

**Politics of Central and Eastern Europe  
INTA 4803/8803**

**Dr. Vanja Petričević**

**Spring 2013**

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**Class Time:** MWF; 9:05-9:55am

**Class Location:** Instructional Center 115

**Office:** Habersham Building, Office 138

**Office Hours:** By appointment on Fridays, 10:00-11:00am

**Email:** [vanja.petricevic@inta.gatech.edu](mailto:vanja.petricevic@inta.gatech.edu)

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**Course Objectives**

This course explores the politics of Central and Eastern European countries. While historical background will be the focus of the first part of the course, the focus of the second part will be shifted to the post-communist politics and the countries', often diverging, efforts in escaping their communist legacies. It is designed to provide an overall knowledge of the region and the various topics will be examined through the lenses of the political transitions in the Central and Eastern European region.

**Required Readings**

- Sharon L. Wolchik and Jane L. Curry. 2010. *Central and East European Politics: From Communism to Democracy*, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition. New York: Rowman & Littlefield Publishers.
- Stephen White, Judy Batt, and Paul G. Lewis. 2007. *Developments in Central and East European Politics*, 4th edition. Durham: Duke University Press.
- Additional required readings are listed in the syllabus. These readings will be available on the course reserves page.

## **Course Format and Requirements**

This course is a cross-listed course which means that both upper-level undergraduate and graduate students are part of this course.

This course is designed to be *interactive*. The course format will be a mixture of lectures and class discussions except on those days when students are asked to share their research reports (please see below for further details). This means that this class requires active participation from the students. Therefore, completion of the required readings and students' active contribution during class discussions is crucial for successful completion of this course. It is essential that you read all assigned readings before class and come prepared to each class session.

## **Grading**

Evaluation of your progress in this class will be based on the following percentage distribution of the final grade:

- A) Research Reports (20%)**
- B) Research Paper (25%)**
- C) Class participation (15%)**
- D) Midterm (take-home) (20%)**
- E) Final exam (take-home) (20%)**

## **Research reports (20%)**

At the beginning of the semester, students will pick a research topic of their choosing and in consultation with the instructor. Each student is then required to provide weekly research reports on their research topic. The goal of this requirement is for students to get immersed into their research topic at the very beginning of the semester and develop expertise throughout the semester that will help them write their research paper. The research reports component is broken down as follows:

- Research topic proposal report (5%): The topic proposal report should include the research question and one page explanation of the significance of the topic and its relation to the overall course theme. The proposal is **due on January 18<sup>th</sup> beginning of class**. E-mail submissions are not accepted.

- Research paper outline report (5%): The research paper outline should include at least three key arguments (in support of your position on the topic) as well as, at least, two possible alternative arguments and explanations of the research question. This report is **due on March 15<sup>th</sup> beginning of class**. E-mail submissions are not accepted.
- Weekly research reports (10%): The weekly reports can take two forms: 1) reflections on the newspaper articles or 2) academic journal article reviews. Additional information about the format and sources of weekly reports will be posted on T-Square.

I will provide the contact information of the designated librarian in case you have questions about how to access Georgia Tech's political science resources. Please note that cutting and pasting from newspaper articles or academic journals is not acceptable and is considered plagiarism!

For each weekly report you submit and present in class, you are able to earn 10 points. At the end of the semester the weekly report grades will be summed and will constitute your weekly research reports grade portion. **I will NOT accept reports via e-mail**. This means that you have to submit your weekly reports in person at the beginning of class. Late submissions are not accepted. Students who do not submit a report but provide an in-class presentation about their assignment for that week, or students who submit a report but do not provide an in-class presentation will only receive 3 points for that week. Each weekly submission to the instructor has to have a cover page with student's name, student's research topic, and a full citation of the newspaper or academic article except for topic proposal and research paper outline reports.

### **Research Paper (25%)**

Students will be expected to submit an individual research paper.

The undergraduate students are required to submit 10 pages in length excluding cover page, references and any exhibits, double-spaced, 12pt font, 1 inch margins.

The graduate students are required to submit 15 pages in length excluding cover page, references and any exhibits, double-spaced, 12pt font, 1 inch margins.

More information about the format of the research paper will be posted on T-Square.

