Overview:
After the fall of communism in 1989, Eastern Europe seemed to be the one region in the world where new democracies were most likely to take hold and prosper. And in many ways they have. But East European democracies have also been beset by many serious challenges that can shed light on the ways we think about democracy and what makes for a well-functioning democracy. We will address these questions and also talk about the main characteristics of the political and economic systems of the countries in the region during communism and how they affected their post-communist transitions. Why were some countries more successful than others in dealing with the legacies of communism? What were the main challenges they faced in building well-functioning democracies and market economies? Besides addressing these and other questions we will watch documentaries and feature films from and about the region.

Course Requirements
Comments and discussion questions – 10%
Film comments – 5%
Preparation and participation in class discussion – 10%
In class presentation – 15%
Midterm – 30%
Final – 30%

Brief Comment and Discussion Questions
In order to facilitate in class discussion, prior to each class, you should post a brief comment on the day’s readings in the dropbox available on the course website at the Learn@UW site. In your comments you should highlight a positive or a negative aspect of the assigned readings or point to an argument, which you find particularly compelling or faulty. You should also provide two questions, which you believe we should address during the class discussion. To receive credit, comments must be around 200 words long, not counting the two discussion questions. Your comments are due by 9am each Tuesday and Thursday. The comments themselves are not graded – you get 10% of your grade just for writing them. Your grade will depend on the number of comments you sent. In addition to posting them online you should also bring your comments and questions to class.
Film Comments
There are several films that you will watch for the class through digital streaming. They will be marked with L@UW on the syllabus. You should watch the films before coming to class on the day they were assigned and post your comments by 4 pm on Sunday. To receive credit, comments must be around 100 words long and should highlight what struck you most about the film. The film comments themselves will not be graded – you get 5% of your grade just for writing them.

In-class Presentations Connecting Countries and Concepts to a Current Event:
At the end of the semester we will devote two classes to in-class presentations. You will each prepare a 15-20 minutes slide presentation on a topic or country of your choice connecting a central concept from the readings to a current event article.

• You should decide on the topic of your presentation no later than the week before you present and email me a link to the article you have selected with a short description of how it connects to the topic(s) covered in the readings.
• The current events article used in the presentation should be posted by the day before at noon on Learn@UW under the "communications"/"discussion" tabs.
• All students should read the current events article before class.

Slides:
There should be at least 4 slides (you may add one additional slide):
1. Title and name of student
2. Discussion points from the course readings in which the main arguments in the readings and how they connect to the article you have chosen should be highlighted;
3. Discussion points from the article;
4. 2-3 discussion questions; these questions should be orally posed to the class at some point during the presentation.

• Slides are due at least one hour before class (by 1:30 pm), posted also on Learn@UW

Grading scheme for presentations:
A = Current event discussion was well integrated with course material, and audience was engaged in discussion of the presentation material.
B = Presentation demonstrated good command of course material and article.
C = Presentation included a current events article and topic from course material and consisted of 3-5 slides.
F = Did not attend or participate in a presentation.
• Presentations will be marked down one grade if the article is not posted by noon the day before class; 2 grades down if not posted before class.
• Presentations will be marked down one grade if the presentation slides are not posted by 1:30pm on class day.
• Presentations with a significant number of grammatical or spelling errors will be marked down one grade. Make sure to proofread.

**Midterm and Final**
The midterm and final exams will take place in class. You will be given a number of essay questions to choose from and will have to answer two questions. In your answers you should refer to relevant readings and build your argument in response to the arguments made in the readings and lectures.

**Readings**
Book chapters and articles that are available for electronic download on the Learn@UW course website are marked with (&).

There are also three books, which should be purchased. These books will also be on reserve at the library. When chapters of these books are assigned they are marked with (#).


http://digital.library.upenn.edu/ebooks-public/pdfs/0195119924.pdf


**Streaming Digital Films**
The films for the class can be accessed at the Digital Language Lab. Streaming works at the following campus facilities: Van Hise Info Lab (rm. 464), Van Hise Learning Lab (rm. 259), Memorial Library InfoLab, Student Activity Center, College Library 3rd floor Infolab, and Steenbock Library. In the campus infolabs, use Safari or Chrome as the browser, use Firefox on the Mac side. If you choose to use your own newer Mac laptop please note that streaming will not work with Quicktime Pro X. You can either download and install an older version of Quicktime or use the campus Infolab computers.

