

The Governments and Politics of Eastern Europe

Spring 2022, 21:790:330:01; Tuesday, Thursday 2:30-3:50pm
Prof. Alexander J. Motyl; 728 Hill Hall; ajmotyl@rutgers.edu

Learning Objectives

DEVELOP ARGUMENTS IN CLEAR AND COHERENT TEXTS AND ORAL COMMUNICATIONS; READ A VARIETY OF TEXTS FOR MEANING AND INFORMED ANALYSIS; EVALUATE INFORMATION CRITICALLY; PRODUCE IDEAS AND TEXTS CREATIVELY; UNDERSTAND AND USE METHODS AND FORMS OF INQUIRY SPECIFIC TO THE BROAD DISCIPLINARY CATEGORY (OR CATEGORIES) WITHIN WHICH THE COURSE FALLS; UNDERSTAND PAST AND PRESENT INTERRELATIONSHIPS AMONG DIVERSE POLITICAL, SOCIAL, CULTURAL, RACIAL, ETHNIC, AND/OR GENDER GROUPS; UNDERSTAND AND ADDRESS DEFINING SOCIAL, POLITICAL, CULTURAL, AND/OR INTELLECTUAL QUESTIONS IN CONTEMPORARY AND/OR HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE

Syllabus

January 18: Introduction.

January 20: What is Eastern Europe? Where is Eastern Europe? Where did it come from?

Readings: <http://francistapon.com/Books/The-Hidden-Europe/Where-is-Eastern-Europe-and-what-countries-are-in-it>;
<https://www.cia.gov/the-world-factbook/countries/>

January 25, 27, February 1, 3, 8, 10: Historical background: empires, wars, and nations.

Readings: <https://www.visualcapitalist.com/2400-years-of-european-history/>;
<http://www.history.com/topics/world-war-i/world-war-i-history>; <http://www.vox.com/a/world-war-i-maps>

February 15, 17: State and nation building and democratic breakdowns in the interwar period; the Holodomor as genocide.

Readings: <https://www.history.com/this-day-in-history/wilson-delivers-fourteen-points-speech>;
http://www.worldology.com/Europe/europe_history_md.htm; N. Werth, "The Great Ukrainian Famine of 1932-33,"
<http://www.massviolence.org/The-1932-1933-Great-Famine-in-Ukraine>

February 22, 24: Devastation: Soviet atrocities; World War II; the Holocaust as genocide. *FIRST PAPER DUE FEBRUARY 22.*

Readings: http://www.worldology.com/Europe/europe_history_md.htm; <http://www.history.com/topics/world-war-ii/world-war-ii-history>; Timothy Snyder, "Holocaust: The Ignored Reality," <http://www.nybooks.com/articles/22875>;
<https://video.search.yahoo.com/search/video?fr=mcafee&p=interactive+video+of+world+war+ii+losses+chart#id=5&id=978ada0edc5f35999a254589d4d0aca&action=click>

March 1, 3: Nationalist resistance, Communist rule, occupied Germany and Austria, and Cold War.

Readings: <https://www.jstor.org/stable/2492495?seq=1>; G. Kennan, "Sources of Soviet Conduct,"
<http://www.historyguide.org/europe/kennan.html>

March 8, 10: Stalinism, Tito, and national Communism. *SECOND PAPER DUE MARCH 8.*

Reading: G. Orwell, *1984*, part 1, chap. I. <http://www.george-orwell.org/1984/0.html>

March 22, 24: De-Stalinization and national rebellions; divided Berlin and Germany's Ostpolitik.

Readings: <http://www.history.com/topics/cold-war/berlin-wall>; <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r8oQLHWc4KU>

March 29, 31: The collapse of Communism, German reunification, the collapse of the USSR. *THIRD PAPER DUE MARCH 29.*

Readings: http://www.worldology.com/Europe/europe_history_md.htm; V. Havel, "The Power of the Powerless,"
http://www.vaclavhavel.cz/showtrans.php?cat=clanky&val=72_aj_clanky.html&typ=HTML;

<http://www.history.com/topics/cold-war/fall-of-soviet-union>; <https://www.deutschland.de/en/topic/politics/germany-europe/the-fall-of-the-wall-and-german-reunification>

April 5, 7: The wars in Yugoslavia; EU and NATO enlargement.

Readings: http://www.worldology.com/Europe/europe_history_md.htm; <https://www.thoughtco.com/the-wars-of-the-former-yugoslavia-1221861>; <https://www.icty.org/en/about/what-former-yugoslavia/conflicts>

April 12, 14: Putin Russia, war with Ukraine, and the rise of the populist right.

Readings: D. Ost, "Thoughts on the Hungarian and Polish New Right in Power," <http://www.publicseminar.org/2016/09/thoughts-on-the-hungarian-and-polish-new-right-in-power/#.WEnHtYWcHIU>; F. Wesslau, "Putin's Friends in Europe," http://www.ecfr.eu/article/commentary_putins_friends_in_europe7153; <https://capx.co/anne-applebaum-on-poland-putin-and-progress-in-eastern-europe/>

April 19, 21: America and Eastern Europe.

Readings: <https://geopoliticalfutures.com/the-us-and-russia-bargain-over-eastern-europe/>; <https://thehill.com/opinion/national-security/526420-how-biden-can-help-revive-eastern-europe>; <https://emerging-europe.com/voices/what-a-biden-administration-means-for-eastern-europe/>

April 26, 28: Eastern Europe within a changing EU, NATO.

Readings: <https://www.aspen.review/article/2020/not-take-todays-pro-europeanism-granted/>; <https://www.aspen.review/article/2020/butterflies-dysfunctions-political-power/>; <https://www.aspen.review/article/2020/emil-brix-much-history/>

Requirements

Students must write three 1-page papers and deliver a 10-minute report on a topic of their choice. Each paper must be exactly one page long, double-spaced, 12-point font, regular margins. Name, date, and assignment topic on one line! No citations or footnotes! PAPERS THAT DEVIATE FROM THESE INSTRUCTIONS WILL BE PENALIZED BY 5 POINTS. PAPERS MUST BE SENT TO AJMOTYL@RUTGERS.EDU BY 2:30PM ON THE DUE DATE. NO LATE PAPERS ACCEPTED. NO EXTRA CREDIT, NO RESUBMISSIONS.

Papers must be written in the form of personal testimonies by:

1. A German soldier who served on the eastern front and returned home in 1919.
Due: Feb. 22.
2. A Polish officer who survived the Katyn massacre.
Due: March 8.
3. A Hungarian freedom fighter in the revolution of 1956.
Due: March 29.

Grades

The papers and report will be graded on a 0-20 scale. The final grade will be the mathematical average of the four grades.