**Recommended Course Identification:**

<table>
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<th>PREFIX</th>
<th>CPO</th>
<th>COURSE NUMBER</th>
<th>LAB CODE (L or C)</th>
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(To obtain a course number, contact rshimam@fau.edu)

**Complete Course Title:** Politics and Government of Post Communist States

**Effective Date:**

FALL 2013

**Textbook Information:**

**Grading (Select only one grading option):**
- Regular [x]
- Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory

**Course Description, no more than three lines:**
The course is designed to introduce students to the political, economic, and social transformation of the post-communist Central and Eastern Europe and ex-USSR. Factors contributing to the relative success and failure of these developments will be examined and placed in the comparative perspective.

**Prerequisites:**
- Admission to Graduate Study

**Corequisites:**

**Registration Controls (Major, College, Level):**
- Graduate level students

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**Minimum Qualifications Needed to Teach This Course:**
Ph.D. in Political Science

Faculty contact, email and complete phone number:

Please consult and list departments that might be affected by the new course and attach comments.

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**Approved by:**

Department Chair: [Signature]
College Curriculum Chair: [Signature]
College Dean: [Signature]
UGPC Chair: [Signature]
Graduate College Dean: [Signature]
UFS President: [Signature]
Provost: [Signature]

**Date:**
- 3/22/13
- 3/22/13
- 3/19/13
- 9/12/13

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1. Syllabus must be attached; see guidelines for requirements: [syllabus 2011 pdf](www.fau.edu/provost/files/course_syllabus_2011.pdf)
2. Review Provost Memorandum: Definition of a Credit Hour [Credit Hour Memo 2012.pdf](www.fau.edu/provost/files/Definition_Credit_Hour_Memo_2012.pdf)
3. Consent from affected departments (attach if necessary)

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**Email this form and syllabus to UGPC@fau.edu one week before the University Graduate Programs Committee meeting so that materials may be viewed on the UGPC website prior to the meeting.**

FAUnewcrseGrad—Revised September 2012
CPO 6736 Section TBA Politics & Government of Post-Communist States
Semester 20XX

Instructor: Renat Shaykhutdinov
Meeting Room: TBA
Meeting Time: TBA
Credits: 3
Prerequisite or Co-requisite: Admission to Graduate Study
Instructor’s Office: 391B Social Science (SO)
Office Hours: TBA
E-mail: rshaykhv@fau.edu
Office phone: (561) 297-3775

I. Description of the course
The course is designed to introduce students to the political, economic, and social transformation of the post-communist Central and Eastern Europe and ex-USSR. We will examine interrelations between political, economic, and social issues in an attempt to understand the process of building new governmental institutions and economic systems and attaining broader societal goals in these countries. Factors contributing to the relative success and failure of these developments will be examined and placed in the comparative perspective. Moreover, theories of comparative politics will be employed to understand the process of transformation. As such, during the course of the semester we will consider the broader concepts and ideas pertaining to political science as a whole.

II. Course Objectives
The objectives of this course is to

• Examine a wide array of theoretical and policy-oriented topics pertinent to the post-communist states of the former Soviet Union and Eastern and Central Europe;
• Connect the developments in the post-communist space to the general study of comparative politics and political science;
• Develop general intellectual skills of observing, classifying, analyzing, and synthesizing
• Design research in the field of post-communist politics;
• Help students be accepted to quality PhD programs.

III. Expectations
The students are expected to read all of the assigned material in order to have a necessary understanding of the subject matter. Seminar discussions and reading assignments are complementary and should not be considered substitutes for each other. Hence, attendance in the class is strongly encouraged. Participation in class discussions are also encouraged as they are likely to contribute to the overall understanding of the subject by students.

IV. Grading Policy
Assignment I (Statement of Question/Pattern/Puzzle): 10 %
Assignment II (Tentative Argument and Preliminary Supporting Evidence): 15 %
Research Project: 30 %
4 Weekly Integrative Summaries: 10 %
Book Review: 15 %
Attendance: 10 %
Country Study and Participation: 10 %

A= 89.5%-100%; B= 79.5%-89.4%, C= 69.5%-79.4% D= 59.5%-69.4% F=0%-59.4%.
I will not change grades, a 69.4 is a D. If you are concerned about your grade, come and talk to me. Although your grade will not be changed, I can provide feedback about how to improve your class performance, if you see me early enough.

V. Assignments and Research Project
The purpose of this course is to introduce you to the issues in political, social, and economic transformation of post-communist Central and Eastern Europe. An important part of this goal is to help you develop analytical skills necessary to grasp these dynamics. As such, throughout the course of the semester you will be asked to submit two preliminary assignments related to your research paper and four integrative summaries of the class readings, write a book review, and conduct a well-rounded research project concerning an issue in the politics of a single country, or several countries of the ex-USSR and Central and East European states.

