

FYSM 1602A
Social Impact of Transformation in the Post-Communist Era

11:35am - 2:25 pm on Mondays
(213 Residence Commons)

Instructor: Judit Fabian

Office: Loeb D663

Office Hours: Monday, 10:15 am – 11:15 am and from 2:45 pm – 3:45 pm or by appointment

Phone: (613) 520-2600 Ext. 2771 (Please note that I am only available at this number during office hours; also, please do not leave messages.)

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Course Description

This is the second half (Winter term) of a full course running from September 2007 to April 2008 and entitled *Social Impact of Transformation in the Post-Communist Era*. The course is based at the Department of Political Science but is part of the university's First Year Seminar Program initiative. The first half (Fall term) of the course focused primarily on the development of "an understanding of how communist systems were formed, how they worked, contemporary critiques of Soviet and East European regimes, and the circumstances surrounding the fall of communism;" it relied greatly on primary sources, such as "original accounts by participants in political events, works of fiction by major literary observers, and works of scholarship that had an actual impact on the communist transformation."

Building on the first term of the course, which provided a familiarization with the basics of post-communist transformation, this term the course's overall framework focuses on the different ways of studying post-communist transformation while introducing the empirical subject area in greater detail. This part of the course relies primarily on secondary academic sources written both by indigenous scholars and by scholars from the 'outside'. The course will follow the interdisciplinary approach of the fall term while remaining embedded in political analyses. Similarly to the fall term, the course will also introduce documentaries and experts in the form of guest speakers where suitable. Although the course is structured around particular post-communist countries, all of which are now part of the European Union, each week will address crosscutting issue areas in a comparative framework and will make references to post-communist countries other than those to which an entire class is devoted.

The purpose of the course is threefold: 1) that students gain a critical understanding of the current state of academic research and literature concerning the area of post-communist transformation; 2) that students gain understanding of some of the basic methodological issues (how to study a problem or a case) both in social sciences in general and with regards to the particular issue-area of post-communist transformation; 3) that students continue to develop and strengthen their abilities to read critically, debate with nuance and write analytically.

Course Structure¹

#	Date	Type of Seminar	Topic
1	January 7	Introductory class	Introduction
2	January 14	Regular seminar	Approaches to Post-communist transformation
3	January 21	Discussion seminar	Competing narratives in the wake of transformation from Hungary
4	January 28	Regular seminar	Competing narratives in the wake of transformation from Poland
5	February 4	Discussion seminar	Competing narratives in the wake of transformation from the Czech Republic
6	February 11	Regular seminar	Competing narratives concerning human trafficking in the wake of post-communist transformation
WINTER BREAK: FEBRUARY 18-22			
NOTE: THE FIRST REACTION PAPER HAS TO BE WRITTEN PRIOR TO THE READING BREAK (EITHER FOR WEEK #3 OR FOR WEEK #5) AND HANDED IN AT THE BEGINNING OF THE CLASS PRIOR TO THE SCHEDULED DISCUSSION FOR WHICH THE PAPER IS WRITTEN			
7	February 25	Discussion seminar	Competing narratives in the wake of transformation from Slovakia

¹ Please note that it might be necessary to make slight modifications to the course outline concerning dates and assigned readings.

8	March 3	Regular seminar	Germany after unity
9	March 10	Discussion seminar	Competing narratives in the wake of transformation from Romania
10	March 17	Regular seminar	Competing narratives in the wake of transformation from Bulgaria
NOTE: THE SECOND REACTION PAPER HAS TO BE WRITTEN PRIOR TO WEEK 10 (EITHER FOR WEEK #7 OR WEEK #10) AND HANDED IN AT THE BEGINNING OF THE CLASS PRIOR TO THE SCHEDULED DISCUSSION FOR WHICH THE PAPER IS WRITTEN			
11	March 24		ESSAYS DUE Career Development Office Resource Centre Tour (1:00pm – 2:25pm)
12	March 31	Review class	What did we learn? The assigned readings for the winter section of the course in a comparative perspective
EXAM: DURING REGULAR SCHEDULED EXAM PERIOD (APRIL 11-29)			

