

FYSM 1602 A
Social Impact of Post-Communist Transformations

6:05 p.m. – 8:55 p.m. Thursday

Please confirm location on Carleton Central

Fall Term:

Instructor: Tamara Kotar
Office: A800 Loeb
Office Hours: Thursday 9:00 p.m. onward
Phone: (613) 231-7652
Email: kotar@connect.carleton.ca

Winter Term:

Instructor: Judit Fabian
Office: C676 Loeb
Office phone: (613) 520-2600 x1841
Email: jfabian@connect.carleton.ca

FALL TERM : (*For a brief winter term course overview, please see page 4.*)

Course description

This course is intended as an introduction to post-communism and an opportunity for students to develop their analytical skills. In order to better understand the social impact of post-communist transformations this course focuses on the rise and fall of communist systems.

The fall term will introduce students to the physical and human geography of central eastern Europe. A historical survey of the region will examine communist ideology, the creation and operation of communist regimes as well as the global and local implications of demise of these regimes.

Transformations in the post-communist world have much to teach us about the development of liberal-democratic, authoritarian and personalistic regimes. This course aims to enrich student's ability to think politically.

Students are encouraged to contemplate dilemmas facing post-communist societies and formulate their own opinions. Overall, this course aims to aid the development of critical thinking with a focus on developing research, writing and oral presentation skills. Students are expected to actively participate in class discussions.

Required Text

All required readings are on reserve at the MacOdrum Library, some are also available online.

The following book is available for purchase at the Carleton University Bookstore

Sabrina Petra Ramet, "Eastern Europe: Politics, Culture and Society Since 1939,"
Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1999.

Evaluation

Fall Term Grading Scheme

• Participation	5%
• In Class Presentation	5%
• Quiz	2.5%
• Popular Culture Assignment	2.5%
• Term Paper Outline (due October 4, 2006)	5%
• Term Paper (due November 29, 2006)	15%
• Final Exam (to be scheduled during formal exam period, Dec. 6 – 22)	15%

The total marks for the fall term will be added to the winter term marks to create the final mark for the course.

Fall Term Work

Participation 5% of Final Mark

Attendance is mandatory. Class participation provides the opportunity to clarify questions, contribute to the student's own understanding or challenge ideas presented in the readings and in class. Participation marks for the fall term will be derived from attendance and in class discussion that is informed by the readings. If a student anticipates missing a seminar sufficient explanation must be provided, or marks will be deducted. Students must demonstrate that they have read and critically evaluated the readings for each week. Students will be randomly called upon to contribute to class discussions, including questions s/he may have regarding the readings along with individual understandings and views of the readings and topics for the week.

In Class Presentations 5% of Final Mark

Students will be given a choice of topics at the start of the semester. Each student will prepare a 10 min. presentation based on the topic they chose. Presentations will be accompanied by a 2-page presentation hand out. The topics and presentations are based on the readings for a given week. If this presentation is not handed in on the due date the student will receive an automatic mark of 0. No late presentations will be accepted.

Map Quiz 2.5% of Final Mark

An important aspect of understanding the politics of post-communist states is to understand the physical and human geography of central and eastern Europe. During class maps will be discussed and map handouts provided. Student's will be required to study the physical and human geography of the region and will be tested on this knowledge.

Popular Culture Assignment 2.5% of Final Mark

You will be required to watch one of the movies from a list to be handed out in class and create a 5 page (double spaced) review. The review should address the main theme of the film and how it relates to politics. For example you can discuss aspects of the plot,

main characters and setting that reflect or demonstrate a political statement. For guidance on what you can include, refer the reading “*A Time to Remember: The Reinvention of the Communist Hero in Postcommunist China.*” That reading is a film review and can help give you an idea of how to write a review that focuses on politics. Some of the films can be found at Blockbuster and Rogers, but most can be found at Glebe Video International or online. If the assignment is not handed in on the due date the student will receive an automatic mark of 0. No late assignments will be accepted

Term Paper Outline 5% of Final Mark

The term paper outline is intended to ensure students have a valid topic, relevant thesis and clear argument for the paper. The outline should consist of two pages including a thesis statement and brief descriptions of three arguments to backup the student’s thesis. If the term paper outline is not handed in on the due date the student will receive an automatic mark of 0. No late term paper outlines will be accepted

Term Paper 15% of Final Mark

This paper will be an original research paper of 10 -12 double spaced pages due in paper form. Suggested topics will be posted on the class web-site and will be available in class at the end of September. It is strongly encouraged that students use the **Essay Writing Advice** posted on the class web CT and/or the **Writing Tutorial Service** on campus.

The essay should have a clear thesis statement with well-researched arguments that support the thesis.

