POLITICAL SCIENCE, 4072
GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS OF EAST CENTRAL EUROPE

M,W,F 11.30a-12.20p, 0127 COATES

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QUOTE: “Who rules East Europe commands the heartland, who rules the heartland commands the world.”

H. Mackinder

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

The course’s aim is to understand the political forces that guide the politics of East Central Europe. To do this the course will focus on the historical roots of the politics within the region as well as on their contemporary outcomes. A portion of the course will be also devoted to the geopolitical significance of the region.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

“Academic Misconduct” includes, cheating, plagiarism, collusion, falsifying academic records, and any act designed to give an unfair academic advantage to the student (e.g., submission of the same written assignment for two courses without permission of the instructors, providing false information to receive a postponement or an extension on a test, or other assignment) as well as attempts to commit such an act. Students should be familiar with the definition of academic misconduct and the Code of Student Conduct, available at http://www.lsu.edu/judicialaffairs/code.htm. If a student is found to have committed an act of academic misconduct, s/he will be referred to the Office of Judicial Affairs and penalized appropriately.

GRADES

Attendance and participation: 10%
Quizzes: 10%
Midterm Exam: 25%
Final Exam: 30%
Review paper: 25%
ASSIGNMENTS

Attendance: Students are expected to actively participate in the in-class discussion. Students are responsible for **READING** the assigned texts and **COMING TO CLASS** prepared. Class attendance will be taken and in accordance with the new LSU regulations, students who do not come to class will lose points counting towards their final grade. More than 10 unexcused absences will automatically diminish the final grade by 10%.

Quizzes: There will be about 10 quizzes, each worth 1% of the final grade. The quizzes will consist of three short questions on the recently covered material. Answers should be extremely brief. The quizzes will be graded on a pass/fail basis only; to pass a student must answer two out of the three questions.

Midterm and Final Exams: The midterm and the final will contain a variety of short answer and open questions. The final will be a cumulative exam although focusing more on the topics covered in the second part of the course. The exams will not be long but the questions may be quite specific.

Review Paper: All students will be asked to write a 2500-3000 word extended review essay of Timothy Garton Ash’s book *The File* (see recommended readings list). Students do not need to buy the book, but it is recommended since in order to write the review essay each student shall need to read the whole book. The text should be double spaced, font no. 12, fully cited. **The review essay is due on November the 30th.**

REQUIRED BOOKS (and can be purchased at the LSU bookstore):


RECOMMENDED BOOKS:

3. Krejci, Oskar. 2007. *Geopolitics of The Central European Region*, (Publishing House of the Slovak Academy of Sciences) [the book is virtually unavailable in the USA, the instructor has a copy, another may still be available on Amazon].

Readings not included in the required texts list and indicated by (M) will be available in the electronic version on Moodle. Students can read them online or print a copy. Bringing print-out to class will, however, immensely facilitate our work.

POLI 4072 SYLLABUS (KUZ)
THE SCHEDULE:

Week 1
Aug. 20:  Introduction to the course,
Aug. 22:  Introduction to the geography and political history of the regions; Wandycz, pp. 1-20.

Week 2
Aug. 27:  Political History of the region, Early Modern; Wandycz, pp. 48-77, pp. 77-105
(recommended).
Aug. 29:  HURRICANE
Aug. 31:  HURRICANE

Week 3
Sep. 3:  LABOUR DAY
Sep. 5:  Cont.; Wandycz, pp. 105-166.
Sep. 7:  Cont., Wandycz, pp. 166-201.

Week 4
Sep. 10:  Political History of the region, Recent; Wandycz, pp. 201-236.
Sep. 12:  Political History of the region, Communism; Wandycz, pp. 236-276.

Week 5
Sept. 17:  Polish case study of Communism’s self-inflicted collapse; Staniszakis, Foreward, pp. 75-117. (M)
Sept. 19:  Cont. Staniszakis, pp. 176-215. (M)
Sept. 21:  Communism – reasons of the collapse; Levitsky and Way, pp. 1-37. (M)

Week 6
Sep. 24:  Cont.; Levitsky and Way, pp. 85 -130. (M)
Sep. 28:  Contemporary Challenges; White et al., Preface, pp. 1-37

Week 7
Oct. 1:  Contemporary Politics of Poland, Czech Republic and Hungary; White et al., pp. 37-56
Oct. 3:  EU and it’s new members; White et al., pp. 56-72.

Week 8
Oct. 8:  Contemporary Politics of Ukraine, Belarus and Moldova; White et al., pp. 90-110.
Oct. 10:  MIDTERM REVIEW SESSION.
Oct. 12:  MIDTERM EXAM.

Week 9
Oct. 15:  EU accession; White et al., pp. 110-127.
Oct. 17:  Executive Leadership; White et al., pp. 127-144.

Week 10
Oct. 26:  Citizens and Politics; White et. al., pp. 193-213.
Week 11
Oct. 29: Civil Society in CEE; White et al., pp. 213-229.
Oct. 31: Constitutional Politics; White et al., pp. 229-243.
Nov. 2: Economic Transition; White et al., pp. 245-264.

Week 12
Nov. 5: Cont., Staniszkiis, pp. 31-69. (M)
Nov. 7: Quality of Democracy in CEE; Staniszkiis, 215-249 (M) and White et al., pp. 264-276.
Nov. 9: The Philosophical Perspective on Democracy in CEE; Sandoz, pp. 1-43. (M)

Week 13
Nov. 12: Introduction to the Geopolitics of the Region; Krejci, pp. 1-30. (M)
Nov. 14: Contemporary Geopolitical Issues in CEE; Krejci, pp. 357-398. (M)
Nov. 16: Cont.; Krejci, pp. 398-423. (M)

Week 14
Nov. 19: Cont.; Krejci, pp. 424-479.(M)
Nov. 21: Possible Geopolitical Developments Within the Region; Friedman, pp. 120-143. (M)
Nov. 23: THANKSGIVING

Week 15
Nov. 26: Cont., Friedman 142-165. (M)
Nov. 28: REVIEW AND DISCUSSION
Nov. 30: REVIEW AND DISCUSSION II, REVIEW PAPERS DUE

Exam Week
Dec. 3: Optional, individual consultations.
Dec. 5: Optional, individual consultations.
Dec. 6: FINAL EXAM 10.00- NOON.