Democracy and Democratization
PSCI 505
Spring 2015
SS 134
Wednesdays 6:00pm-8:45pm

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Office Hours: T/Th 1:45pm-3:30pm; W 5:00pm-6:00pm and 8:45pm-9:15pm; or by appointment

Course Description:

Welcome to Democracy and Democratization! In this course, we will study the major political, economic, social, and cultural conditions that are favorable to the development of democracy (as well as those conditions that inhibit the development of democracy). The course will have a regional focus on Central and Europe. We will have ample discussions on the transitions from one-party Communist rule to democracy in the Former USSR and Soviet satellite states.

We will explore concepts that relate to democracy and democratization such as: economics, nationalism, gender, ethnicity, the media, and globalization. There will be a focus on examining democratic transition case studies from Central and Eastern Europe. While you will learn about the democratization in the region utilizing political science texts in a classroom setting, one unique feature of this course will be the use of feature films and documentaries to aid our understanding of the effects democratic transitions had upon the people who live(d) in the region.

Please note the following important items:

- This course involves extensive reading on a weekly basis. It will be impossible to have productive discussions about the course material unless students have carefully read the assigned material before class. We will average 55 pages of readings per week (605), in addition to contemporary short articles that will be distributed in class.
- The nature of the material we will read is of a highly sensitive nature. Students are required to display maturity and respect for the themes that we will digest throughout the semester in an effort to better understand the democratization of the region.
Format:

Each student will be responsible for presenting the assigned readings on a rotating basis (see Requirements/Assignments). Each class will involve a round-table discussion about the assigned readings. Please note: This syllabus is subject to change at any time at the professor’s discretion.

Learning Outcome:

Students will understand and employ significant theoretical and analytical approaches to explain democracy and democratization in Central Europe.

NO PERSONAL ELECTRONIC DEVICES ARE ALLOWED IN CLASS AT ANY TIME.
THIS INCLUDES (BUT IS NOT LIMITED TO):
CELL PHONES,
LAPTOPS,
iPADS,
iPODS,
MP3 Players/Recorders,
Translation Devices
VIDEO CAMERAS
AND ANY OTHER AUDIO AND/OR VIDEO RECORDERS OF ANY KIND

IF ANY OF THESE DEVICES ARE PRESENT IN CLASS THE ENTIRE CLASS WILL HAVE A POP QUIZ.

Requirements/Assignments

Research Paper:
You must produce one research paper (14-16 pages, typed 12-point Times New Roman font, double spaced, 1in margins all around), worth a total of 33% of your grade. The paper MUST be a case study of a transition to democracy in a state geographically located OUTSIDE OF EUROPE. The purpose of this requirement is for you to apply the principles of democracy, democratization and comparative politics that you will learn in this course to cases in other regions. Each student must select a different case, which can be from any country in the world located outside of Europe (e.g. Latin America, Africa, Asia). Papers must be submitted in electronic form (as an email attachment) AND as a hard (printed) copy on the due date. You will be provided with specific guidelines to complete the paper as the semester begins.

Note: Your research paper cannot be the same nor similar to papers submitted for another course. Likewise, you cannot use the research paper you write in this course for another class without the expressed permission of the other professor. Late papers will NOT be accepted for ANY reason.
**Examination:** There is one take-home exam in this course, worth 33% of your grade. The exam requires you to answer three questions (2 pages each, typed, double-spaced, 12 point Times New Roman font, 1-in margins all around). The purpose of this requirement is to prepare you for comprehensive master’s degree exams in political science. You will be provided with specific guidelines to complete the take-home exam late in the semester. **Late exams will NOT be accepted for ANY reason.**

**Attendance:** 10% of your grade is based on your class attendance. Students are required to attend class and attendance will be taken at the end of each class session using a sign-in sheet. **Signing in a student who is not present or a asking a student to sign you in when you are absent constitutes academic dishonesty** (see p.3). It is the student’s responsibility to ensure that they have signed in. Arriving late and/or leaving early will negatively impact your attendance grade. **Attendance is critical, discussions are irreplaceable, and course sessions cannot be “made up.”** I will **not be managing any excuses for absences. You can miss up to ONE class session without penalty for any reason. More than one absence will result in a reduction in your grade, REGARDLESS of the reason (excused OR unexcused).**

**The attendance grade scale appears below.**
- 0 absences = you will get a bonus of 2% added to your grade
- 1 absence= no penalty
- 2 absences= -2% from your grade
- 3 absences= -4% from your grade
- 4 absences= -6% from your grade
- 5 or more absences= -10% from your grade

**Participation:** Your participation in this course is worth 2% of your grade. Positive participation includes responding to my questions, asking your own questions, and contributing to class discussions. Your participation grade will be reduced if you use personal electronic devices in class, misbehave in class, or disrupt class in any way.