Course Evaluation

Due Date	Assignment	Length	Share of Term Mark	Note
Ongoing	Seminar attendance and participation (including scheduled discussions)	Ongoing	15%	Attendance: 5% Participation: 10%
First paper: either January 21 or February 4 at the beginning of class. Second paper: either February 25 or March 10 at the beginning of class.	2 reaction papers	Approx. 3 pages double-spaced	20%	Each paper is worth 10%
March 24 (in class or during office hours)	Final essay	12-15 pages double-spaced	35%	
During regular exam period	Final exam	TBA (either 2 or 3 hours during scheduled exam period)	30%	

Course Texts

All required readings were placed on reserve at the MacOdrum Library; some of them are also available online.

The following books have been ordered to be available for purchase at the Carleton University Bookstore. The choice of whether to purchase these readings belongs to the student:

- Antohi, Sorin, Balazs Trencsenyi and Peter Apor, ed., ***Narratives Unbound: Historical Studies in Post-Communist Eastern Europe***. Budapest; New York: Central European University Press, 2007. (All chapters are assigned for the course)
- Antohi, Sorin, ***Between Past and Future: The Revolutions of 1989 and Their Aftermath***. Budapest; New York: Central European University Press, 2000. (Recommended)
- Berend, Ivan T., ***Central and Eastern Europe, 1944-1993: Detour from the Periphery to the Periphery***. New York: Cambridge University Press, 1996. (This title is also available online using Netlibrary through the MacOdrum Library) (Recommended)
- Linz, Juan J. and Alfred Stepan, ***Problems of Democratic Transition and Consolidation: Southern Europe, South America, and Post-Communist Europe***. Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 1996. (Recommended)

Sections of the following books are assigned as required readings and students might like to purchase them. That said, these titles were not ordered for this course by the university bookstore:

- Albanese, Patrizia. ***Mothers of the Nation: Women, Families, and Nationalism in Twentieth-Century Europe***. Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2006.
- Bonker, Frank, Klaus Muller and Andreas Pickel, ed., ***Postcommunist Transformation and the Social Sciences: Cross-Disciplinary Approaches***. New York: Rowman and Littlefield Publishers, Inc., 2002.
- Jarausch, Konrad H., ed., ***After Unity: Reconfiguring German Identities***. Providence: Berghahn Books, 1997.

Reaction Papers

Students are required to write two reaction papers during the course, both of which should be approximately 3 pages double-spaced. Each paper is worth 10% of the final term mark.

Reaction papers are critical evaluations of the assigned readings for a coming week. The course is partly inspired by the newly published edited book entitled *Narratives Unbound: Historical Studies in Post-Communist Eastern Europe*. All reaction papers will be written on sections of this book. The primary objective is to examine the relationship between the book, written by indigenous scholars, and the ways in which study of the region and post-communist transformation is approached by contemporary scholarship in general, while gaining a detailed understanding about the region itself.

The first reaction paper must be written for either week #3 (January 21) or week #5 (February 4), the second for either week #7 (February 25) or week #9 (March 10); these are the weeks during which discussions are scheduled. The choice of week is at the student's discretion, based on the above options. **The paper must be handed in at the beginning of the class.** Late papers will be penalized, with exceptions granted only for documented medical reasons and personal emergencies. Papers handed in after the beginning of the class will be penalized the following way: those that are handed in during class but after the first half of the class will receive a one third of a letter grade penalty (will receive B- instead of a B); papers handed in with the due-date's date-stamp will receive a penalty of two thirds of a letter grade (C+ instead of a B); essays that are a day late will receive a penalty of a full letter grade (C instead of a B); papers two days late will receive a penalty of two letter grades (D instead of a B), etc. Reaction papers will be returned to students the week after their submission.

Research Essay

Students are required to develop the proposal that was completed for the first part of the course into a research paper (unless they were specifically advised to change to a different topic). Research papers are due on March 24, should be 12 -15 pages double-spaced in length and are worth 35% of the term mark.

