Politics of Eastern Europe

SYLLABUS

In 1945, Eastern Europe laid in ruins, the collective action of more than four years of total war. The international political hegemony of Europe had been shattered, and the new superpowers, the United States and the Soviet Union had already supplanted Europe as models of political and economic development. Eastern Europe had been enslaved by the Soviet Union, having a Stalinist political and economic model imposed on it. While the rest of Europe experienced a remarkable phase of economic and political resurgence, characterized by high and rapid industrial growth, collective affluence, and effective parliamentary governance, Eastern Europe experienced a time of economic stagnation and political repression.

Today, after the collapse of the Soviet Union, Eastern Europe is on the road to recovery. While the economic transition from a Soviet type economy to a market oriented economy is still taking place and democracy is still struggling to survive, Eastern Europe is becoming a part of Europe and the Western world one more time. From NATO to the European Union, Eastern European countries are even becoming a part of the Western alliance, which should guarantee a prosperous and secure future.

This course will offer a survey of Central/Eastern Europe by analyzing six Eastern European countries. Each country’s history and political, social, and economic structure will be analyzed and then projections for its future will be made.

Learning Outcomes:

After successfully completing this course, students should be able to demonstrate:

- familiarity with terminology used to study Political Science and Comparative Politics
- basic knowledge of a variety of histories, cultures, and ideologies and their impact on current Eastern European societies
- an understanding of major governmental and economic structures throughout Eastern Europe
- comprehension of the interrelationships of domestic policies and international events

Office Hours:
Monday, Wednesday and Friday: 11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. and by appointment.

Communication Policy:
E-mails will be answered within 24 hours during the school week and 48 hours on weekends.
Class Meetings:
Classes will meet Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 12:20 p.m. in BUS 260.

Text:
The following text is required and is available for purchase at the campus bookstore.
Central and East European Politics. 3rd edition. Wolchik and Curry

Course Requirements:
1. Attendance of Class Meetings
2. Successful completion of two exams to be held on February 19, and March 25, 2016.
4. Successful completion of a five-page research paper with the topic to be discussed in class. The paper will be due on April 22, 2016.

Attendance and Grading Policy:
Each exam, including the final, will be worth 100 points. The exams will consist of essay questions and short identifications. The report is worth an additional 100 points and will be discussed in detail in class. The grading scale will be the following:
A=400-360 points
B=359-320 points
C=319-280 points
D=279-260 points
F=259 or fewer points

POLICIES THAT MUST APPEAR IN EACH COURSE SYLLABUS
The following University policies must appear on each course syllabus or be provided as an informational sheet (web-links to these policies may be used in the print or electronic syllabus)
http://www.uttyler.edu/academicaffairs/syllabuspolicies.pdf

Students Rights and Responsibilities
To know and understand the policies that affect your rights and responsibilities as a student at UT Tyler, please follow this link: http://www.uttyler.edu/wellness/rightsresponsibilities.php

Grade Replacement/Forgiveness and Census Date Policies
Students repeating a course for grade forgiveness (grade replacement) must file a Grade Replacement Contract with the Enrollment Services Center (ADM 230) on or before the Census Date of the semester in which the course will be repeated. Grade Replacement Contracts are available in the Enrollment Services Center or at http://www.uttyler.edu/registrar. Each semester’s Census Date can be found on the Contract itself, on the Academic Calendar, or in the information pamphlets published each semester by the Office of the Registrar.
Failure to file a Grade Replacement Contract will result in both the original and repeated grade being used to calculate your overall grade point average. Undergraduates are eligible to exercise grade replacement for only three course repeats during their career at UT Tyler; graduates are
eligible for two grade replacements. Full policy details are printed on each Grade Replacement Contract.

The Census Date is the deadline for many forms and enrollment actions that students need to be aware of. These include:

- Submitting Grade Replacement Contracts, Transient Forms, requests to withhold directory information, approvals for taking courses as Audit, Pass/Fail or Credit/No Credit.
- Receiving 100% refunds for partial withdrawals. (There is no refund for these after the Census Date)
- Schedule adjustments (section changes, adding a new class, dropping without a “W” grade)
- Being reinstated or re-enrolled in classes after being dropped for non-payment
- Completing the process for tuition exemptions or waivers through Financial Aid

State-Mandated Course Drop Policy
Texas law prohibits a student who began college for the first time in Fall 2007 or thereafter from dropping more than six courses during their entire undergraduate career. This includes courses dropped at another 2-year or 4-year Texas public college or university. For purposes of this rule, a dropped course is any course that is dropped after the census date (See Academic Calendar for the specific date).

Exceptions to the 6-drop rule may be found in the catalog. Petitions for exemptions must be submitted to the Enrollment Services Center and must be accompanied by documentation of the extenuating circumstance. Please contact the Enrollment Services Center if you have any questions.

Disability/Accessibility Services
In accordance with Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and the ADA Amendments Act (ADAAA) the University offers accommodations to students with learning, physical and/or psychological disabilities. If you have a disability, including non-visible a disability diagnosis such as a chronic disease, learning disorder, head injury or ADHD, or you have a history of modifications or accommodations in a previous educational environment you are encouraged to contact the Student Accessibility and Resources office and schedule an interview with an Accessibility Case Manager. If you are unsure if the above criteria applies to you, but have questions or concerns please contact the SAR office. For more information or to set up an appointment please visit the SAR webpage (http://www.uttyler.edu/disabilityservices/) or the SAR office located in the University Center, Room 3150 or call 903.566.7079. You may also send an email to saroffice@uttyler.edu.

Student Absence due to Religious Observance
Students who anticipate being absent from class due to a religious observance are requested to inform the instructor of such absences by the second class meeting of the semester.

Student Absence for University-Sponsored Events and Activities
If you intend to be absent for a university-sponsored event or activity, you (or the event sponsor) must notify the instructor at least two weeks prior to the date of the planned absence. At that time the instructor will set a date and time when make-up assignments will be completed.

**Social Security and FERPA Statement:**
It is the policy of The University of Texas at Tyler to protect the confidential nature of social security numbers. The University has changed its computer programming so that all students have an identification number. The electronic transmission of grades (e.g., via e-mail) risks violation of the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act; grades will not be transmitted electronically.

**Emergency Exits and Evacuation:**
Everyone is required to exit the building when a fire alarm goes off. Follow your instructor’s directions regarding the appropriate exit. If you require assistance during an evacuation, inform your instructor in the first week of class. Do not re-enter the building unless given permission by University Police, Fire department, or Fire Prevention Services.

**Course Outline:**

I. Introduction-Different Political and Economic Ideologies- Wolchik, Chapters 1, 2 and 5

II. Bulgaria-The Return of the King- Wolchik, Chapter 14

III. Romania-Stalinism at its Finest- Wolchik, Chapter 15

IV. Hungary-The Legacy of the Empire- Wolchik, Chapter 12

V. The Czech and Slovak Republic-The Velvet Divorce- Wolchik, Chapter 11

VI. Poland-The Center of Europe-Wolchik, Chapter 10

VII. Eastern Europe and the World-Wolchik, Chapters 8 and 9

VII. Conclusion- Wolchik, Chapter 19