The course will offer a general overview of the political systems in post-communist European countries; however, the main question of the course is what exactly does “post-communism” mean and how the communist past influences and continues to influence political institutions and public political attitudes in countries of the former Soviet Bloc.

In the first part of the course, you will become familiar with political institutions of various post-communist countries and discuss how the communist experience shaped or did not shape these institutions. Simultaneously, we will also go over some of the most important concepts in comparative politics and analyze some of the main challenges which the new post-communist democracies face, such as corruption and democratic backsliding. In the second part, we will then discuss the effects of communist legacies on the society in post-communist countries, with special emphasis on intergenerational differences.

At the end of the course, the students should not only have acquired wider knowledge of politics in different post-communist countries but should also be able to evaluate if the term “post-communist” relates solely to a specific geographical region or if it has a deeper meaning and is still an important determinant of politics in countries which have experienced the communist rule.

Course Requirements:

Readings

There are 2 required texts:
• Stephen White et al., ed. (2013). *Developments in Central and East European Politics 5*. Duke University Press. (referred as “SW”)


All other readings and materials can be found on eLC unless otherwise noted.

**Classroom Attendance and Activity**

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemics, the full in-person attendance is not possible at the moment. To not discriminate the students who are unable to attend, attendance of this class is not mandatory, however it is strongly encouraged. Students will be randomly divided into three groups and are requested (not mandated) to attend their group in-person class once a week and join the other groups meetings online twice a week. Meetings will be also recorded and posted on eLC (hopefully).

ZOOM link to join the classes is: https://zoom.us/j/99748730491?pwd=d0FqK2hKSTdOenhXNDRjOWZwQjdZXz09

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Group 1 (Mon)</th>
<th>Group 2 (Wed)</th>
<th>Group 3 (Fri)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ainsworth, Blake W.</td>
<td>Diaz, David C.</td>
<td>Green, Blake H.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Yount, Andrew T.</td>
<td>Plog, Morgan T.</td>
<td>Green, Sean R.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Amoda, Folake M.</td>
<td>Donnelly, Alexandra L.</td>
<td>Greer, Jere P.</td>
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<td>Wilson, Christen F.</td>
<td>Bulauan, Preciosa A.</td>
<td>Hargadon, Francis J.</td>
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<td>Bradley, Hugh M.</td>
<td>Parker, Alexis M.</td>
<td>Harper, Hayden B.</td>
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<td>Waters, Noah L.</td>
<td>Ellison, Aaron N.</td>
<td>Johnson, Whitley C.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Buchanan, Sydney F.</td>
<td>Newman, Dana M.</td>
<td>Jordan, Sean C.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Shokry, Maryam A.</td>
<td>Ellison, Caleb M.</td>
<td>Kleid, Sophia G.</td>
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<td>Shinholster, Michael J.</td>
<td>Gaul, Nathaniel A.</td>
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**Course Evaluation:**

**Participation**

This course will require a great deal of discussion and active listening. *Simply showing up to class does not constitute participation.* Given the particular attendance policy of this course, however, participation will not be officially graded. At the same time, active participation is encouraged and will be still taken into consideration.

**Short Paper (25%)**
For a short paper, you should select a country or a group of countries (if the latter, ideally you would have the most similar or most different cases—see Przeworski and Teune 1970: http://online.sfsu.edu/sguo/Renmin/June1_logic/The%20Logic%20Prezeworski.pdf) and write a short essay (1000-3000 words) on how communist experience had (or had not) shaped, or continues to shape, its political institutions (i.e. parties, elections). Alternatively, you can analyze the impact of the communist past on some of the contemporary problems (i.e. corruption) of many post-communist countries. Generally, you are required to use enough (at least 5) reliable sources and cite them properly. Later submission will be penalized (1% of your overall grade for each day late). DUE: 2/12

Midterm Exam (35%)
Midterm Exam will address the topics which have been covered throughout the first part of the course (i.e. post-communist institutions, challenges derived from the communist past, and differences between post-communist countries). FORMAT TBD: 3/5

