PSCI 4501A/EURR 4205
Gender and Politics in Post-Communist Societies
Monday 8:35-11:25am
Please confirm location on Carleton Central

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Office Hours: Monday, 11:30-2:30; Tuesday, 11:30-12:30 or by appointment

Course Description:

This course focuses on selected aspects of the politics of gender in the post-communist states of East Central Europe and the former Soviet Union. Topics for discussion include the complex influences of the Soviet and communist legacy on post-communist gender relations; the transition’s effects on women and men, including the challenges of state reconstruction and democratization; the impact of changes in the international environment on gender politics; and the contested notions of gender roles that have accompanied the renewed interest in nationalism and ethnic identity.

The readings assigned for the course reflect the experiences of different countries and the insights of authors from various disciplines. The readings suggest that the post-communist transition has had diverse effects on women and gender in different contexts and situations. On the other hand, the readings present us with some common themes that we can debate vigorously: have women been more adversely affected than men by the transition? Have the West and international organizations played a positive or a negative role in the transition? Have post-communist societies reclaimed traditional gender roles and diminished the presence of women in public life? While these questions have been often raised, upon close examination it is difficult to find simple answers to them.

The goals in this course are the following: 1) to compare and contrast the relationship between gender and post-communist transition in selected East Central European and post-communist countries; 2) to strive for precision and nuance in explaining how and why change has occurred with respect to post-communist gender politics, including exploring some of the unexpected consequences of post-communist transition 3) to evaluate critically the assumptions, theories, arguments and methodologies used in the literature, in order to strengthen students’ mastery of analytical and methodological research techniques, 4) to encourage students to develop their research abilities and interests through the preparation of an oral presentation and final research project on a topic chosen in consultation with the instructor.
Readings: The required readings for the course include journal articles and chapters from books, which can be found on reserve in McOdrum Library. All assigned readings are compulsory unless stated otherwise. The following book is recommended reading, which may be particularly useful for students who have not previously taken a course on gender: Raewyn Connell, Gender. Second edition. Cambridge, UK: Polity, 2009. The book is available on library reserve, and a few copies will be available in the university bookstore.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

- **20%** Class participation, including regular attendance and contributions to regular weekly discussion of assigned readings: Students are expected to come to each class having prepared the assigned readings in advance. Students will be asked to work on discussion questions in groups during class time.

- **10%** Short paper on final term paper topic, 5 typed double-spaced pages, due **February 8**. The proposal must include: 1) a brief statement of the research question and preliminary argument to be addressed; 2) a discussion of the literature relevant to the topic (for example, could the proposed research prove, disprove, or present alternatives to the arguments offered by experts?); 3) an outline of the plan of organization for the paper, including the country/countries to be examined, the specific focus, and the time period that the paper will cover; 4) a mention of the sources and methodology to be used, including a brief bibliography. The short paper is to be submitted online through WebCT.

- **10%** Group work and short presentation, to take place **March 15, 22 and 29**. This component of the course mark will include the following: a) participation in group work, during class time, in which students working on related topics for their final papers discuss their ideas, b) Each student will make a very short (5 minute) presentation to the class on his/her research paper.

- **20%**. Four quizzes, to be completed online through WebCT, each worth 5%. The quizzes will consist of multiple-choice questions, and are intended to demonstrate comprehension of the assigned readings. Students are responsible for gaining access to WebCT and completing the quiz outside of class time. The schedule is as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assigned reading to be covered in quiz</th>
<th>Dates for completing online quiz</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Weeks 2-3</td>
<td>January 14-19</td>
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<tr>
<td>Weeks 4-5</td>
<td>January 28-February 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Weeks 6-7</td>
<td>February 18-23</td>
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<td>Weeks 8-9</td>
<td>March 4-9</td>
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- **40%** Final research paper, due on or before **April 6**. The paper should be approximately 16-20 pages long (typed, double-spaced, 12-pt font, in hard copy) and should include a complete bibliography.
All course requirements must be completed in order to receive a passing grade. Papers should be organized so as to develop a clear argument systematically, and should be analytical rather than descriptive. Students are expected to choose their own topics, in consultation with the instructor, who may offer suggestions. The final research paper in particular should explore a comprehensive survey of literature and secondary sources: a minimum of twelve items should be consulted. Students are encouraged to examine primary sources in their research. The instructor does not consider encyclopedias or general Internet information sources (such as Wikipedia) to be acceptable research sources for university-level research papers. Papers that simply assemble or reiterate information, or which do not demonstrate sufficiently rigorous research will not be considered satisfactory assignments. All papers must use footnotes or endnotes as appropriate whenever referring to an author’s idea, citing empirical facts or drawing on research from published sources. Parenthetical referencing may be used if the student prefers, but citations and bibliography must be correct and complete. Any direct quotations from a source should be clearly indicated in quotation marks. As a general rule, however, direct quotations should be kept to a minimum and should not exceed fifty words from any one source. A complete bibliography of sources consulted should be included at the end of the paper. Papers must be handed in personally to the instructor on or before the due date. Marks will be deducted for lateness. Extensions will be granted only for illness (with a doctor’s certificate) or for a family emergency. University deadlines for the submission of term work apply.

Office hours and e-mail: Students with questions for the professor may reach her by coming to her office hours (no appointment needed), by arranging a personal meeting outside of office hours, by phone, or by e-mail. Following university policy, the instructor will use university “Connect” e-mail addresses when replying to e-mail queries from students. Normally, the instructor expects to reply to e-mail or voicemail queries within 1-2 days during the working week. The instructor generally does not answer e-mail inquiries or voicemail messages on evenings or weekends. Students who wish to communicate with the instructor are encouraged to meet personally during her office hours, at another convenient time by appointment, or at the end of class.

SCHEDULE OF CLASS MEETINGS

1) Introduction (January 4)

2) HISTORY AND POLITICAL CULTURE (January 11)


Thomas G. Schrand, "Socialism in one Gender: Masculine Values in the Stalin Revolution," in Barbara Evans Clements, Rebecca Friedman and Dan Healey, eds. *Russian Masculinities in History and Culture*. Houndsmills, UK:


3) POLITICAL IMPLICATIONS OF TRANSITION AND REFORM (January 18)


4) UNEXPECTED CONSEQUENCES OF POST-COMMUNIST TRANSITION (January 25)


5) STATE AND SOCIETY (February 1)


6) NATIONALISM (February 8)


READING WEEK FEBRUARY 15-19 NO CLASS

7. NATIONAL AND ETHNIC IDENTITY (February 22)


8) Globalization, the International Environment and Gender (March 1)


9) Changing Attitudes toward Gender Roles (March 8)


10) Commence group work (March 15)

11) Continue group work; COMMENCE ORAL PRESENTATIONS (March 22)

12) CONCLUDE ORAL PRESENTATIONS (March 29)

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 request for 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 16, 2009 for December examinations and March 12, 2010 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.

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:** 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:** All email communication to students from the Department of Political Science will be via Connect. 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.