The instructor uses the American Psychological Association (APA) style, however, students can choose any style they prefer. What matters is that citations are consistent and sources are cited properly. This includes when a student has quoted directly from a source and when students have referred to someone else’s ideas or research. A full bibliography is also necessary. If the term paper is not handed in on the due date the student will receive an automatic mark of 0. No late term papers will be accepted

Final Exam 15% of Final Mark

The final exam will be scheduled during the formal exam period (December 6 – 22). The final exam will be based on the topics covered in the fall term. It will challenge students to succinctly summarize major themes and dilemmas covered in the readings, lectures and discussions during this term. The final exam will include a section that requires short answers and a section that requires answers in an essay format.

Feedback

Students are encouraged to provide feedback on the content of the course.

Lateness Policy

All course requirements must be completed to receive a passing grade.

Written assignments must be handed in to the instructor personally. **Late assignments will not be accepted**, they will receive a mark of 0. Exceptions will be considered for medical reasons (with appropriate documentation) or a family emergency. Once term assignments are graded, students may collect their completed papers during class or the instructor's scheduled office hours.

Students must submit term work in-class. The Political Science drop box is intended to collect late assignments only. 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.

WINTER TERM COURSE EVALUATION

Further details regarding winter term work and reading schedule will be provided in a winter term course outline available in January.

(Due) Date	Assignment	Length	Share of Term Mark	Note
Ongoing	Seminar attendance and participation		15%	Attendance: 5% Participation: 10%
First and second papers: either January 15, 22, 29 or February 5 to be handed in at the beginning of class. The choice for which class to write the reaction papers belongs to the student. Third and fourth papers: either February 26 or March 5, 12, 19 to be handed in at the beginning of class. The choice for which class to write the reaction papers belongs to the student.	4 reaction papers	Approx. 2 pages double-spaced	40%	Each paper is worth 10%
February 12 (in class)	Midterm exam	2 hours	15%	
TBA (During regular exam period: April 8 -27, 2009)	Final exam	TBA (either 2 or 3 hours)	30%	

Fall Term Schedule

- **Historical Background**

September 4

Sabrina Petra Ramet: Introduction & Chapter 1

Country Case Studies

- **Russia**

September 11

- Mark Kramer, "The Collapse of East European Communism and the Repercussions within the Soviet Union (parts I, II & III). Journal of Cold War Studies. 6.4, 2004.
- Kathryn Stoner-Weiss, "Russia: Authoritarianism Without Authority," Journal of Democracy, 17.1, 2006, 104-118.

- **German Democratic Republic & Czechoslovakia**

September 18

Sabrina Petra Ramet: Chapters 5 & 3

****Map Quiz****

- **Hungary & Poland**

September 25

Sabrina Petra Ramet: Chapters 4 & 6

****Term Paper Outline Due**

- **Romania & Bulgaria**

October 2

Sabrina Petra Ramet: Chapters 8 & 9

- **Yugoslavia**

October 9

Sabrina Petra Ramet: Chapter 7

- **Albania**

October 16

Sabrina Petra Ramet: Chapter 10

Themes

- **Religion and Politics**

October 23

- Sabrina Petra Ramet: Chapter 12

- **Popular Culture**

October 30

Sabrina Petra Ramet: Chapter 13

- Xiaoying Wang, "A Time to Remember," New Literary History, 34.1, 2003, 133-153.

- **Gender and Politics**

November 6

Sabrina Petra Ramet: Chapter 11

****Popular Culture Assignment Due****

- **Democracy and Democratization**

November 13

Sabrina Petra Ramet: Chapters 13 & 16

- Steven M. Fish, "Does Diversity Hurt Democracy?" *Journal of Democracy*, 15.1, 2004, 154-166.
- Valerie Bunce, "Rethinking Recent Democratization," *World Politics*, 55.2, 2003, 167-192.
- Kathleen Collins, "The Logic of Clan Politics," *World Politics*, 56.2, 2004, 224-261.

- **Economic Transitions**

November 20

Sabrina Petra Ramet: Chapter 14

****Term Paper Due**

- **Exam Review**

December 27

- Charles King, "Post-Postcommunism," *World Politics*, 53.1, 2000, 143-172.
World Politics 53.1 (2000) 143-172

Academic Accommodations

For students with Disabilities: Students with disabilities requiring academic accommodations in this course must register with the Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (500 University Drive) for a formal evaluation of disability-related needs. Registered PMC students are required to contact the centre, 613-520-6608, every term to ensure that I receive your letter of accommodation, **no later than two weeks before the first assignment is due or the first in-class test/midterm requiring accommodations**. If you require accommodation for your formally scheduled exam(s) in this course, please submit your request for accommodation to PMC by **November 7, 2008**, for December examinations, and **March 6, 2009**, 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 fulfill 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.

Carleton Political Science Society: The Carleton Political Science Society (CPSS) has made its mission to provide a social environment for politically inclined students and faculty. Holding social events, debates, and panel discussions, CPSS aims to involve all political science students in the after-hours academic life at Carleton University. Our mandate is to arrange social and academic activities in order to instill a sense of belonging within the Department and the larger University community. Members can benefit through numerous opportunities which will complement both academic and social life at Carleton University. To find out more, please email carletonpss@gmail.com, visit our website at poliscisociety.com, or come to our office in Loeb D688.