Final Essay (40%)
In the final essay (5000-7000 words) you will be expected to respond to the key questions of the course: What is post-communism and does the post-communist system truly exist? Is “post-communist” today used as an empty term to merely delineate a particular region and countries or does it have a deeper meaning and significance? In particular, drawing on what have you learned throughout the course, you should evaluate if—and if so, then how—communism continues to affect political institutions and political attitudes of the public in post-communist countries. In the paper, you are expected to provide enough evidence that supports or dismisses your initial assumptions. To do that you should use the cases with which you have become familiar throughout the course, as well as other cases which you believe are relevant. Generally, you are required to use enough (at least 10) reliable sources and cite them properly. Later submission will be penalized (1% of your overall grade for each day late). DUE 5/7

Course Policies:

Technology
Laptops are not welcome in class, unless I instruct you to bring one. Should you need to use a laptop please provide proper documentation from UGA’s DRC.

All cell phones/Blackberries, etc. should be shut off or set to silent – NOT VIBRATE – before arriving to class. The use or interruption of these devices during regular class time will result in a reduction of your participation grade.

Communication and Email
I will keep you updated about the course and any changes to the syllabus through the e-mail or the course’s ELC page – PLEASE REGISTER FOR NOTIFICATIONS! You are required to frequently check both.
When emailing me please use your UGA email account and include your course number in the subject line. In most cases I will respond to emails within 24 hours. Importantly, before you email me please check the syllabus and the news page of the ELC site to be sure that your
A question has not been previously addressed. A note on etiquette: please use appropriate salutations, including my name in the opening and your name in the closing.

**Academic Dishonesty**
As a University of Georgia student, you have agreed to abide by the University’s academic honesty policy, “A Culture of Honesty,” and the Student Honor Code. All academic work must meet the standards described in “A Culture of Honesty” found at: [http://www.uga.edu/honesty](http://www.uga.edu/honesty). Lack of knowledge of the academic honesty policy is not a reasonable explanation for a violation. Any student caught cheating or plagiarizing will be referred to Judicial Affairs, as required by university policy. The most common issue of academic dishonesty I have come across is plagiarism. To be clear, plagiarism is copying from any source material (direct or paraphrasing of ideas), published or unpublished (this includes wikipedia!), without giving proper credit. I will post a link to the Chicago Manual of Style citation format on ELC.

**Students with Disabilities**
UGA is committed to providing equal access to academic programs and university-administered activities and reasonable modifications to students with disabilities. Students in need of special accommodations need to request such services from the Disability Resource Center located at 114 Clark Howell Hall (for more information visit www.drc.uga.edu) and should make an appointment to see me with their appropriate paperwork from DRC within the first two weeks of classes.

**Privacy and Intellectual Property**
UGA’s code of conduct protects student privacy and intellectual property and thus prohibits recording and digital release of classroom lectures and conversations unless a student has an accommodation from the DRC. If this is your situation, please let me know and we will devise an accommodation that protects your right to privacy, that of your classmates, and everyone’s intellectual property.

This syllabus is subject to changes throughout the semester.

**Class Schedule & Readings:**

**WEEK 1. DEFINING THE REGION**

*Wed., 1/13 (class 1) – Introduction*
Video: “Why Did the Communist Regimes Fail in Eastern Europe?”
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TsFLiA_BrU](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TsFLiA_BrU)

*Fri., 1/15*
SW Chapter 1

**PART I. INSTITUTIONS**

**WEEK 2. STATE BUILDING; THE CZECH REPUBLIC, HUNGARY AND POLAND**
Mon., 1/18 NO CLASS (MLK DAY)

Wed., 1/20

SW Chapter 2

Video: “Poland’s post-Berlin Wall generation: life 25 years after communism”
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ei2UjQWZgcU

Fri., 1/22


Podcast: “Hungary, populism and my Orbán-voting father”

**WEEK 3. OTHER CEE COUNTRIES AND CHALLENGES OF POST-COMUNISM**

Mon., 1/25
SW Chapter 3

Wed., 1/27

Fri., 1/29


Optional: SW Chapter 4

Videos: “Struggling Romanian city symbolises post-communist era”
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nhOWTssq-4Y
“How Communism Breeds Corruption” https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SACXiPXf2Xw