**Pop Quizzes:** These will be assigned randomly throughout the semester and will count for a total of 2% of your grade. If you are absent when a pop quiz is given, you cannot make it up, irrespective of the circumstances. Pop quizzes will be graded on the basis of the content and clarity of your answers.

**Readings Presentations:** Each student will be assigned to present readings and help lead the discussions throughout the semester on an equitable and rotating basis. These presentations **must be accompanied by a summary handout** to be distributed to all of the students in the class. **Each presentation will be strictly limited to 20 minutes each.** Your presentations are worth 20% of your grade.
**Grades:** Your grade in this course will be determined by the criteria listed below. Specifically, the following scale will be used to determine your grade:

- Research Paper (March 11): 33%
- Take-Home Exam (May 6): 33%
- Readings Presentations: 20%
- Attendance: 10%
- Participation: 2%
- Quizzes: 2%

**A 90-100%; B 80-89.9%; C 70-79.9%; D 60-69.9%; F Below 60%**

**Notes on Academic Dishonesty of ANY kind:** Any student who is caught committing any kind of academic dishonesty will receive an “F” in this course and will be reported to the University administration. “Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, plagiarism (the appropriation or stealing of the ideas or words of another and passing them off as one’s own), cheating [or attempting to cheat] on exams or other course assignments, collusion (the unauthorized collaboration with others in preparing course assignments), [signing the attendance sheet for a student who is absent (or asking another student to sign you in when you are absent)], and abuse (destruction, defacing, or removal) of resource material” (Texas A&M University-Commerce Procedures A13.12).

If there may be any doubt as to what may constitute academic dishonesty, please consult with me prior to submitting any assignments.

**Notes on plagiarism:** Any student who is caught plagiarizing will receive an “F” in this course and will be reported to the University administration for academic dishonesty. If you have any doubt as to what may constitute plagiarism, please consult me prior to submitting any written work.

**In order to maximize your performance in this course, you must:**

- **TURN OFF ALL PERSONAL ELECTRONIC DEVICES BEFORE CLASS BEGINS. THIS INCLUDES (BUT IS NOT LIMITED TO): CELL PHONES, LAPTOPS, iPADS, iPODS, MP3 Players/Recorders, Translation devices, VIDEO CAMERAS, AND ANY OTHER AUDIO AND/OR VIDEO RECORDERS OF ANY KIND**
- **IF ANYONE IS FOUND TO BE TEXTING OR ANSWERS A PHONE CALL DURING CLASS, THE ENTIRE CLASS WILL TAKE A POP QUIZ ON THE SPOT.**
  
  Cell phone Quizzes will consist of FOUR questions.
  
  Each incorrect answer will reduce your grade in the course by .5%

- Attend each class session AND arrive ON TIME (the classroom door will not be opened for late arrivals **15 minutes after class starts**; Notify the professor in advance if you need to arrive late or leave early (this may affect your grade);

- **Read the assigned material before class and be prepared to discuss the topics presented**;

- Refrain from reading materials or working on other homework during class;

- Do NOT get up in the middle of class to go to the bathroom unless absolutely necessary;

- Be courteous to -and respectful of- your fellow students and professor.
Code of Student Conduct: Faculty have the authority to request students who exhibit inappropriate behavior to leave the class and may refer serious offenses to the University Police Department and/or the Dean of Students for disciplinary action. Failure to comply with the Code of Student Conduct and commonsensical directions listed above may result in a verbal request to cease inappropriate behavior, your immediate removal from the class, being immediately dropped from the class, and/or a review by an appropriate university disciplinary agency. For more information on this subject, please see the Student Guidebook.

Texas A&M University-Commerce will comply in the classroom, and in online courses, with all federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination and related retaliation on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, genetic information or veteran status. Further, an environment free from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression will be maintained.

Note to Students with Disabilities: The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

Office of Student Disability Resources and Services
Texas A&M University-Commerce
Gee Library, Room 132
Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835
Fax (903) 468-8148
studentdisabilityservices@tamuc.edu

Required Books:

Readings:
There are THREE required texts for this course. MAKE SURE TO PURCHASE THE CORRECT EDITIONS:

Democratization (FIRST EDITION)
Edited by Haerpfer, Bernhagen, Inglehart and Welzel

Central & East European Politics: From Communism to Democracy (SECOND EDITION)
Edited by Sharon L. Wolchik & Jane L. Curry
ISBN: 978-0-7425-6734-4

Developments in Central and East European Politics (FIFTH EDITION)
Edited by Stephen White, Paul G. Lewis and Judy Batt
ISBN: 978-0-8223-5482-6

ELECTRONIC BOOKS (e-books) ARE NOT ACCEPTABLE FOR THIS COURSE
Course Schedule:

**Week 1**  
Introduction to Course  
January 21  
Read:  
- *Buy your books*  
- *Readings for this session will be distributed in class*

