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

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?

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

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.

October 1, 3: Soviet Atrocities; World War II; the Holocaust as genocide.
FIRST PAPER DUE OCTOBER 1.

October 8, 10: Nationalist Resistance, Communist Rule, Occupied Germany and Austria, and Cold War.
REVISED FIRST PAPER DUE OCTOBER 8.

October 15, 17: Stalinism, Tito, and National Communism.
SECOND PAPER DUE OCTOBER 15.

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.**


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

November 19, 21: Putin Russia; War with Ukraine; and the Rise of the Populist Right.


November 26, December 3: America and Eastern Europe.


**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.
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.