1. Assignment I (Statement of Question/Pattern/Puzzle)
In order to help you think about the final project in advance, you are required to submit a statement containing the question you will be answering in your paper. The due date for the assignment is TBA. In the assignment, you need to:
   - Show an empirical puzzle related to an aspect of the political, economic, or social life of Eastern Europe,
   - Clearly state the research question, and
   - Explain why the question is important.

2. Assignment II (Research Abstract)
To assist you in your work on the final project, you are also required to turn in a research abstract by TBA. In the abstract, you need to specify:
   - The question that you will answer.
   - Your thesis statement, or your argument. In the statement, you should clearly (even though it may later change) specify the answer to your question.
   - Any major issue(s) that you will focus in greater detail while answering the question.
   - Short bibliography with at least 3 academic citations.
   - 2-3 sentences for each citation. The sentences should show how these sources are relevant to answering your question.

3. Research Project and Substantive Issues Related to It
The paper should persuasively support and elaborate on the argument stated in your thesis section. As such, while you could present arguments that contradict your line of thought, you do not necessarily have to do so. Yet, if you decide to present arguments that oppose your claim, you need to show convincingly how your argumentation accommodates or refutes them. While doing so may constitute an extra work for you, it may also improve the overall quality of your argument. In both instances, please keep in mind that this is a paper written for a political science course. Therefore, you will need to use phenomena to support your arguments. Mere narration of events without showing any connection to your main thesis will not earn you much credit. If you have difficulty coming up with a research topic, please speak with me as soon as possible. I will do my best in guiding you towards your research question.

3a. Format for the Research Project:
- The research project must have an introduction, a thesis statement, a body, and a conclusion. The research project should have a clear organizational structure including transitions between the sections.
- **Introduction**: In this part, you need to get reader's attention. First, state the question that you are answering. Then, explain why it is an important question. You may include
any practical (and theoretical) advances that answering this question will bring. If you think that the question you are answering is ambiguous, please make sure to interpret the problem in the way you understand it. If the question you are tackling is too broad, narrow it down.

- **Thesis statement:** In this section clearly state your argument. Although you do not have to explain the logic of your thesis in this section, be sure to define any major concepts that you are using in your argumentation. Do not use definitions from dictionary or web. If the authors from the reviewed studies provide a definition of the main terms, you may use these.

- **The body section:** In this section you will need to show the logic of the argument. In other words, explain why we should expect a relationship between the factors that you think are important and the phenomenon/phenomena that need/s to be explained. In this section try to make the big points that relate to the question that you are answering. After you write a paragraph try to re-read it to make sure that it is clear how this paragraph relates to the question under consideration.

While writing this section you will need to elaborate on the previous literature that has dealt with this problem as well. The purpose of this exercise is to see what we know about the answers to your question based on other people’s research and how your paper “fits” into it. In writing this section you should avoid presenting mere paragraphs that describe one by one previous studies. Rather, your task here is to analyze previous studies and explain how they are similar and different. If there is more than one explanation to the phenomena that they study, try to explain why there might be two or more explanations. This means that you need to assess previous knowledge and present your own judgment about its relevance to the question.

In this section try to demonstrate how your answer “fits” the previous knowledge. If there is a disagreement among scholars on a particular issue, does your study solve this disagreement? Does it take any particular side? If so, then why? If there is a complete agreement among scholars on a particular issue, does your argument agree with them or does it bring a new revolutionary explanation that overturns the conventional wisdom? Or maybe the problem has not yet received much attention and you are a pioneer in explaining the phenomenon (phenomena) of your interest. In either case, demonstrate how your argument is superior to other explanations, if any of them exist.

- **Conclusion:** In this section, briefly re-state the issue that you investigate and its importance. Re-emphasize your own answer to this question and its place in the previous research. Indicate any potential areas for the future research in light of the statements you make.

- The project should be in a double-spaced format.
- It should be 10 to 15 pages long, not counting the front sheet and references.
- The paper should be typed in a 12-point font.
- The body of the text on a page should be framed by 1-inch margins.
- Your paper does not need to be bound—just stapling or clipping is fine.
- Please number the pages on the paper.
- Your paper must have a bibliography in a format shown below.
- While the Internet could be used as a source of information, you must employ at least seven academic sources, meaning academic books and articles. Some academic sources are available in the “full-text” electronic format. You could access them via the University server. Readings assigned in the class could also be used.
- Whenever you use information from another source, in other words, when you paraphrase or quote directly, you must give a credit to the author by properly citing him/her. Not doing so constitutes an act of plagiarism. The format of citations is given below.
4. **Proofreading**

- Final project drafts given to the instructor TWO weeks before the projects’ due date will be commented and returned promptly to the students in order to provide feedback on their progress. However, doing so is NOT a course requirement. Using or not using this opportunity is at students’ discretion. While using it is likely to increase students’ grades, not taking this opportunity will not decrease them.
- Before submitting the paper please proofread it and run the spell-check. Proofreading is important, as spell-check will not catch certain typos, let alone any logical inconsistencies.