**WEEK 4. EASTERN EUROPE, RUSSIA, AND CENTRAL ASIA**

Mon., 2/1
SW Chapter 5
Wed., 2/3

Fri., 2/5
Video: “Nobody Visits This Country...Find Out Why”
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wnDxHTaeNX0

Video: “Russia After Communism” https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m_h4zZaJov0

**WEEK 5. ELECTORAL SYSTEM AND ELECTIONS**

Mon., 2/8
Video: “The Sunday Show: Investigating High-Level Corruption in Eastern Europe”
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SSkT_BgKHXo

Wed., 2/10
SW Chapter 9 and pp. 265-70 “Quality as representation: are citizens actually ruling?”

Fri., 2/12 (SHORT PAPER DUE)

**WEEK 6. POLITICAL PARTIES**

Mon., 2/15
SW Chapter 11


Video: Interview with Cas Mudde https://video.aktualne.cz/dvtv/expert-babiovym-volicum-jeho-skandalyskandaly-nevadizkorumpovani-j/r~7448f6d699c1111e993a6ac1f6b220ee8/

Wed., 2/17 (NO CLASS – BREAK)

Fri., 2/19


**WEEK 7. ECONOMY AND WELFARE**

Mon., 2/22
SW Chapter 13

Video: “Russian Capitalism after Communism”
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ui8p3MEWW78

Wed., 2/24

Fri., 2/26

**WEEK 8. THE EU**

Mon., 3/1
SW Chapter 6


Wed., 3/3
Tomas Kostelecky, “Political Transformation in East-Central Europe: Are There General Patterns of Development from Communism to EU Membership”, http://src-h.slav.hokudai.ac.jp/sympo/03september/pdf/T_Kostelecky.pdf

Fri., 3/5 – Midterm Exam

**PART II: POST-COMMUNIST LEGACY AND POLITICAL ATTITUDES**

**WEEK 9.**
Mon., 3/8
Video (at home – no in-person class held) TBD

Wed., 3/10
Video (at home – no in-person class held) TBD
Fri., 3/12 (NO CLASS – BREAK)

WEEK 10. COMMUNIST LEGACIES

Mon., 3/15

PT pp. 1-22

Wed., 3/17
PT pp. 22-7


Fri., 3/19

WEEK 11. LIVING THROUGH COMMUNISM

Mon., 3/22
PT pp. 33-48

Wed., 3/24
PT pp. 49-62

Fri., 3/26

Video: “A look back at Eastern Germany” [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jeMulkWVFE](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jeMulkWVFE)

WEEK 12. DEMOCRACY

Mon., 3/29

SW 225-7

Wed., 3/31
PT Chapter 4

Optional: SW Chapter 15
Fri., 4/2


Video: “Capitalism will eat democracy-unless we speak up” [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GB4s5b9NL3I](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GB4s5b9NL3I)

**WEEK 13. CIVIL SOCIETY**

Mon., 4/5
SW pp. 213-225


Wed., 4/7

Fri., 4/9
Video (at home – no in-person class held) TBD

**WEEK 14. SOCIAL WELFARE AND GENDER EQUALITY**

Mon., 4/12
PT Chapter 6

Wed., 4/14
PT Chapter 7

Fri., 4/16

Video (TBA)

**WEEK 15. RESILIENCE AND NOSTALGIA**

Mon., 4/19
PT Chapter 7
Wed., 4/21
Movie: “Good bye Lenin!” (SUBJECT TO CHANGE)


Fri., 4/23

Videos: “Germans miss the ‘good old days' of the GDR”
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rbbWIRhJbgc

“Many Russians feeling nostalgic for communist past”
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9BwsAk24N00

Optional: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BTG4RKcUix0

**WEEK 16. CONCLUSIONS: LEGACIES AND COMMUNISM, NEW GENERATION AND THE EU MEMBERSHIP**

Mon., 4/26
PT Chapter 9

Wed., 4/28

Video: “Children of German reunification” https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_l0WF06bayw

Fri., 4/30

Video: “The EU's East-West Divide” https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9GF6U7fn8Ro

**FINAL ESSAY DUE 5/7**