## **Class participation (15%)**

Attendance is an integral part of the learning process and your participation grade. Attendance to class is mandatory and you are expected to sign an attendance sheet at the beginning of each class. You are able to earn ten points for each class you attend. I will note your participation throughout the semester. More information about the participation requirements will be posted on T-Square.

If you are concerned about the quality of your participation or have any questions about your participation in this class, you are welcome to meet with me at any point during the semester but I strongly recommend that you do not wait until the end of the semester to make inquiries about your participation.

## **Exams**

Students will take two exams during the course of the semester that will test their knowledge and understanding of the material covered in class. The midterm take-home exam will be weighted at 20% of your final grade. The final take-home exam will also be weighted at 20% of your final grade. The exam material will be based on lectures, discussions, in-class assignments, documentaries, guest speaker presentations, and assigned readings.

Make-up exams will **not** be given except in the case of extraordinary and unavoidable circumstances, and must be arranged in advance of the exam date. Extraordinary and unavoidable circumstances are: (1) illness and hospitalization – note from doctor/hospital required; (2) death in immediate family – copy of death notice required; (3) jury duty – official notice from court required.

## **Class communication**

You are welcome and encouraged to come to me with any questions you may have about the course. Alternatively, I can try to address your questions via email. Please note that due to privacy concerns I **do not** discuss or reveal grades via email.

Any class-related announcements, outside of class, will be posted on T-Square; therefore, you are expected to check T-Square on a regular basis.

## **Classroom Conduct**

As a courtesy to your peers and your instructor, please do not arrive late, use your phone, or engage in non-course-related discussions during class. Please understand that all of these are disruptive behaviors. Students' disruptive behaviors will not be tolerated and they will be asked to leave the classroom.

## **Recording**

Electronic recording of this class in any form is prohibited. Students with disabilities that require recording classes should work through the Office of Disability Services to obtain permission for an exception to this policy.

## **Academic Conduct Standards**

As with all classes and work conducted at Georgia Tech, the principles of the Academic Honor Code are in force.

## **Caveat**

This syllabus provides a general plan for the course. Deviations may be necessary!

## CLASS SCHEDULE

| DATE | TOPIC  | READINGS AND ASSIGNMENTS  |
|------|--|---|
| 1/7  | Introduction   |   |
| 1/9  | <i>Introduction to Central and Eastern Europe</i>          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>White et al., Chapter 1.</li> </ul>  |
| 1/11 | <i>Establishment of Communism</i>                          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Wolchik and Curry, Chapter 1, pp. 5-13.</li> <li>Rothschild, Chapter 3, "The Communists Come to Power."</li> </ul>   |
| 1/14 | <i>Political and Economic Characteristics of Communism</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Wolchik and Curry, Chapter 1, pp. 13-21.</li> <li>Paul Gregory. 1990. "The Stalinist Command Economy," <i>Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science</i> 507: 18-25.</li> </ul>  |
| 1/16 | <i>Political Dissent</i>                                   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Wolchik and Curry, Chapter 10, pp.213-218.</li> <li>Zoltan Csipke. 2011. "The Changing Significance of the 1956 Revolution in Post-Communist Hungary," <i>Europe-Asia Studies</i> 63(1):99-128.</li> </ul>   |
| 1/18 | Research Reports   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Research your paper topic.</li> <li><b>TOPIC PROPOSAL DUE</b> beginning of class.</li> <li>Topic Proposal In-Class Discussions.</li> </ul>   |
| 1/21 | <b><u>No class – Martin Luther King Day!</u></b>           |   |
| 1/23 | <i>Collapse of Communism</i>                               | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>White et al., Chapter 2, pp. 23-32.</li> <li>Wolchik and Curry, Chapter 2, pp. 32-51.</li> </ul>   |
| 1/25 | Research Reports   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Read and research for your report.</li> <li><b>RESEARCH REPORT DUE</b> beginning of class.</li> <li>Research Report In-Class Discussions.</li> </ul>   |
| 1/28 | <i>Transition To Post-Communist Political Culture</i>      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ivan Berend. 2007. "Social shock in transforming Central and Eastern Europe," <i>Communist and Post-Communist Studies</i> 40: 269-280.</li> <li>Peter Ulran and Fritz Plasser, Chapter 5, "Mainly sunny with scattered clouds: political culture in East-Central Europe."</li> </ul> |