5. **Penalties**

- Too short or too long papers will be penalized by reducing up to 10 points from the final project grade.
- Not complying with pagination requirement will lose you 5 points.
- Plagiarism will result not only in a significantly reduced grade in the course but also in disciplinary action, according to University rules as explained below.
- Papers submitted late will lose 5 points per day or part thereof.

6. **The List of Possible Research Questions**

1. Why did communism fail in Central and Eastern Europe and ex-USSR but sustained in China, Cuba, Laos, and Vietnam?
2. Will (a) Albania, (b) Bosnia and Herzegovina, (c) Serbia, (d) Montenegro, and (d) Macedonia be able to join the European Union? What are the challenges that they face? Can they overcome them? To answer this question you could pick one or several countries. Yet, you will need to discuss them in comparison to more lucky East European polities, which are now EU member states.
3. What are the prospects of the Balkan-Carpathian state of Kosovo to joining the European Union as opposed to Macedonia?
4. Now as Bulgaria and Romania are EU members, how long will take for them to join the Euro zone?
5. Will Kosovo remain an independent state?
6. What factors are responsible for the outbreak of ethnic hostilities in former Yugoslavia? Which set of factors—pre-communist, communist, or post-communist—has a larger bearing on eruption of ethnic conflict in this part of Europe?
7. Compare and contrast the process of disintegration of the Czechoslovak, Yugoslav, and Soviet federations.
8. Will the societies of the Visegrad Four as well as Slovenia, Bulgaria, and Romania that joined the European Union become completely European?
9. Evaluate the development of civil society in two of the countries in the region.
10. Select any other topic discussed in class and give it more in depth coverage.
11. If you would have another idea in mind not covered in class, speak to me separately for approval.

a. **Citations**

Please cite your papers thoroughly and use the specified format. Failure to do this will result in a significant grade penalty. The citation requirements for this class are as follows.

a1. **Direct Quotes**

You must enclose direct quotes—text taken word for word from another source—in quotation marks. Right after the quote, in the parentheses put the author’s last name, the year of publication and page numbers. Within the parenthesis, the author’s last name and the year of publication should be separated by a comma. Use a colon to separate the year of publication and page number. Books as well as newspaper and journal articles have the same format. The appropriate punctuation for the sentence should follow the parentheses.
Example: “The transition in East-Central Europe from the centrally planned economy to the market economy turned out to be a very complex process” (Hegedüs, 1999: 132).

2. Indirect Quotes (Paraphrasing)
Whenever you employ somebody else’s ideas and put them in your own words, you have to give a proper credit to the original author. At the end of the sentence provide the author’s last name as well as the year when the study was published. Alternatively, the name of the author could be integrated into your writing.

Below is a direct quote from Higley and Lengyel:
“The basic difference between the institutional changes that occurred before and after state socialism’s demise was that the former were intended to reproduce state socialism while the latter were meant to transcend it” (Higley and Lengyel, 2000: 8).

If in your writing you express this idea in your own words, you still need to give credit to the authors.

The fundamental novelty of institutional reforms in the post-communist period is that they aim to go beyond the socialist system, rather than replicate it (Higley and Lengyel, 2000).

Alternatively:
Higley and Lengyel (2000) point out that institutional reforms implemented in the post-communist age are designed to surpass state socialism rather than replicate it.

Whenever in writing an entire paragraph or idea you are employing a single source, show it at the beginning of the paragraph:

Higley and Lengyel (2000) consider a fundamental change in the way institutional reforms work in Central and Eastern Europe with the demise of state socialism.

Particularly, focusing on the role of elites they point to...

If the ideas on which you rely are general to the entire article/source, you do not need to list a page number.

3. String Citing
String citing is stringing together a lot of direct quotes and connecting them by your own words. It is not acceptable. Use direct quotes only when they are especially relevant to the author’s idea. It is not appropriate to quote information that relates to pure facts rather than ideas. Doing so suggests that you do not have a clear understanding of the material. As a general rule, direct quotes should be one or two sentences in length.

String citing makes it impossible to assess and grade the work. Simply, it does not contain much of student’s own work.

b. Bibliography
To the end of your exam attach a list of all references used for writing your exam. The list should be in alphabetical order. The format should be as follows:

Books

Articles in Journals and Magazines
7. Integrative Summaries
To encourage class discussion and student participation, in this course you are asked to provide one-page single-spaced integrative summaries on any four topics discussed in this class. Integrative summaries should briefly summarize and synthesize the required reading material and critically assess its content. The summaries should be submitted prior to the class discussion of that particular topic.

