

# In Love with Power: Non-Democratic Regimes in Central and Eastern Europe After 1945

Lecturer: Uroš Lazarević, M. A.

Lecturer contact: [uroslaz@hotmail.com](mailto:uroslaz@hotmail.com)

## 1. Course Description

The course aims to teach key political science non-democracy concepts and the modern history of Central and Eastern European countries after the Second World War. Political science theories are the tools for analysis, while selected non-democratic regimes represent case studies. In the first weeks of the course, we will focus on most influential theories of non-democratic regimes, which will be the basis for our following analysis of selected regimes. During this period, students will have the opportunity to choose the regime from the list of topics (Week 4-Week 12) and make a short oral presentation (30 minutes) about the chosen subject at the beginning of lesson. Upon completion of this course, students should understand key non-democracy concepts in political science and know modern political history of Central and Eastern European countries. Students also should be able to develop the ability to conduct basic academic research and analytical writing.

## 2. Teaching Methodology

The course combines the form of lecture and seminar. Students are expected to have a presentation and actively participate in discussions with questions and comments that stimulate interaction and contribute to the quality of the class. The class is composed of one in-class midterm exam, one take-home essay exam and a final paper that tests student's understanding and analysis of the key terms and issues of the course.

## 3. Attendance Policy

Students are required to attend class. An excused medical absence requires a written document the day of return to class. UPCES only allows one unexcused absence.

### UPCES Non-Discrimination/Harassment Policy

The UPCES program in Prague promotes a diverse learning environment where the dignity, worth, and differences of each individual are valued and respected. Discrimination and harassment, whether based on a person's race, gender, sexual orientation, color, religion, national origin, age, disability, or other legally protected characteristic, are repugnant and completely inconsistent with our objectives. Retaliation against individuals for raising good faith claims of harassment and/or discrimination is prohibited.

### UPCES Diversity Policy

UPCES fully embraces diversity and strives to create a safe and welcoming environment for students from all backgrounds. Prague is a wonderfully diverse community and UPCES is no different. All students should feel at home while studying abroad and UPCES will do its utmost to make sure that becomes a reality. Although unique challenges may arise, we believe that students from all walks of life will encounter wonderful opportunities for enrichment as they explore a new culture while studying abroad.

## **PART I: INTRODUCTION. POLITICAL SCIENCE NON-DEMOCRACY THEORIES.**

### **Week 1**

UPCES Orientation Lecture Series

### **Week 2**

Class information. Discussion of class expectations. Communism as an ideology. Totalitarian regimes. Authoritarian regimes. Sultanistic regimes.

#### Readings

MARX, K., ENGELS F. *The Communist Manifesto*

LENIN, V.I. *The State and Revolution*, chapter 1 and 4

### **Week 3**

Political science non-democracy theories in modern times.

#### Readings

LEVITSKY, S.-WAY, L. *The Rise of Competitive Authoritarianism*

O'DONNELL, Guillermo *Delegative Democracy?*

ZAKARIA, Fareed *The Rise of Illiberal Democracy*

## **PART II: CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE UNDER COMMUNISM. A SHORT HISTORY.**

### **Week 4**

Soviet Union and totalitarian rule

#### Readings

LENIN, V.I. *The State and Revolution*, chapter 1 and 4

MALIA, Martin *Soviet Tragedy; A History of Socialism in Russia*, Free Press 1995/ pages 227-273

### **Week 5**

Totalitarianism? The Case of Czechoslovakia

#### Readings

EIDLIN, Fred H. "Capitulation", "Resistance" and the Framework of "Normalization": The August 1968 Invasion of Czechoslovakia and the Czechoslovak Response

VALENTA, Jiří Revolutionary Change, Soviet Intervention and "Normalization" in East-Central Europe

Practical part: Expedition to the Museum of Communism in Prague

### **Week 6**

Specific paths: Yugoslavia under Josip Broz Tito

#### Readings

RIDLEY, Jaspin G. *Tito*, Constable 1994/ pages 280-331

### **Week 7**

Midterm Exam. Specific paths: Romania under Nicolae Ceausescu

#### Readings

TISMANEANU, Vladimir *Stalinism for All Seasons*, University of California Press 2003 /pages 18-37, 187-233

## **PART III: CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE AFTER 1989.**

### **Week 8**

Czech Republic: The case study of successful transition to democracy. Slovakia under Vladimír Mečiar

#### Readings

FISHER, Sharon **Political Change in Post-Communist Slovakia and Croatia: From Nationalist to Europeanist**, Palgrave Macmillan 2006/selected pages

HLOUŠEK, Vít, KOPEČEK, Lubomír **Cleavages in Contemporary Czech and Slovak Politics: Between Persistence and Change**

### **Week 9**

Serbia under Slobodan Milošević

#### Readings

THOMAS, Robert **Serbia Under Milosevic: Politics in the 1990s** Hurst & Co. 1998/selected pages

### **Week 10**

Croatia under Franjo Tudjman

#### Readings

FISHER, Sharon **Political Change in Post-Communist Slovakia and Croatia: From Nationalist to Europeanist**, Palgrave Macmillan 2006/selected pages

### **Week 11**

Belarus under Alexandr Lukashenka

#### Readings

MARPLES, David **Belarus: A Denationalized Nation**, Routledge 1999, pages 85-104

WAY, Lucan A. **Identity and Autocracy: Belarus and Ukraine Compared**

### **Week 12**

Ukraine under Leonid Kuchma. Maidan and Ukrainian crisis.