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| <b>1/30</b> | <i>Political and Economic Transitions</i>           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• White et al., Chapter 11</li> <li>• Wolchik and Curry, Chapter 3</li> </ul>   |
| <b>2/1</b>  | Research Reports                                    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Read and research for your report.</li> <li>• <b>RESEARCH REPORT DUE</b> beginning of class.</li> <li>• Research Report In-Class Discussions</li> </ul>   |
| <b>2/4</b>  | <i>Case Study: Czechoslovakia</i>                   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Carol S. Leff. 1999. "Democratization and Disintegration in Multinational States: The Breakup of the Communist Federations," <i>World Politics</i> 52 (2): 205-235.</li> <li>• Wolchik and Curry, Chapter 9, pp.187-196.</li> </ul>   |
| <b>2/6</b>  | <i>Czech Republic &amp; Slovak Republic</i>         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wolchik and Curry, Chapter 9, pp. 197-209.</li> </ul>   |
| <b>2/8</b>  | Research Reports                                    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Read and research for your report.</li> <li>• <b>RESEARCH REPORT DUE</b> beginning of class.</li> <li>• Research Report In-Class Discussions.</li> </ul>  |
| <b>2/11</b> | <i>Case Study: Yugoslavia</i>                       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wolchik and Curry, Chapter 4, pp. 83-94 &amp; Chapter 13, pp.277-284.</li> </ul>  |
| <b>2/13</b> | <i>Violent transition</i>                           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wolchik and Curry, Chapter 13, pp. 284-311.</li> </ul>  |
| <b>2/15</b> | Research Reports                                    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Read and research for your report.</li> <li>• <b>RESEARCH REPORT DUE</b> beginning of class.</li> <li>• Research Report In-Class Discussions.</li> </ul>  |
| <b>2/18</b> | <i>Post-Conflict Democratization in the Balkans</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Valery Perry. 2009. "At Cross Purposes? Democratization and Peace Implementation Strategies in Bosnia and Herzegovina's Frozen Conflict," <i>Human Rights Review</i> 10(1): 35-54.</li> <li>• Thorsten Gromes. 2009. "The Prospect of European Integration and Conflict Transformation in Bosnia and Herzegovina," <i>Journal of European Integration</i> 31 (4): 431-447.</li> </ul> |
| <b>2/20</b> | <b><u>MIDTERM EXAM</u></b>                          |  |
| <b>2/22</b> | Research Reports                                    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Read and research for your report.</li> <li>• <b>RESEARCH REPORT DUE</b> beginning of class.</li> <li>• Research Report In-Class Discussions.</li> </ul>  |

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| <b>2/25</b>    | <i>Transition Leaders and Laggards</i>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• White et al., Chapters 3 &amp; 4</li> </ul>  |
| <b>2/27</b>    | <i>Baltic States</i>                     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wolchik and Curry, Chapter 11.</li> </ul>  |
| <b>3/1</b>     | Research Reports                         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Read and research for your report.</li> <li>• <b>RESEARCH REPORT DUE</b> beginning of class.</li> <li>• Research Report In-Class Discussions.</li> </ul>   |
| <b>3/4</b>     | <i>Security and NATO</i>                 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wolchik and Curry, Chapter 7.</li> </ul>   |
| <b>3/6</b>     | <i>EU Accession</i>                      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• White et al., Chapter 7.</li> </ul>  |
| <b>3/8</b>     | Research Reports                         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Read and research for your report.</li> <li>• <b>RESEARCH REPORT DUE</b> beginning of class.</li> <li>• Research Report In-Class Discussions.</li> </ul>   |
| <b>3/11</b>    | <i>Citizens &amp; Politics</i>           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• White et al. Chapter 12</li> </ul>   |
| <b>3/13</b>    | <i>Right-wing Extremism</i>              | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ramet, Chapter 1, "Defining the Radical Right – Values and Behaviors of Organized Intolerance in Post-Communist Central and Eastern Europe."</li> <li>• Michael Minkenberg. 2002. "The Radical Right in Postsocialist Central and Eastern Europe: Comparative Observations and Interpretations," <i>East European Politics &amp; Societies</i> 16(2):335.</li> </ul> |
| <b>3/15</b>    | Research Reports                         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Read and research for your report.</li> <li>• <b>PAPER OUTLINE DUE</b> beginning of class.</li> <li>• Paper Outlines In-Class Discussions.</li> </ul>  |
| <b>3/18-22</b> | <b><u>No classes – Spring Break!</u></b> |   |
| <b>3/25</b>    | <i>Minority Rights</i>                   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Malte Brosig. 2010. "The Challenge of Implementing Minority Rights in Central Eastern Europe," <i>Journal of European Integration</i> 32(4):393-411.</li> <li>• Cristina Chiva. 2006. "Ethnic Minority Rights in Central and Eastern Europe: The Case of the Hungarian 'Status Law'," <i>Government &amp; Opposition</i> 41(3): 401-421.</li> </ul>                  |
| <b>3/27</b>    | <i>Gender politics</i>                   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Swanee Hunt. 1997. "Women's Vital Voices: The Costs of Exclusion in Eastern Europe," <i>Foreign Affairs</i> 76(4): 2-7.</li> </ul>   |