**Week 2**  
Transitions to Democracy  
January 28  
Read: (50)  
- Democratization, Chapter 1 Introduction (7)  
- Developments in Central and East European Politics, Ch. 1 Defining Central and Eastern Europe (19)  
- Central & East European Politics, Chapter 1 Democracy, the Market, and the Return to Europe (24)

**Week 3**  
Democratization Theories  
February 4  
Read: (67)  
- Democratization, Chapter 2 Democratic and Undemocratic States (13)  
- Democratization, Chapter 3 Measuring Democracy and Democratization (16)  
- Democratization, Chapter 6 Theories of Democratization (16)  
- Central & East European Politics, Ch. 2 The Political Transition (22)

**Week 4**  
Waves of Democratization  
February 11  
Read: (51)  
- Democratization, Chapter 4 Long Waves and Conjunctures of Democratization (13)  
- Democratization, Chapter 5 The Global Wave of Democratization (18)  
- Developments in Central and East European Politics, Ch. 7 The International Transformation and Re-regionalization of Eastern Europe (20)

**Week 5**  
Executives, Elections and Political Parties  
February 18  
Read: (50)  
- Developments in Central and East European Politics, Ch. 8 Executive Leadership (17)  
- Developments in Central and East European Politics, Ch. 9 Elections and Voters (15)  
- Developments in Central and East European Politics, Ch. 11 Political Parties (18)
Week 6  Democracy and Economics
February 25
Read: (60)
- Democratization, Chapter 8 Democracy, Business, and the Economy (18)
- Central & East European Politics, Chapter 3 Re-Creating the Market (30)
- Developments in Central and East European Politics, Ch. 13 Recovering From Transition in Eastern Europe: Neoliberal Reform in Retrospect (12)

Week 7  Gender, Minorities, and Nationalism
March 4
Read: (55)
- Democratization, Chapter 10 Gender and Democratization (13)
- Central & East European Politics, Ch. 4 Ethnicity, Nationalism and the Expansion of Democracy (26)
- Central & East European Politics, Ch. 5 Women’s Participation in Postcommunist Politics (16)

Week 8  Research Paper DUE; Film Night #1
March 11
Read:
- Submit your research paper via email to the professor NO LATER THAN 6:00pm, and bring a printed copy to class. Late papers will NOT be accepted for ANY reason.
- Watch and discuss “Goodbye, Lenin”

Week 9  Spring Break
March 18
Read:
- Nothing.

Week 10  The International Context of Democratization
March 25
Read: (67)
- Democratization, Chapter 7 The International Context (14)
- Developments in Central and East European Politics, Ch. 6 The EU and Central and East European Politics (17)
- Central & East European Politics, Ch. 6 EU Accession and the Role of International Actors (18)
- Central & East European Politics, Chapter 7 Security Issues: NATO and Beyond (18)
Week 11  Civil Society and Social Policies
April 1
Read:  (54)
- Democratization, Chapter 16 The Media (14)
- Developments in Central and East European Politics, Ch. 12 Citizens and Politics (24)
- Developments in Central and East European Politics, Ch. 14 Social Change and Social Policy (16)

Week 12  USSR Transitions to Democracy
April 8
Read:  (65)
- Democratization, Chapter 20 Post-Communist Europe and Post Soviet Russia (11)
- Central & East European Politics, Chapter 15 Ukraine (34)
- Central & East European Politics, Chapter 11 The Baltic States (20)

Week 13  Soviet Satellite Transitions to Democracy
April 15
Read:  (52)
- Central & East European Politics, Ch. 8 Poland: The Politics of “God’s Playground” (26)
- Central & East European Politics, Ch. 9 The Czech and Slovak Republics: Two Paths to the Same Destination (26)

Week 14  The Future of Newly Democratic States
April 22
Read:  (34)
- Developments in Central and East European Politics, Ch. 15 The Quality of Post-Communist Democracy (19)
- Democratization, Chapter 24 Conclusions and Outlook (8)
- Central and East European Politics, Chapter 17 What Now? (7)

Week 15  Film Night #2
April 29
Read:
  - Watch and discuss “The Concert”

Week 16  Take-Home Exam DUE; Class Dinner
May 6
Read:
  - Nothing. Bring your Take-Home Exam to the designated location of our class dinner (TBA). Late papers will NOT be accepted for ANY reason.

Finals Week
May 11-15
  - There is not a final exam in this course.
STUDENT STATEMENT OF PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY

I, ________________________________, have read the syllabus in its entirety, and understand the guidelines and agree to the policies detailed therein as a condition of being enrolled in this course. I understand my obligation to adhere to these guidelines and policies in this course, and that failure to do so may result in serious consequences, including (but not limited to) being dropped from the course, and/or receiving a grade of “F” in the course.

Student Signature: ____________________________________________

Student PRINTED Name: __________________________________________

Date of Signature: ____________________________

FAILURE TO RETURN THIS SIGNED STATEMENT BY THE SECOND CLASS SESSION (January 28, 2015) WILL RESULT IN YOUR BEING DROPPED FROM THIS COURSE.