The Governments and Politics of Eastern Europe

Spring 2021, 21:790:330:01; Tuesday, Thursday 2:30-3:50pm
Prof. Alexander J. Motyl; 728 Hill Hall; 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

January 19: Introduction.

January 21: What is Eastern Europe? Where is Eastern Europe? Where did it come from?

January 26, 28, February 2, 4, 9, 11: Historical background: empires, wars, and nations.
Readings: http://www.worldology.com/Europe/europe_history_md.htm;
http://www.history.com/topics/world-war-i/world-war-i-history; http://www.vox.com/a/world-war-i-maps

February 16, 18: 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;

February 23, 25: Devastation: Soviet atrocities; World War II; the Holocaust as genocide. FIRST PAPER DUE FEBRUARY 23.

March 2, 4: Nationalist resistance, Communist rule, occupied Germany and Austria, and Cold War. REVISED FIRST PAPER DUE MARCH 2.

March 9, 11: Stalinism, Tito, and national Communism. SECOND PAPER DUE MARCH 9.

March 23, 25: De-Stalinization and national rebellions; divided Berlin and Germany’s Ostpolitik. REVISED SECOND PAPER DUE MARCH 23.
Readings: http://www.history.com/topics/cold-war/berlin-wall; https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r8oQLHWc4KU

March 30, April 1: The collapse of Communism, German reunification, the collapse of the
USSR. **THIRD PAPER DUE MARCH 30.**

**April 6, 8:** The wars in Yugoslavia; EU and NATO enlargement. **REVISED THIRD PAPER DUE APRIL 6.**

**April 13, 15:** Putin Russia, war with Ukraine, and the rise of the populist right.

**April 20, 22:** America and Eastern Europe.

**April 27, 29:** Eastern Europe within a changing EU, NATO.

**Requirements**

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 SENT TO AIMOTYL@RUTGERS.EDU BY 2:30PM ON THE DUE DATE. 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 returned home in 1919.  
   Due: Feb. 23. Revision due March 2.
2. A Polish officer who survived the Katyn massacre.  
   Due: March 9. Revision due March 23.
   Due: March 30. Revision due April 6.

**Grades**

Papers will be graded on a 0-20 scale. The final grade will be the mathematical average of the six grades.