Carleton University
Department of Political Science

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

Professor Andrea Chandler
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Office Hours: Monday, 1:00-2:30 p.m., Friday 11:30-2:00 p.m. 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. This part of the world has experienced dramatic change in the last twenty-five years, and as a result this course offers insight into how civil society changes during times of upheaval and reform. Discussions of gender politics are closely bound to themes of ethnic identity, nationalism, privatization, and democratization. Topics for discussion include the complex influences of the Soviet and communist legacy, and the impact of the transition, on gender politics; the effects of changes in the international environment, including the enlargement of the European Union, on women and men; aspects of the politics of identity in civil society, for example LGBT movements; and the contested notions of gender roles that have accompanied the prominence of nationalism.

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 questions that we can debate vigorously: have women been more adversely affected than men by the transition? What roles have the West and international organizations played 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 in the literature, upon close examination it is difficult to find simple answers to them.

The course follows a seminar format which assigns a central role to class discussion. The goals in this course are the following: 1) to compare the relationships 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
courage 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 professor.

**Readings:** The required readings for the course include journal articles and chapters from
books, which can be found on reserve in McOdrum Library. It is expected that most
assigned journal articles will be available online to registered students, on CuLearn (look
for the ARES reserve system). 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,

**COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

- **20%** Class participation, including regular attendance and verbal contributions to
regular weekly discussion of assigned readings. Students are expected to come to
each class having prepared all of the assigned readings in advance. Students may
be asked to work on discussion questions in groups during class time, and to
present the results of their discussions, informally, to the class as a whole.
Attendance and participation will have equal weight in marking. Contributions to
class discussions are expected to demonstrate thorough preparation of course
readings, sustained engagement in debate for the duration of the class, and
consideration of the comments of others. Quality of participation is more
important than quantity, and careful listening is considered essential to successful
participation. Attendance and participation marks will be awarded in three stages,
as discussed below. The criteria for evaluation will apply to all stages.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Stage 1: Attendance and participation for each of weeks 2-5. The mark for this stage is expected to be available by <strong>October 11.</strong></th>
<th>Students will receive a mark out of <strong>8</strong> (maximum 2 points per class)</th>
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<td>Stage 2: Attendance and participation for each of weeks 6-9. The mark for this stage is expected to be available by <strong>November 15.</strong></td>
<td>Students will receive a mark out of <strong>8</strong> (maximum 2 points per class)</td>
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<td>Stage 3: Attendance and participation for week 13, plus an overall mark to assess demonstrated listening and constructive dialogue with members of the class throughout the term. The mark for this stage is expected be available by <strong>December 9.</strong></td>
<td>Students will receive a mark out of <strong>2</strong> (week 13) + <strong>2</strong> (listening and engagement throughout the term)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total marks</strong></td>
<td><strong>= 20</strong></td>
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20% Short paper (proposal) on final term paper topic, 5 typed double-spaced pages, due October 4. Students are expected to choose their own topics, relevant to the subject matter of the course, in consultation with the instructor, who may offer suggestions. 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 organizational plan 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 CuLearn, as either a pdf or MS Word file; students who prefer to submit a hard copy may do so, provided that it is handed in to the professor at the beginning of class on October 4. The professor’s goal is to have the marks available, for assignments submitted on time, by October 11.

20% Group work and short presentation on research in progress for the final paper, to take place November 15, 22, and 29. This component of the course mark will include the following, weighted equally: a) participation in group work, during class time, in which students working on related topics for their final papers discuss their ideas and give each other feedback. For full marks, students are expected to attend and participate for the full duration of all three classes (November 15, 22, 29), including listening to the presentations of their fellow students. b) Each student will make a very short (5 minute) presentation to the class on the work in progress on his/her research paper. Presentations should include a brief description of the research question, a brief discussion of the relevant literature, a discussion of major trends found so far in the research, and a discussion of methodological issues and areas where the student could benefit from feedback from the class as a whole.

40% Final research paper, due in person no later than the beginning of class on December 6. The paper should be 16-20 pages long (typed, double-spaced, 12-pt font, in hard copy) and should include a complete bibliography. See statement on written work, below. Papers should be organized so as to develop a clear argument systematically, and should be analytical rather than descriptive. 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 expected to examine at least one primary source in their research. The deadline of December 6 is the deadline by which the professor must receive the paper. A paper which is date-stamped December 6, but which does not reach the professor until after December 6, will be considered a late paper.

