

**FYSM 1602A**  
**Selected Topics in Political Science: Topic-**  
**Social Impact of Post-Communist Transformations**

6:05 p.m. – 8:55 p.m. Wednesday

Please Confirm Location on Carleton Central

Instructor: Tamara Kotar  
Office: Loeb A800  
Office Hours: Thursday 5:35pm-7:35pm  
Phone: (613) 520-2600 ext.2063 (no voicemail)  
Email: kotar@connect.carleton.ca

---

**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.

# FALL TERM 2009

## 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%
- Map Quiz (October 7<sup>th</sup>) 2.5%
- Term Paper Outline (due October 21<sup>st</sup>) 5%
- Popular Culture Assignment (November 4<sup>th</sup>) 2.5%
- Final Exam (In class November 18) 15%
- Term Paper (due December 2) 15%

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

*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

### **In Class Final Exam 15% of Final Mark**

The Final Exam exam will be an in class exam on November 18<sup>th</sup>. 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

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

### **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.

### **Fall Term Schedule**

- **Historical Background**

September 16

Sabrina Petra Ramet: Introduction & Chapter 1

## Country Case Studies

- **German Democratic Republic & Czechoslovakia**

September 23

Sabrina Petra Ramet: Chapters 5 & 3

- **Hungary & Poland**

**\*\*Library Session\*\* Library: Room 235**

September 30

Sabrina Petra Ramet: Chapters 4 & 6

- **Romania & Bulgaria**

October 7

Sabrina Petra Ramet: Chapters 8 & 9

**\*\*Map Quiz\*\***

- **Yugoslavia**

October 14

Sabrina Petra Ramet: Chapter 7

- **Albania**

October 21

Sabrina Petra Ramet: Chapter 10

**\*\*Term Paper Outline Due\*\***

- **Russia**

October 28

- Sakwa, Richard. „New Cold War“ or twenty years“ crisis? Russia and international politics.” *International Affairs*. Vol. 84, No. 2, 2008, pgs. 241-267.

## Themes

- **Popular Culture**

November 4

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

Sabrina Petra Ramet: Chapter 13

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

- **Democracy and Democratization**

November 11

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.

November 18

**\*\*In Class Final Exam\*\***

- **Economic Transitions**

November 25

- Sabrina Petra Ramet: Chapter 14

- **Religion and Politics, Gender and Politics**

December 2

- Sabrina Petra Ramet: Chapters 11 & 12

**\*\*Term Paper Due\*\***

# WINTER TERM 2010

## 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).

Ivan T. Berend, From the Soviet Bloc to the European Union (Cambridge University Press: 2009).

## 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 |                               | 20%                | Attendance: 5%<br>Participation: 15% |
| <b>First Paper: January 20<sup>th</sup><br/>Second Paper: January 27<sup>th</sup><br/>Third Paper: February 24<sup>th</sup><br/>Fourth Paper: March 31<sup>st</sup></b> | 4 reaction papers                    | Approx. 4 pages double-spaced | 40%                | Each paper is worth 10%              |
| February 3 <sup>rd</sup> (in class)   | Midterm exam                         | 2 hours                       | 10%                |                                      |
| March 17 <sup>th</sup>  | Final exam                           | 3 hours                       | 30%                |                                      |

## Evaluation

### ***Fall Term Grading Scheme***

- Attendance and Participation 20%
- Reaction Papers (Jan 20, Jan 27, Feb 24, Mar 31) 40%
- Mid Term Exam (February 3<sup>rd</sup>) 10%
- Final Exam (In-Class Exam March 17<sup>th</sup>) 30%

*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**

### **Attendance and Participation 20% 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 5 pages long and they should be double-spaced. The essays should have a clear thesis statement with well-researched arguments that support the thesis. Students should use 4 or more academic sources other than the assigned texts to complete these assignments. **The topics and issues addressed in the reaction papers will form the basis of in-class presentations and 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 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 Paper Due Dates**

- **January 20<sup>th</sup> , Topic: Evaluation of Democracy**
- **January 27<sup>th</sup> , Topic: Transformations**

- **February 24<sup>th</sup>, Topic: Social Transitions**
- **March 31<sup>st</sup>, Topic: External Influences And Globalization**

### **Mid Term Exam 10% of Final Mark**

The final exam will take place in class, February 3<sup>rd</sup>. The mid term exam will be based on the topics covered in the class, 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 30% of Final Mark**

The final exam will be scheduled in-class on March 17<sup>th</sup>. 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 6  
O'Neil, Chapter 2
- **Democratization**

January 13  
O'Neil, Chapter 6

- **Evaluation of Democracy**

January 20  
O'Neil, Chapter 7 & 9  
Berend, Chapter 3  
**\*\*Reaction Paper Due\*\***

- **Transformations**

January 27  
O'Neil, Chapter 8  
Berend, Chapter 1  
**\*\*Reaction Paper Due\*\***

- **Post-Communist State Building**

February 3  
Berend, Chapter 2  
**\*\*Mid Term Exam\*\***

- **Economies**

February 10  
O'Neil, Chapter 4  
Berend, Chapter 4 & 5

- **Social Transitions**

February 24  
Berend, Chapter 6 & 7  
**\*\*Reaction Paper Due\*\***

### **Themes**

- **Authoritarianism, Totalitarianism and Nationalism**

March 3  
Berend, Chapter 8

- **Crime, Corruption and Oligarchs**

March 10

**\*\*In Class Final Exam\*\***

March 17

- **Political Violence**

March 24  
O'Neil, Chapter 11

- **External Influences And Globalization**

March 31<sup>st</sup>

O'Neil, Chapter 10

Aslund, Chapters 11 &12

**\*\*Reaction Paper Due\*\***

---

### **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](http://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](mailto:carletonpss@gmail.com), visit our website at [poliscisociety.com](http://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.