The following are the general characteristics of an excellent research paper (more detailed instruction will be provided during the course):

- 30% - **Research** – a good selection of pertinent sources effectively used is the mark of an excellent essay.
- 30% - **Analysis, theoretical framework and quality of argument** – a purely descriptive essay is worth a 'C' provided other aspects are satisfactory. 'B' grades reflect effective analysis (drawing out the implications); 'A' essays also make excellent use of theory. Undergraduate students are advised to 'borrow' theories, rather than invent them.
- 20% - **Style, structure and organizing** – excellent essays are polished and show planning, several drafts and edits. Make sure to consult the departmental style guide.
- 20% - **Scholarly reporting** – must be accurate and complete.

There is a penalty for late final essays, with exceptions granted only for documented medical reasons and personal emergencies. **Each day of lateness will result in the loss of one third of a letter grade**, including weekends (1 day of lateness: students will receive B- instead of a B; 2 days of lateness: students will receive a C+ instead of a B; etc.) Final essays that are submitted on time will be returned to students upon the completion of the final exam in the examination room. In case the essay is submitted too late or the student cannot come to the final exam scheduled during the regular exam period, the student must submit a stamped, self-addressed envelope with their essays in order to receive the evaluated essay.

Seminar Attendance and Participation

Required readings provide the context for discussions, so it is a must that students familiarize themselves with the required readings prior to attending each class.

- Attendance: 5%
 - Attendance is measured strictly by 'showing-up'. If the student is present for all classes, s/he will receive full marks.
- Participation: 10%
 - An 'A' grade in seminar participation reflects continued commitment to the course through ongoing participation in discussions and demonstration of having critically evaluated the assigned readings; an 'A' grade also reflects consistent progress.
 - Both quantity and quality of contributions are taken into account.
 - Scheduled seminar discussions will consist of discussions in a small group setting and then sharing what the group discussed with the entire class.
 - Students may be randomly called upon to present their understandings, questions and views concerning the topic and the readings of the week.
 - Feedback on oral performance will be ongoing and might take the form of email or a written note; the amount of feedback given is determined on a case-by-case basis at the discretion of the instructor, unless the student requests otherwise (for example, s/he requests more feedback).
- If the student anticipates that s/he will miss a seminar, or if s/he has missed one, s/he must provide sufficient explanation, preferably by e-mail, otherwise his or her grade will suffer the loss of both attendance and participation for the missed class.

Final Exam

There will be a final exam for the course scheduled during the regular examination period (April 11-29). The exam will take either two or three hours in length (will be confirmed at a later date) and will comprise short-answer and essay questions. No textbooks or notes will be allowed. Study questions will be distributed closer to the end of the course.

Final exams are for evaluation purposes only and will not be returned to the students; however, students have the right to request to view them.

Feedback

- All grades will be expressed in both a numerical and a letter grade.
- Students are welcome to ask for feedback on their course performance at any time. Also, students should not hesitate to contact the course instructor with any questions about the course or course work.

Important notes

- All written assignments should be submitted in hard copy.
- Please be sure to submit term work either in-class or during office hours. The Political Science drop box is intended to collect late assignments only if the student, due to extenuating circumstances, is unable to submit the paper directly to the instructor in class or during office hours. Conversely, essays not submitted to the instructor must be placed in the department's drop box to be date-stamped. Secretarial staff will not accept, or date stamp, essays unless placed in the drop box. Please note that the drop box is emptied **every weekday at 4 p.m.** and all items collected at that time are date-stamped with that day's date. The drop off box is located at Loeb B640.
- Students' emails will generally be answered within a couple of working days in order of receipt (the instructor does not generally answer emails outside of working hours and during weekends). There are some time periods that are busier, especially close to due dates, so students must be sure to leave sufficient time for answers.

Weekly Schedule

Week 1 – January 7: Introduction to the course

Week 2 – January 14: Approaches to Post-communist transformation

Frank Bonkar, Klaus Muller and Andreas Pickel, "Cross-Disciplinary Approaches to Postcommunist Transformation: Context and Agenda," in Frank Bonker, Klaus Muller and Andreas Pickel, Postcommunist Transformation and the Social Sciences: Cross-Disciplinary Approaches, (New York: Rowman and Littlefield Publishers, Inc., 2002) 1-38.