#### Readings

D'ANIERI, Paul, KRAVCHUK, Robert S., KUZIO, Taras **Politics and Society in Ukraine**, Westview Press 1999/selected pages

KUZIO, Taras **Regime Type and Politics in Ukraine under Kuchma**

### **Week 13**

Final Paper Consultations

## **5. Grading Policy**

The Final Grade is the result of Attendance and Active Participation (25%), Midterm Exam (25%), Take-Home Essay (20%) and Final Paper (30%).

## **6. Requirements and Assessment in Detail**

**Attendance and Active Participation.** Students are expected to have a presentation and actively participate in discussions with questions and comments that stimulate interaction and contribute to the quality of the class. Class presentation is not mandatory, but recommended, as it has the weight of 10% in Final Grade. In the case that all presentations are booked, students may ask for extra work to make up the deficiency.

**Midterm Exam.** Students are asked to show the understanding of communist ideology, explain key political science terms and the modern history of Soviet Union and Czechoslovakia. The test contains ten questions and its duration is ninety minutes.

**Take-Home Essay.** Students have one week to write a five-page long paper on the question they are asked to answer, related to the issues of non-democracy in contemporary world. Knowledge of the matter, ability to conduct academic research, and analytical skills are required, as well as in the Final Paper.

**Final Paper.** Students are expected to present the ability of academic research and apply the knowledge of political science theories on selected countries and regimes. The topic has to be consulted and approved by the lecturer. Central and Eastern European countries and issues are preferred, in some cases exceptions can be made. The paper should be ten pages long. Late work penalty is 10% per day.

## 7. Class Readings

All class readings are available online. Readings are not mandatory, but strongly recommended, especially for ambitious students. The knowledge of the matter based on class readings is very much appreciated in class discussions, the Midterm test, the Take-Home Essay and the Final Paper.

## 8. Additional Recommended Readings

### Totalitarian Ideology:

LENIN, V.I. **The State and Revolution**, Martino Fine Books 2009  
HITLER, A. **Mein Kampf**, Imperial Collegiate Publishing 2010

### Political science theory:

HUNTINGTON, Samuel P. **The Third Wave: Democratization in the Late Twentieth Century**, University of Oklahoma Press 1993  
LINZ, J. J. **Totalitarian and Authoritarian Regimes**, Lynne Rienner Pub 2000  
LINZ, J.J.-STEPAN, A. **Problems of Democratic Transition and Consolidation: Southern Europe, South America and Post-Communist Europe**. New York: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 1996  
LINZ, Juan J.-CHEHABI, H.E.(edited by) **Sultanistic Regimes**, Johns Hopkins University Press, Baltimore and London 1998  
O'DONNELL, G.-SCHMITTER, P. (1986). **Transition from Authoritarian Rule. Tentative Conclusions about Uncertain Democracies**. Baltimore and London, John Hopkins University Press, 1986  
PERLMUTTER, A. **Modern Authoritarianism. A Comparative International Analysis**. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1981

### Basic readings about countries and regimes:

BEHR, Edward **Kiss The Hand You Cannot Bite: The Rise and Fall of the Ceausescu**, Villard 1991  
D'ANIERI, Paul, KRAVCHUK, Robert S., KUZIO, Taras **Politics and Society in Ukraine**, Westview Press 1999  
EKE, Steven M. and KUZIO, Taras **Sultanism in Eastern Europe: The Socio-Political Roots of Authoritarian Populism in Belarus** *Europe-Asia Studies*, Vol. 52, No. 3, (May, 2000), pp. 523-547  
FISHER, Sharon **Political Change in Post-Communist Slovakia and Croatia: From Nationalist to Europeanist**, Palgrave Macmillan 2006  
FLEISHER, Frank-HORNSHIELD, Kurt-VINTROVA, Růžena-ZEMAN, Karel **Successful transformations: The Creation of Market Economies in Eastern Germany and the Czech Republic**, Edvard Edgar Publishing 1997  
KUZIO, Taras **Ukraine Under Kuchma: Political Reform, Economic Transformation and Security Policy in Independent Ukraine**, Palgrave Macmillan 1997  
MAGAŠ, Branka **Croatia Through History**, Saqi Books 2008  
MALIA, Martin **Soviet Tragedy. A History of Socialism in Russia**, Free Press 1995  
RIDLEY, Jaspin G. **Tito**, Constable 1994  
STOKES, Gale (ed.): **From Stalinism to Pluralism: A Documentary History of Eastern Europe since 1945**, Oxford University Press 1996  
THOMAS, Robert **Serbia Under Milosevic: Politics in the 1990s** Hurst & Co. 1998