Here’s how you can watch the films:
1. Go to Learning Support Services digital language lab webpage: http://lss.wisc.edu/node/1077
2. You will be prompted for a login: ps659 password: iqepus

Access to RESERVES is restricted to students in this course. Students may not copy, share, distribute or otherwise allow or facilitate any unauthorized access to the content or the passwords issued. Individuals who violate this provision will be subject to disciplinary action under the UW-Madison Academic and/or Non-Academic Misconduct Codes.

Class Schedule and Readings

Jan 22: State and Economy under Communism I

# Joseph Rothschild, “The Communists Come to Power” in Return to Diversity, pp. 76-125.

Recommended: Joseph Rothschild, Return to Diversity, pp. 3-76.

Jan 27: State and Economy under Communism II

& Katherine Verdery, "What Was Socialism and Why Did it Fall?" in What Was Socialism and What Comes Next, Princeton University Press, 1996.

# Joseph Rothschild, “The Dialectics of Stalinism and Titoism” in Return to Diversity, pp. 125-147.

Film: Man of Marble (Poland, 1976), dir. Andrzej Wajda L@UW

Jan 29: The Return of Civil Society


In class movie: “Oratorio for Prague” (Czechoslovakia, 1968), dir. Jan Nemec

Film: “Man of Iron” (Poland, 1981), dir. Andrzej Wajda L@UW

Recommended: “Cry Hungary: A Revolution Remembered” BBC documentary about the 1956 revolution in Hungary

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8FckhPmtE1A
Feb 3: The 1989 Revolutions I: Poland, Hungary, Czechoslovakia, and East Germany


Film: “Goodbye Lenin” (Germany, 2003), dir. Wolfgang Becker L@UW
Recommended: Daphne Berdahl: “Goodbye Lenin! On the Social Life of Socialism”

Feb 5: The 1989 Revolutions II: Romania and Bulgaria


In class film: “Videograms of a Revolution” (Germany, 1992), dir. Harun Farocki

Film: "12:08 East of Bucharest" (Romania, 2006), dir. Corneliu Porumboiu L@UW

Feb 10: Why Communism Failed


Film: "Walesa" (Poland, 2013) dir. Andrzej Wajda L@UW

Feb 12: Democracy and Democratic Transitions


Feb 17: Regime Diversity


**Feb 19: Transitional Justice**


Film: “The Lives of Others” (Germany, 2006), dir. Florian Henckel von Donnersmarck L@UW

Recommended: Tina Rosenberg: *Haunted Land*, Part II Poland, Part III Germany.

**Feb 24: Electoral Revolutions**


In class film: “Bringing Down a Dictator” (USA, 2001), dir. Steve York

Film: “Orange Revolution” (USA, 2007), dir. Steve York L@UW

**Feb 26: The Political Economy of Reform**


**March 3: Developing the Rule of Law and its Challenges**


**March 5: The State and State Institutions**


**March 10: Presidents and Parliaments**


**March 12: Party Politics**


**March 17: EU Accession**


**March 19: Civil Society**


**March 24: In-class midterm**

**March 26: Social Welfare under Post-communism**


**Spring Break: March 28- April 5**

**April 7: Democratization and Nationalism**

**April 9: Ethnicity and War**


**April 14: Czech Republic, Hungary and Poland**

& Frances Millard: “The Czech Rep, Hungary and Poland” in White, Lewis and Batt eds. *Developments in Central and East European Politics*

& Jane Curry: “Poland: The Politics of God’s Playground”

**April 16: Bulgaria, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, and the Baltics**

& Tim Haughton: “The Other new Europeans” in White, Lewis and Batt eds. *Developments in Central and East European Politics*

& Diana Eglitis: “The Baltic Countries: Changes and Challenges in the New Europe” in Wolchik and Curry eds. *Central and East European Politics: From Communism*

**April 21: The Western Balkans, Ukraine, Belarus, Moldova**

& Andrew Wilson: “The East Europeans: Ukraine, Belarus, Moldova” in White, Lewis and Batt eds. *Developments in Central and East European Politics*

& Judy Batt: “The Western Balkans” in in White, Lewis and Batt eds. *Developments in Central and East European Politics*

**April 23: Quality of post-com democracy**

& Andrew Roberts: “The Quality of Post-Communist Democracy” in White, Lewis and Batt eds. *Developments in Central and East European Politics*

**April 28: Student Presentations**

**April 30: Student Presentations**

**May 5: Conclusion**

& Sharon Wolchik and Jane Curry: “Twenty-Five Years after 1989: A Balance Sheet” in *Central and East European Politics: From Communism to Democracy*

**May 7: final exam**