

## The Governments and Politics of Eastern Europe

Fall 2019, 21:790:330:01; Tuesday, Thursday 2:30-3:50pm, Conklin 446  
Prof. Alexander J. Motyl; 728 Hill Hall; [ajmotyl@rutgers.edu](mailto:ajmotyl@rutgers.edu)

### A writing-intensive course

#### 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

**September 3:** Introduction.

**September 5:** What is Eastern Europe? Where is Eastern Europe? Where did it come from?

Reading: <http://francistapon.com/Books/The-Hidden-Europe/Where-is-Eastern-Europe-and-what-countries-are-in-it>; [https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/wfbExt/region\\_eur.html](https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/wfbExt/region_eur.html)

**September 10, 12:** The Fall of Poland and the Rise of the German, Habsburg, Russian, and Ottoman empires.

Reading: [http://www.worldology.com/Europe/europe\\_history\\_md.htm](http://www.worldology.com/Europe/europe_history_md.htm)

**September 17, 19:** World War I, Imperial Collapse, and Revolution

Reading: <http://www.history.com/topics/world-war-i/world-war-i-history>; <http://www.vox.com/a/world-war-i-maps>

**September 24, 26:** State and Nation Building and Democratic Breakdowns in the Interwar Period; the Holodomor as genocide.

Reading: [http://www.worldology.com/Europe/europe\\_history\\_md.htm](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>

**October 1, 3:** Soviet Atrocities; World War II; the Holocaust as genocide.

FIRST PAPER DUE OCTOBER 1.

Readings: [http://www.worldology.com/Europe/europe\\_history\\_md.htm](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>

**October 8, 10:** Nationalist Resistance, Communist Rule, Occupied Germany and Austria, and Cold War.

REVISED FIRST PAPER DUE OCTOBER 8.

Reading: G. Kennan, "Sources of Soviet Conduct," <http://www.historyguide.org/europe/kennan.html>

**October 15, 17:** Stalinism, Tito, and National Communism.

SECOND PAPER DUE OCTOBER 15.

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

**October 22, 24:** De-Stalinization and National Rebellions; Divided Berlin and Germany's Ostpolitik.

REVISED SECOND PAPER DUE OCTOBER 22.

Reading: <http://www.history.com/topics/cold-war/berlin-wall>

**October 29, 31:** From the Prague Spring to Solidarity; the Collapse of Communism.

THIRD PAPER DUE OCTOBER 29.

Reading: [http://www.worldology.com/Europe/europe\\_history\\_md.htm](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.vaclavhavel.cz/showtrans.php?cat=clanky&val=72_aj_clanky.html&typ=HTML)

**November 5, 7:** German Reunification; the Collapse of the USSR.

REVISED THIRD PAPER DUE NOVEMBER 5.

Reading: <http://www.history.com/topics/cold-war/fall-of-soviet-union>

**November 12, 14:** The Wars in Yugoslavia; EU and NATO Enlargement.

Reading: [http://www.worldology.com/Europe/europe\\_history\\_md.htm](http://www.worldology.com/Europe/europe_history_md.htm)

**November 19, 21:** 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](http://www.ecfr.eu/article/commentary_putins_friends_in_europe7153);

**November 26, December 3:** America and Eastern Europe.

Readings: <https://geopoliticalfutures.com/the-us-and-russia-bargain-over-eastern-europe/>;

<http://www.neweasterneurope.eu/articles-and-commentary/2182-what-does-the-election-of-donald-trump-for-us-president-mean-for-eastern-europe>; <http://www.politico.eu/article/why-donald-trump-is-dangerous-for-eastern-europe-ukraine-baltic-russia-crimea/>

**December 5, 10:** Eastern Europe within a Changing EU, NATO, and Germany.

### Requirements

1) Students must write and rewrite three 1-page papers. 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 HANDED IN IN CLASS; NO ELECTRONIC VERSIONS ACCEPTED. NO LATE PAPERS ACCEPTED.

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

1. A German soldier who served on the eastern front and returns home in 1919.  
Due: Oct. 1. Revision due: Oct. 8.
2. A Hungarian freedom fighter during the 1956 revolution.  
Due: Oct. 15. Revision due Oct. 22.
3. A Polish worker active in Solidarity.  
Due: Oct. 29. Revision due Nov. 5.

2) There will be **TWO** quizzes during the semester. MISSED QUIZZES RESULT IN GRADES OF "0". NO EXCEPTIONS. Dates will be announced in class.

### Grades

Papers and quizzes will be graded on a 0-20 scale. The final grade will be the mathematical average of the eight grades. In-class participation may count toward extra credit.