Week 3 – January 21: Competing narratives in the wake of transformation from Hungary

Balazs Trencsenyi and Peter Apor, "Fine-Tuning the Polyphonic Past: Hungarian Historical Writing in the 1990s," in Sorin Antohi, Balazs Trencsenyi and Peter Apor, Narratives Unbound: Historical Studies in Post-Communist Eastern Europe, (Budapest and New York: Central European University Press, 2007) 1-63.

Week 4 – January 28: Competing narratives in the wake of transformation from Poland

Majiec Gorny, "From the Splendid Past into the Unknown Future: Historical Studies in Poland after 1989," in Sorin Antohi, Balazs Trencsenyi and Peter Apor, Narratives Unbound: Historical Studies in Post-Communist Eastern Europe, (Budapest and New York: Central European University Press, 2007) 101-143.

Week 5 – February 4: Competing narratives in the wake of transformation from the Czech Republic

Pavel Kolar and Michal Kopecek, "A Difficult Quest for New Paradigms: Czech Historiography After 1989," in Sorin Antohi, Balazs Trencsenyi and Peter Apor, Narratives Unbound: Historical Studies in Post-Communist Eastern Europe, (Budapest and New York: Central European University Press, 2007) 173-225.

Week 6 – February 11: Competing narratives on human trafficking in the wake of post-communist transformation

Sex Slaves (Frontline, 2005). Detailed information on the documentary, including material not included in the film, can be located at <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/slaves>

Lynn McDonald, Brooke Moore and Natalya Timoshkina, Migrant Sex Workers from Eastern Europe and the Former Soviet Union: The Canadian Case, (Status of Women Canada, 2000) http://www.swc-cfc.gc.ca/pubs/pubspr/0662653351/index_e.html or http://www.swc-cfc.gc.ca/pubs/pubspr/0662653351/200011_0662653351_e.pdf

WINTER BREAK: FEBRUARY 18-22

Week 7 – February 25: Competing narratives in the wake of transformation from Slovakia

Zora Hlavickova, "Wedged Between National and Trans-National History: Slovak Historiography in the 1990s," in Sorin Antohi, Balazs Trencsenyi and Peter Apor, Narratives Unbound: Historical Studies in Post-Communist Eastern Europe, (Budapest and New York: Central European University Press, 2007) 249-285.

Week 8 – March 3: Germany after unity

Patrizia Albanese, "Post-Reunification Germany," in Patrizia Albanese, Mothers of the Nation: Women, Families, and Nationalism in Twentieth-Century Europe, (Toronto: University of Toronto Press) 2006, 124-142.

Volker Berghahn, Gregory Flynn, and Paul Michael Lutzler, "Germany and Europe: Finding an International Role," in Konrad H. Jarausch, ed., After Unity: Reconfiguring German Identities, (Providence: Berghahn Books, 1997) 173-200.

Welga A. Welsh, Andreas Pickel, and Dorothy Rosenberg, "East and West German Identities: United and Divided?" in Konrad H. Jarausch, ed., After Unity: Reconfiguring German Identities, (Providence: Berghahn Books, 1997) 103-136.

Week 9 – March 10: Competing narratives in the wake of transformation from Romania

Cristina Petrescu and Dragos Petrescu, "Mastering vs. Coming to Terms with the Past: A Critical Analysis of Post-Communist Romanian Historiography," in Sorin Antohi, Balazs Trencsenyi and Peter Apor, Narratives Unbound: Historical Studies in Post-Communist Eastern Europe, (Budapest and New York: Central European University Press, 2007) 311-371.

Week 10 – March 17: Competing narratives in the wake of transformation from Bulgaria

Ivan Elenkov and Daniela Koleva, "Historical Studies in Post-Communist Bulgaria. Between Academic Standards and Political Agendas," in Sorin Antohi, Balazs Trencsenyi and Peter Apor, Narratives Unbound: Historical Studies in Post-Communist Eastern Europe, (Budapest and New York: Central European University Press, 2007) 409-464.