STATEMENT ON WRITTEN WORK

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. 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 rigourous research will not be considered satisfactory assignments. All papers must use footnotes, endnotes or parenthetical referencing as appropriate whenever referring to an author’s idea, citing empirical facts or drawing on research from published sources. Students are expected to consult a style sheet for guidance on using full, accurate and complete citations. 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. Marks will be deducted for lateness. Extensions will be granted only for illness (with a supporting medical document) 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 meeting outside of office hours, by phone, or by e-mail. Following university policy, the instructor will use university 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 Monday through Friday.

SCHEDULE OF CLASS MEETINGS

1) INTRODUCTION (September 6)

2) HISTORY AND POLITICAL CULTURE (September 13)


3) POLITICAL IMPLICATIONS OF TRANSITION AND REFORM (September 20)


### 4) UNEXPECTED CONSEQUENCES OF POST-COMMUNIST TRANSITION (September 27)


### 5) ELECTIONS, REPRESENTATION AND INSTITUTIONS (October 4)


6) NATIONALISM AND NATIONAL IDENTITY (October 11)


Michele Rivkin-Fish, “Pronatalism, Gender Politics and the Renewal of Family Support in Russia: Toward a Feminist Anthropology of ‘Maternity Capital,’” *Slavic Review* 69, 3, fall 2010, 701-24

7. INTERSECTIONALITY (October 18)


8) GLOBALIZATION, THE INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENT AND GENDER (October 25)


Conor O’Dwyer, “Does the EU Help or Hinder Gay-Rights Movements in Post-Communist Europe? The Case of Poland.” *East European Politics*, vol. 28, no. 4, December 2012, pp. 332-52.

**NOVEMBER 1: NO CLASS- FALL BREAK**

9) **PROTEST AND SOCIAL MOVEMENTS** (November 8)


10) Commence group work (November 15)

11) Continue group work; **COMMENCE ORAL PRESENTATIONS** (November 22)

12) **CONCLUDE ORAL PRESENTATIONS** (November 29)

13) **CHANGING ATTITUDES TOWARD GENDER ROLES** (December 6)


Wlodzimierz Oniszczenko, Ursula Teresa Jakubowska, and Ewa Stanislawiak. “Gender Differences in Socio-Political Attitudes in a Polish Sample.” *Women’s Studies International Forum*, vol. 34, no. 5, September 2011, pp. 371-7.
Academic Accommodation

The Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) provides services to students with Learning Disabilities (LD), psychiatric/mental health disabilities, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD), chronic medical conditions, and impairments in mobility, hearing, and vision. If you have a disability requiring academic accommodations in this course, please contact PMC at 613-520-6608 or pmc@carleton.ca for a formal evaluation. If you are already registered with the PMC, contact your PMC coordinator to send me your Letter of Accommodation at the beginning of the term, and no later than two weeks before the first in-class scheduled test or exam requiring accommodation (if applicable). After requesting accommodation from PMC, meet with me to ensure accommodation arrangements are made. Please consult the PMC website for the deadline to request accommodations for the formally-scheduled exam (if applicable).

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.

**Grading:** Assignments and exams will be graded with a percentage grade. To convert this to a letter grade or to the university 12-point system, please refer to the following table.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Letter grade</th>
<th>12-point scale</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Letter grade</th>
<th>12-point scale</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>90-100</td>
<td>A+</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>67-69</td>
<td>C+</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>85-89</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>63-66</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80-84</td>
<td>A-</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>60-62</td>
<td>C-</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>77-79</td>
<td>B+</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>57-59</td>
<td>D+</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>73-76</td>
<td>B</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>53-56</td>
<td>D</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70-72</td>
<td>B-</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>50-52</td>
<td>D-</td>
<td>1</td>
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**Grades:** Final grades are derived from the completion of course assignments. Failure to write the final exam will result in the grade ABS. Deferred final exams are available ONLY if the student is in good standing in the course.

**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.

**Carleton E-mail Accounts:** All email communication to students from the Department of Political Science will be via official Carleton university e-mail accounts and/or cuLearn. As important course and University information is distributed this way, it is the student’s responsibility to monitor their Carleton and cuLearn accounts.

**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 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, visit http://facebook.com/CarletonPoliticalScienceSociety 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.