you wish to dispute a grade on a particular assignment for any reason other than an obvious arithmetic error on my part, you will need to type a one-page explanation of your position and turn it in, along with the original graded assignment, *at least one week* after the assignment is returned to you. I will then consider your appeal and make a determination.

Appeals must be submitted in hard copy format; no appeals submitted via email will be considered. For appeals regarding your final grade in the course, please consult the Student Handbook and Catalog for procedures.

University Level Competencies (ULCs) and Global Learning Initiative (GLI) Requirements: PLSC 390 & 390H/INAS 425, Post-Soviet Democratization: Central Europe contributes to student mastery of the following ULCs: Competency 3: Winthrop graduates understand the interconnected nature of the world and the time in which they live and Competency 4: Winthrop graduates communicate effectively. The purpose of Winthrop University's GLI is to intentionally integrate global learning across the Touchstone Program; defining global as "local, regional, national and/or international experiences that may differ from one's own culture." The global learning components of this course include research and reflection on post-Soviet democratization, with an international experience in Europe. Students will learn to recognize and appreciate the differences between the culture and systems of the United States and the culture and systems of the countries visited. This will be achieved through readings, pre-departure lectures/discussions, field experience in Europe, journaling, and a paper. This course participates in the Global Learning Initiative by its very nature.

Syllabus Changes: This syllabus is subject to change by the instructor throughout the course.

Class Schedule

Topic	Reading Assignment
1/14/14 First Class	Syllabus
1/21/14	Reading day- no class (begin reading texts)
1/28/14	Study abroad overview
2/4/14	Mango Languages Demo: Dacus Library, Room 18
2/11/14 History: Ancient and Modern	(Pre-modern history covered in lecture) (1) "The Demise of Imperial Austria and the Rise of Imperial Germany 1848-1890" from Johnson, Lonnie R. 2011. <i>Central Europe: Enemies, Neighbors, Friends</i> (3 rd Edition) (2) "World War I and National Self-Determination 1914-1922" from Johnson, Lonnie R. 2011. <i>Central Europe: Enemies, Neighbors, Friends</i> (3 rd Edition) (3) "Spheres of Influence I: Germany and the Soviet Union" from Johnson, Lonnie R. 2011. <i>Central Europe: Enemies, Neighbors, Friends</i> (3 rd Edition)

Topic	Reading Assignment
2/18/14 World War II and the Iron Curtain	<p>(1) “Spheres of Influence II: East and West, or “Yalta Europe” from Johnson, Lonnie R. 2011. <i>Central Europe: Enemies, Neighbors, Friends</i> (3rd Edition)</p> <p>(2) “The Failure of Eastern Europe 1948-1989” from Johnson, Lonnie R. 2011. <i>Central Europe: Enemies, Neighbors, Friends</i> (3rd Edition)</p> <p>(3) Granville, Johanna. 1997. “In the line of fire: The Soviet crackdown on Hungary, 1956–57” in <i>Journal of Communist Studies and Transition Politics</i> Volume 13, Issue 2 (pp. 67-107)</p>
2/25/14 Introduction to the events of 1989: Tentative steps toward democracy	Chpt 1 “Democracy, the Market, and the Return to Europe: From Communism to the European Union and Nato” in Wolchick, Sharon L. & Jane L. Curry (eds). 2011. <i>Central & East European Politics: From Communism to Democracy</i> (2 nd Edition)
3/4/14 Political Transitions	Chpt 2 “The Political Transition” in Wolchick, Sharon L. & Jane L. Curry (eds). 2011. <i>Central & East European Politics: From Communism to Democracy</i> (2 nd Edition)
3/11/14 Exam 1	Take home portion of exam due & in-class portion of exam administered
3/18/14	Spring Break- no class
3/25/14 Economic Transitions	Chpt 3 “Re-creating the Market” in Wolchick, Sharon L. & Jane L. Curry (eds). 2011. <i>Central & East European Politics: From Communism to Democracy</i> (2 nd Edition)
3/28/14 (Friday from 4:30-6:30 pm)	Required Pre-Departure Orientation Program & Dinner
4/1/14 Problems of Nationalism	“Ethnicity, Nationalism, and the Expansion of Democracy” in Wolchick, Sharon L. & Jane L. Curry (eds). 2011. <i>Central & East European Politics: From Communism to Democracy</i> (2 nd Edition)
4/8/14 Navigating the European Union	Chpt 6 “EU Accession and the Role of International Actors” in Wolchick, Sharon L. & Jane L. Curry (eds). 2011. <i>Central & East European Politics: From Communism to Democracy</i> (2 nd Edition)
4/15/14 Modern Security Issues for Central & Eastern Europe	Chpt 7 “Security Issues: NATO and Beyond” in Wolchick, Sharon L. & Jane L. Curry (eds). 2011. <i>Central & East European Politics: From Communism to Democracy</i> (2 nd Edition)
4/22/14 Exam 2	Take home portion of exam due & In-class portion of exam administered
<p>Friday, May 2, 2014 at 3 p.m. is the Final Exam:</p> <p>Group Presentations</p>	