Week 11 – March 24:

ESSAYS DUE!

Career Development Office Resource Centre Tour (1:00pm – 2:25pm)

Week 12 – March 31: What did we learn? The assigned readings for the winter section of the course in a comparative perspective

Academic Accommodations

For Students with Disabilities: Students with disabilities requiring academic accommodations in this course are encouraged to contact the Paul Menton Centre (PMC) for Students with Disabilities (500 University Centre) to complete the necessary forms. After registering with the PMC, make an appointment to meet with the instructor in order to discuss your needs **at least two weeks before the first in-class test or CUTV midterm exam**. This will allow for sufficient time to process your request. Please note the following deadline for submitting completed forms to the PMC for formally scheduled exam accommodations: **March 14th, 2008** for April examinations.

For Religious Observance: Students requesting accommodation for religious observances should apply in writing to their instructor for alternate dates and/or means of satisfying academic requirements. Such requests should be made during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist, but no later than two weeks before the compulsory academic event. Accommodation is to be worked out directly and on an individual basis between the student and the instructor(s) involved. Instructors will make accommodations in a way that avoids academic disadvantage to the student. Instructors and students may contact an Equity Services Advisor for assistance (www.carleton.ca/equity).

For Pregnancy: Pregnant students requiring academic accommodations are encouraged to contact an Equity Advisor in Equity Services to complete a *letter of accommodation*. Then, make an appointment to discuss your needs with the instructor at least two weeks prior to the first academic event in which it is anticipated the accommodation will be required.

Plagiarism: The Undergraduate Calendar defines plagiarism as: "to use and pass off as one's own idea or product, work of another without expressly giving credit to another." The Graduate Calendar states that plagiarism has occurred when a student either: (a) directly copies another's work without acknowledgment; or (b) closely paraphrases the equivalent of a short paragraph or more without acknowledgment; or (c) borrows, without acknowledgment, any ideas in a clear and recognizable form in such a way as to present them as the student's own thought, where such ideas, if they were the student's own would contribute to the merit of his or her own work. Instructors who suspect plagiarism are required to submit the paper and supporting documentation to the Departmental Chair who will refer the case to the Dean. It is not permitted to hand in the same assignment to two or more courses. The Department's Style Guide is available at: <http://www.carleton.ca/polisci/undergrad/Essay%20Style%20Guide.html>

Oral Examination: At the discretion of the instructor, students may be required to pass a brief oral examination on research papers and essays.

Submission and Return of Term Work: Papers must be handed directly to the instructor and will not be date-stamped in the departmental office. Late assignments may be submitted to the drop box in the corridor outside B640 Loeb. Assignments will be retrieved every business day at **4 p.m.**, stamped with that day's date, and then distributed to the instructor. For essays not returned in class please attach a **stamped, self-addressed envelope** if you wish to have your assignment returned by mail. Please note that assignments sent via fax or email will not be accepted. Final exams are intended solely for the purpose of evaluation and will not be returned.

Approval of final grades: Standing in a course is determined by the course instructor subject to the approval of the Faculty Dean. This means that grades submitted by an instructor may be subject to revision. No grades are final until they have been approved by the Dean.

Course Requirements: Students must fulfil all course requirements in order to achieve a passing grade. Failure to hand in any assignment will result in a grade of F. Failure to write the final exam will result in a grade of ABS. FND (Failure No Deferred) is assigned when a student's performance is so poor during the term that they cannot pass the course even with 100% on the final examination. In such cases, instructors may use this notation on the Final Grade Report to indicate that a student has already failed the course due to inadequate term work and should not be permitted access to a deferral of the examination. Deferred final exams are available **ONLY** if the student is in good standing in the course.

Connect Email Accounts: The Department of Political Science strongly encourages students to sign up for a campus email account. Important course and University information will be distributed via the Connect email system. See <http://connect.carleton.ca> for instructions on how to set up your account.