

FYSM 1602A
Social Impact of Post-Communist Transformations
6:05 p.m. – 8:55 p.m. Thursday
Please confirm location on Carleton Central

Winter Term:

Instructor: Tamara Kotar
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Winter 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

Patrick H. O'Neil, Essentials of Comparative Politics, Second Edition (W.W. Norton & Company, 2006).

Anders Aslund, How Capitalism was Built: The Transformation of Central and Eastern Europe, Russia, and Central Asia (Cambridge University Press: 2007).

WINTER TERM COURSE EVALUATION

(Due) Date	Assignment	Length	Share of Term Mark	Note
Ongoing	Seminar attendance and participation		15%	Attendance: 5% Participation: 10%
First and second papers: Due February 5 and February 12 to be handed in at the beginning of class. Third and fourth papers: Due March 5 and March 12 to be handed in at the beginning of class.	4 reaction papers	Approx. 4 pages double-spaced	40%	Each paper is worth 10%
February 26 (in class)	Midterm exam	2 hours	15%	
TBA (During regular exam period: April 8 -27, 2009 excluding April 11 th)	Final exam	TBA (either 2 or 3 hours)	30%	

Evaluation

Fall Term Grading Scheme

- Attendance and Participation 15%
- Reaction Papers 40%
- Mid Term Exam 15%
- Final Exam (to be scheduled during formal exam period, April 8-27) 30%

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

As per early feedback guidelines, the first paper will be returned to you by February 27th.

Winter Term Work

Attendance and Participation 15% 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.

Reaction Papers 40% of Final Mark

Students will be given four issues and/or topics on which to write reaction papers.

These reaction papers should each be approximately 4 pages long and they should be double-spaced. These reaction papers should be in the form of an essay and should include a clear thesis and backing arguments. **The topics and issues addressed in the reaction papers will form the basis of in-class debates.**

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 essays 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 reaction papers are not handed in on the due date the student will receive an automatic mark of 0. No late papers will be accepted.

Reaction Papers Due

February 5th,	Topic: Post-Communist State Building
February 12th,	Topic: Economies
March 5th,	Topic: Authoritarianism and Totalitarianism
March 12th,	Topic: Crime, Corruption and Oligarchs

Mid Term Exam 15% of Final Mark

The mid term exam will take place in class, February 12. The mid term exam will be based on the topics covered in the winter term, up until that point. It will challenge students to succinctly summarize major themes and dilemmas covered in the readings, lectures and discussions during the first part of the winter term. The mid-term exam will include a section that requires short answers and a section that requires answers in an essay format.

Final Exam 15% of Final Mark

The final exam will be scheduled during the formal exam period (April 8-27, excluding April 11th). The final exam will be based on the topics covered in the winter 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 Schedule

- **Political Background and Democracy**

January 8

O'Neil, Chapter 2

- **Democratization**

January 15

O'Neil, Chapter 6

- **Evaluation of Democracy**

January 22

O'Neil, Chapter 7 & 9

- **Transformations**

January 29

O'Neil, Chapter 8

Aslund, Chapter 1

- **Post-Communist State Building**

February 5

Aslund, Chapter 8

****Reaction Paper Due****

- **Economies**

February 12

O'Neil, Chapter 4

Aslund, Chapter 2

****Reaction Paper Due****

- **Transitions**

February 26

Aslund, Chapter 7

****Mid-Term Exam****

Themes

- **Authoritarianism and Totalitarianism**

March 5

O'Neil, Chapter 5

****Reaction Paper Due****

- **Crime, Corruption and Oligarchs**

March 12

Aslund Chapters 9 &10

****Reaction Paper Due****

- **Political Violence**

March 19

O'Neil, Chapter 11

- **External Influences And Globalization**

March 26

O'Neil, Chapter 10

Aslund, Chapters 11 &12

- **Exam Review**

April 2

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 Centre) 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 the instructor receives your letter of accommodation. 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 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 University Senate defines plagiarism as “presenting, whether intentional or not, the ideas, expression of ideas or work of others as one’s own.” This can include:

- reproducing or paraphrasing portions of someone else’s published or unpublished material, regardless of the source, and presenting these as one’s own without proper citation or reference to the original source;
- submitting a take-home examination, essay, laboratory report or other assignment written, in whole or in part, by someone else;
- using ideas or direct, verbatim quotations, or paraphrased material, concepts, or ideas without appropriate acknowledgment in any academic assignment;
- using another’s data or research findings;

- failing to acknowledge sources through the use of proper citations when using another's works and/or failing to use quotation marks;
- handing in "substantially the same piece of work for academic credit more than once without prior written permission of the course instructor in which the submission occurs.

Plagiarism is a serious offence which cannot be resolved directly with the course's instructor. The Associate Deans of the Faculty conduct a rigorous investigation, including an interview with the student, when an instructor suspects a piece of work has been plagiarized. Penalties are not trivial. They include a mark of zero for the plagiarized work or a final grade of "F" for the course. 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 only communicates with students via Connect accounts. Important course and University information is also distributed via the Connect email system. It is the student's responsibility to monitor their Connect 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.

Official Course Outline: The course outline posted to the Political Science website is the official course outline.