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MAY 14: Overnight flight from Charlotte to Hungary

MAY 15: **BUDAPEST** –Arrival, meet travel director, transfer to hotel, 1-hour Segway tour, dinner

MAY 16: **BUDAPEST** – Guided tour of Buda including Gellert Hill with the breath-taking views of the city; the Castle district; the Fishermen’s Bastion, and Matthias Church. UNESCO World Heritage Sites: Budapest, the banks of the Danube, Buda Castle Quarter, and Andrassy Avenue. Afternoon visit to Memento Park to see the statues that once stood in public places as symbols of the former socialist period. Dinner.

MAY 17: **BUDAPEST** – Guided tour of Pest including a visit to the Parliament, the largest building in Hungary. The tour continues to City Park, Heroes’ Square, and St. Stephen’s Basilica, and the House of Terror. (Possible afternoon lecture arranged by Winthrop faculty). Dinner.

MAY 18: **BUDAPEST** – Walking tour of the Jewish quarter including a visit to the synagogue. Afternoon visit to a spa to enjoy the thermal bath experience. This is followed by a visit to the Zwack Unicum Visitors’ Center. Dinner.

MAY 19: **VIENNA/BRATISLAVA** – Drive to Vienna. A tour will include a drive around the highlights such as the State Opera House, the Hofburg, and the Parliament. There will also be a visit to a UNESCO World Heritage Sites, the palace and gardens of Schonbrunn and city centre of Vienna. Continue to Bratislava by hydrofoil on the beautiful Danube River and see another UNESCO site, Spissky castle ruins, founded in 1209. Dinner.

MAY 20: **BRATISLAVA** – A morning guided tour includes a drive around Bratislava Castle and a walk along the traditional route of the coronation procession visiting St. Martin’s Cathedral and the neo-Classical Primate’s Palace. Dinner.

MAY 21: **BRATISLAVA** – Morning visit to Devin Castle followed by a walk along the Iron Curtain Trail. Dinner.

MAY 22: **OLOMOUC/KRAKOW** – Drive to Krakow via lunch in Olomouc, the historical capital of Moravia, in the Czech Republic. While show-off cities, like Prague, get a lot our tourist visits, Olomouc goes quietly about its authentically Moravian business and emerges as a best kept secret with its Old Town rivaling Prague’s, along with the country’s second oldest university. Visit the UNESCO World Heritage Site, the Holy Trinity Column.

Krakow miraculously escaped destruction in WWII and remains a city with a charming origin involving the legendary defeat of a dragon by either Prince Krakus or a cobbler’s apprentice (depending on which story you believe). Rynek Glowny ranks among the largest medieval squares, Rynek Glowny, in Europe and looks pretty much the same as it did in the Middle Ages.

MAY 23: **KRAKOW** – Morning guided tour of Krakow including visits to stunning historic centerpiece, Wawel Castle and the Cathedral. In the afternoon, your travel director will take you to Kazimierz, the former Jewish quarter. Dinner.

MAY 24: **KRAKOW** – Morning tour of the socialist planned district of Nowa Huta in old Trabant cars. Nowa Huta is a suburb that not too many tourists see. This district was built as a “workers’ paradise” by the communist regime in the 1950s to counter the influence of the city’s religious and intellectual traditions. The concrete blocky buildings stand out in contrast to the Old Town’s beauty. Afternoon visit to the Wieliczka Salt Mine, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. This mine is a richly decorated world of pits and chambers- every single element from chandeliers to alter pieces was hewn by hand from solid salt. Additionally, we will have an option to visit the other UNESCO site, Auschwitz. Dinner

MAY 25: **Transfer** to airport for return flight to the United States.