8. Literature Book Review
Every student should read one literary work on Eastern Europe or former Soviet republics and compose a book review. The book reviews should follow the format and entertain the issues and concerns voiced in a New York Times book review. It is encouraged to discuss these masterpieces with other class participants.

Students should choose by the third week of classes one of the following works:

* Moscow 2042* by Vladimir Voinovich
* Stasiland* by Anna Funder
* The Master and Margarita* by Mikhail Bulgakov
* A Theatrical Novel* by Mikhail Bulgakov
* The Gulag Archipelago: 1918-1956; An Experiment in Literary Investigation* by Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn (first volume, parts I and II)
* Café Europa: Life after Communism* by Slavenka Drakulić
* The Good Soldier Švejk and His Fortunes in the World War* by Jaroslav Hašek

Each participant should pick a country that would be followed and examined throughout the course of the semester. All of these countries would form a basis for an integrated comparative analysis of a particular issue. In each class, each student should be able to explain how the material from the previous discussion can be applied to their country. Students may adopt this country for their final research project, but are not required to do so.

Each participant will impersonate a diplomatic representative for the adopted country. They would set up a table for this East European Fair. Your aim is to “intrigue” the attendees and make them come and see your country. Each student will briefly present on the items on the table, which may pertain to music, literature, food, pictures, etc.

Students should choose one of the following countries by the third week of classes. No more than 2 students can pick the same country:

- Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Estonia, Georgia, Hungary, Kazakhstan, Kosovo, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Macedonia, Moldova, Montenegro, Poland, Romania, Russia, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, Uzbekistan.

10. Deadlines

- The research project is due by TBA.
- Research abstract should be turned in by TBA.
- Assignment I should be submitted by TBA.
- Book reviews are due on TBA.
VI. ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) Statement
In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), students who require special accommodations due to a disability to properly execute coursework must register with the Office for Students with Disabilities (OSD) located in Boca Raton - SU 133 (561-297-3880), in Davie - MOD I (954-236-1222), in Jupiter - SR 117 (561-799-8585), or at the Treasure Coast - CO 128 (772-873-3305), and follow all OSD procedures.

VII. Florida Atlantic University Honor Code
Students at Florida Atlantic University are expected to maintain the highest ethical standards. Academic dishonesty, including cheating and plagiarism, is considered a serious breach of these ethical standards, because it interferes with the University mission to provide a high quality education in which no student enjoys an unfair advantage over any other. Academic dishonesty is also destructive of the University community, which is grounded in a system of mutual trust and places high value on personal integrity and individual responsibility. Harsh penalties are associated with academic dishonesty. For more information, see www.fau.edu/regulations.

VIII. Copyright Statement
The handouts used in this course are copyrighted. By “handouts” I mean all materials generated for this class, which include but are not limited to syllabi, quizzes, exams, lab problems, in-class materials, review sheets, and additional problem sets. Because these are copyrighted, you do not have the right to copy the handouts, unless I expressly grant permission.

IX. Required and Recommended Reading List and Tentative Schedule
*This may change. Any changes will be announced in class or via Blackboard.

***Week 1
Introduction to the class. Clarification of the course, including reading material, expectations, requirements and grading policy.

***Week 2


Suggested:


***Week 3
The Communist Legacy: Attitudes and Beliefs


Suggested:


***Week 4
Democratic Consolidation in Post-Communist Systems


Suggested:


***Week 5
Attitudes Toward Democracy/Democratic Satisfaction


Suggested:


***Week 6
Civil Society/Trust in Post-Communist Systems


Suggested:


Discussion of the abstracts and projects

***Week 7, Assignment 1 is due.***

**Institutional Choice and Design**


Suggested:


***Week 8***

**Book Review Due Date.**

**Institution-Building: Executive-Legislative Relations**


Olson & Norton: “Legislatures in Democratic Transition
Norton & Olson: “Parliaments in Adolescence.”


***Week 9

Research Abstract Due Date.

Political Parties


Chapter 6
Chapter 7


Suggested:


***Week 10
Voting and Elections


Chapter 1
Chapter 7
Chapter 8


Chapter 1
Chapter 2


Suggested:


***Week 11
Ethnic, Regional Politics


***Week 12
Ethnic, Regional Politics (cont’d)


Chapter 8


Chapter 5

Suggested:


***Week 13***

*East European Fair*

*Cases in East European Ethnic Politics*

***Week 14***

*The Political Economy of the Transition*


Suggested:


Chapter 1: Remaking the Political Field: Strategic Interactions and Contingent

***Week 15 (Date of the Final Exam)***

*Class Discussion. Research Project to Be Turned In*

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