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|             |   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wolchik and Curry, Chapter, 5.</li> </ul>   |
| <b>3/29</b> | Research Reports                          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Read and research for your report.</li> <li>• <b>RESEARCH REPORT DUE</b> beginning of class.</li> <li>• Research Report In-Class Discussions.</li> </ul>  |
| <b>4/1</b>  | <i>Informal Institutions</i>              | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Claire Wallace and Rossalina Latcheva. 2006. "Economic Transformation Outside the Law: Corruption, Trust in Public Institutions and the Informal Economy in Transition Countries of Central and Eastern Europe," <i>Europe-Asia Studies</i> 58 (1): 81-102.</li> </ul>          |
| <b>4/3</b>  | <i>Media</i>                              | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Matthew Loveless. 2008. "Media Dependency: Mass Media as Sources of Information in the Democratizing Countries of Central and Eastern Europe," <i>Democratization</i> 15(1):162-183.</li> </ul>   |
| <b>4/5</b>  | <b>Research Project Day (No class)</b>    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ Work on your research paper at a location of your choice.</li> </ul>  |
| <b>4/8</b>  | <i>Political Leadership</i>               | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• White et al. Chapter 8.</li> </ul>  |
| <b>4/10</b> | <i>Post-Communist Politics of Justice</i> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pedro C. Magalhaes. 1999. "The Politics of Judicial Reform in Eastern Europe," <i>Comparative Politics</i> 32 (1): 43-62.</li> <li>• Lavinia Stan. 2011. "Vigilante justice in post-communist Europe," <i>Communist &amp; Post-Communist Studies</i> 44(4): 319-327.</li> </ul> |
| <b>4/12</b> | Research Reports                          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Read and research for your report.</li> <li>• <b>RESEARCH REPORT DUE</b> beginning of class.</li> <li>• Research Report In-Class Discussions.</li> </ul>  |
| <b>4/15</b> | <i>Civil Society</i>                      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• White et al. Chapter 13.</li> </ul>   |
| <b>4/17</b> | <i>Environmental Politics</i>             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Joann Carmin and Stacy Vandever. 2004. "Enlarging EU Environments: Central and Eastern Europe from Transition to Accession," <i>Environmental Politics</i> 13(1): 3-24.</li> </ul>  |

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| <b>4/19</b> | Research Reports         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Finalize your research paper.</li> <li>• <b>RESEARCH REPORT DUE</b> beginning of class.</li> <li>• Research Report In-Class Discussions (Discussion of the papers' major findings).</li> </ul>  |
| <b>4/22</b> | Conclusions              | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>RESEARCH PAPER DUE !!!</b></li> <li>• White et al., Chapter 16.</li> <li>• Marta Rabikowska. 2009. "The ghosts of the past: 20 years after the fall of communism in Europe," <i>Communist and Post-Communist Studies</i> 42: 165-179.</li> </ul> |
| <b>4/24</b> | Review for Final Exam    |  |
| <b>4/26</b> | <b><u>FINAL EXAM</u></b> |  |