POLI 126AB: POLITICS AND ECONOMICS IN CENTRAL EASTERN EUROPE

Course Catalog Description: This course explores the interrelationship of politics and economics in Central Eastern Europe, analyzing the historic evolution of the area, the socialist period, and contemporary political and economic change there.

Course Objectives: This course is designed to expose students to the economic, institutional, and cultural factors shaping modern states in Central and Eastern Europe. We will pay attention to how the consequences of Nazi and Soviet occupation, the revolutions of 1989, and the subsequent economic liberalization and democratization processes shape modern politics within the region.

Learning Objectives: At the end of this course, students will be able to:
1. Understand what is meant by the term “Central and Eastern Europe”.
2. Detail the extent to which Nazi and Soviet occupation shaped states in the region.
3. Analyze the political and economic effects of a planned economy.
4. Evaluate the factors which shaped “the revolutions of 1989”.
5. Recognize similarities/differences in how executive, legislative, and judicial politics is structured within states in the region.
6. Investigate similarities/differences in party politics across states within the region.
7. Become more discerning consumers of political media.
8. Improve written and oral communication skills.

Course Assignments/Grading: The grade for this course will be determined as follows:

Midterm Examination: 50%
Final Examination: 50%

Attendance and Participation: Due to the way in which themes will be presented, regular attendance and participation is required. Students are expected to attend lecture having completed the assigned reading and able to participate in course discussions, which will integrate theoretical materials and lecture topics with current events. Current events analysis will occur at the beginning of each lecture, so students are strongly encouraged to be on time and ready to participate in course discussions. You may wish to sign up for e-mail alerts from your favorite websites. The following is a list of news websites that may be of use. Please be advised that the list is not exhaustive:

Economist Online (http://www.economist.com)
BBC News (http://news.bbc.co.uk)
Midterm and Final Examinations: The topic and due dates for the midterm and the final examination will be discussed in lecture. Please be advised that both course examinations build on material discussed in lecture and course readings. Both examinations will be 6-8 pages in length and require an electronic submission to turnitin.com PRIOR TO THE DEADLINE. For this quarter only, we will not require a hard copy submission.

Late Assignments: Barring emergencies accompanied by valid documentation, no late assignments will be accepted. Please be advised that we will not typically entertain any request to accept a late paper for which we are not made aware prior to the due date. As it is your responsibility to ensure that turnitin.com submissions occur prior to the stated deadline, we will also not entertain any late turnitin.com requests. Please plan accordingly, because if you do not submit an electronic copy to turnitin.com before stated deadlines, you will fail the course.

Academic Integrity: While issues of plagiarism are not expected, course assignments are to be completed on an individual basis in a manner consistent with UCSD policies on academic integrity. Incidents of plagiarism will be dealt with according to department and university procedures. Please be advised that under no circumstances will credit be given for any assignment which is deemed to violate UCSD’s policies on academic integrity.

Students with Disabilities: If you are a student with a documented disability who will be requesting accommodations, please make sure you are registered with the Office for Students with Disabilities and provide me with documentation outlining your accommodations.

Reading Schedule: Given that this is an upper division course being taught over the summer session, there is a heavy reading load for this course (although it is nothing compared to what you will see in graduate programs). While we recognize that students have a variety of responsibilities, we expect students to attend lecture prepared to actively discuss the course readings as you cannot succeed in this course without doing the readings. Please keep this in mind while planning for the session as course assignments will require students to show understanding of course readings. Strategies for tackling academic readings can be found at: http://www.si.umich.edu/~pne/PDF/howtoread.pdf.

Required Books:
Grzymala-Busse. Rebuilding Leviathan. Cambridge UP.
White, Lewis and Batt. Developments in Central and East European Politics 5. Duke UP.
Course Schedule:

WEEK ONE (8-10 August):

What Is Eastern Europe?
White et al. CH 1
Kundera (The Tragedy of Central Europe)
Stokes (Introduction)

The Interwar Era to World War II: Setting the Stage
Rothschild and Wingfield CH 1-2
Gross (Social Consequences of War)

WEEK TWO (15-17 August):

Communist Takeovers
Rothschild and Wingfield CH 3-4

From Budapest to Prague to Gdansk
Rothschild and Wingfield CH 5
Stokes CH 1
Ekiert (State Against Society)

Responding to the “New Normal”
Rothschild and Wingfield CH 6
Stokes CH 2-4

WEEK THREE (22-24 August):

Revolutions of 1989
Stokes CH 5
Rothschild and Wingfield CH 7
Ash (Magic Lantern)

Preparing New Regimes
White et al. CH 2-4
Zielonka (New Institutions)
Gryzmala-Busse CH 1-2

MIDTERM DISTRIBUTED

WEEK FOUR (29-31 August):

Crafting the Executive Branch
White et al. CH 8
Gryzmala-Busse CH 3-4
Crafting the Legislative Branch
White et al. CH 10

Political Parties and Electoral Systems
White et al. CH 9 and 11
Gryzmala-Busse CH 5

MIDTERM DUE
FINAL DISTRIBUTED

WEEK FIVE (5-7 September):

The EU, NATO, and Central/Eastern Europe
White et al. CH 6-7
Stokes CH 7-9

Legacies of Economic Transition and Protest
White et al. CH 13 and 14

Prospects
Gryzmala-Busse Conclusions
Stokes Epilogue
White et al. CH 15
Ash Afterword

FINAL EXAMINATION IS SCHEDULED FOR 11:30-2:30pm on 9 SEPTEMBER 2017

Disclaimer: This syllabus is intended to provide an overview of the course. You cannot claim any rights from it. While the information included within the syllabus should be a reliable guide for the course, scheduling and dates may change. Official announcements are always those made in lecture.