



CIEE Prague, Czech Republic

Course Name:	Central European Politics
Course Number:	POLI 3006 PRAG
Programs offering course:	CES, CNMJ
Language of instruction:	English
U.S. Semester Credits:	3
Contact Hours:	45
Term:	Fall 2019

Course Description

This course is designed to enhance the student's knowledge of Central European developments during and after the democratic revolutions of 1989. The class will focus on the democratic revolutions in 1989, the institutional and international framework of the transition process, and specific problems of democratization in Central Europe. One of the most important parts of this course will be a discussion of the main turning points of modern political history of the respective countries of the Central European geopolitical space as well as undertaking some comparative research regarding the similarities and differences of such developments. In addition, we will explore the constitutional systems of the Central European countries (Czech Republic, Slovakia, Poland, Austria, and Hungary).

We will focus on the effects of the enlargement of the European Union towards Central European countries after May 2004 and on the results of the elections into the European Parliament in Central Europe in May 2014.

Special attention will be paid to the dramatic events on the European continent in 2016-2017: migration crisis, the British referendum (Brexit) in June 2016, elections in 2017 in selected countries (e.g. parliamentary elections in the Czech Republic in October 2017), main results of the EU summits in 2018.

Learning Objectives

By the end of the class the students will be able to:

- outline the main developments of Central European politics after the changes of 1989 and the effects of the EU integration process on this geopolitical region.
- describe and evaluate the contemporary political developments in one of the Central European countries (according to the students' interests).
- compare some political trends in the whole geopolitical region (political systems, economic transition, cultural identity, etc.)

Course Prerequisites



General interest in European politics and in integration studies is expected. The course is based on active participation.

Methods of Instruction

The teaching methods include: lecture and respective debate and discussion on readings. The students are divided into small groups (2-3 students) and every group covers the political developments in one of the Central European countries and informs the others at the start of every lesson. The professor helps students plan their trips through the Central European space. Both CIEE optional trips to Berlin and Vienna are strongly recommended to these students. Great attention is paid to the analysis of the political press (printed and online).

The weekly assigned readings will provide the students with opportunities to discuss and interpret political literature concerning this area. During the class discussions, students will also gain appreciation of the importance to study Central European languages. Students will develop the basic research skills in the respective field. The teacher will help the students choose and work on their final papers paying respect to their major and minor studies.

Assessment and Final Grade

- Class participation: 20%
- Central-European country reports and portfolio: 20%
- Midterm test: 20 %
- Final written test: 20 %
- Final paper including presentation: 20 %

Course Requirements

The grading will be based on the **participation** in the discussions, **the Central European countries report**, the midterm test, the final written test, and the final paper.

- **Central-European country reports and portfolio.** Throughout the course, students will carry out research about one Central European country of their choice, based on requirements specified by the instructor on a weekly basis. Findings will be shared in class on a regular basis and the Country Portfolio will be submitted to the instructor during Week 11.
- The **midterm test** will be written in the classroom in the sixth week of the program. The midterm test will test basic acquaintance with the issues discussed in the first five weeks.
- The **final written exam** in the classroom will test basic acquaintance with the issues discussed in the second half of the course, during Week 12
- The **final paper** (2000-2500 words) will be handed over for evaluation in the last week of the program. The selection of the topic will start in the middle of the semester, the professor will help with sources or interview persons. In addition, students are required to present on the



subject of their research in class during the final week of classes (8-10-minute long individual presentations).

- **Class participation** is assessed regularly and partial participation grades are distributed four times per semester. Active participation includes activity in class (answering instructor's questions, working on tasks as assigned, demonstrating home preparation for class, including required readings, etc.). The instructor reserves the right to give **short quizzes** on the reading or past lecture content, which will be included in the Class Participation grade for details on CIEE Prague Participation Policy, see the section below.

CIEE Prague Class Participation Policy

Assessment of students' participation in class is an inherent component of the course grade. Participation is valued as **meaningful contribution in the digital and tangible classroom**, utilizing the resources and materials presented to students as part of the course. Students are required to actively, meaningfully and thoughtfully contribute to class discussions and all types of in-class activities throughout the duration of the class. Meaningful contribution requires students to be prepared, as directed, in advance of each class session. This includes valued or informed engagement in, for example, small group discussions, online discussion boards, peer-to-peer feedback (after presentations), interaction with guest speakers, and attentiveness on co-curricular and outside-of-classroom activities.

Students are responsible for following the course content and are expected to ask clarification questions if they cannot follow the instructor's or other students' line of thought or argumentation.

The use of electronic devices is only allowed for computer-based in-class tests, assignments and other tasks specifically assigned by the course instructor. Students are expected to take notes by hand unless the student is entitled to the use of computer due to his/her academic accommodations. In such cases the student is required to submit an official letter issued by his/her home institution specifying the extent of academic accommodations.

Class participation also includes students' active participation in Canvas discussions and other additional tasks related to the course content as specified by the instructor.

Students will receive a partial participation grade every three weeks.

CIEE Prague Attendance Policy

Regular class attendance is required throughout the program, and **all absences are treated equally regardless of reason** for any affected CIEE course. Attendance policies also apply to any required co-curricular class excursions or events, as well as Internship.



Students who transfer from one CIEE class to another during the add/drop period will not be considered absent from the first session(s) of their new class, provided they were marked present for the first session(s) of their original class. Otherwise, the absence(s) from the original class carry over to the new class and count against the grade in that class.

Missing classes will lead to the following penalties:

90-minute semester classes:

<i>Number of 90-minute classes</i>	<i>Equivalent percentage of the total course hours missed</i>	<i>Minimum penalty</i>
one to two 90-minute classes	up to 10%	no penalty
three 90-minute classes	10.1–15%	reduction of the final grade by 3%
four 90-minute classes	15.1–17%	reduction of the final grade by 5%; written warning
five 90-minute classes	17.1–20%	reduction of the final grade by 7%; written warning
six and more 90-minute classes	more than 20%	automatic course failure and possible expulsion

180-minute semester classes:

<i>Number of 180-minute classes</i>	<i>Equivalent percentage of the total course hours missed</i>	<i>Minimum penalty</i>
one 180-minute class	up to 10%	no penalty
two 180-minute classes	10.1–20%	reduction of the final grade by 5%; written warning
three and more 180-minute classes	more than 20%	automatic course failure and possible expulsion

Persistent absenteeism (students approaching 20% of the total course hours missed, or violating the attendance policy in more than one class) will result in a written warning, a notification to the student’s home school, and possibly a dismissal from the program.



Missing more than 20% of the total class hours will lead to a **course failure**, and **potential program dismissal**. This is a CIEE rule that applies to all CIEE courses and is in line with the Participant Contract that each CIEE student signs before arriving on-site.

Late arrival to class will be considered a partial (up to 15 minutes late) or full (15 or more minutes late) absence. **Three partial absences due to late arrivals will be regarded as one full class absence.**

Students must notify their professor and Program Coordinators (PC) beforehand if they are going to miss class for any reason and are responsible for any material covered in class in their absence.

If missing a class during which a test, exam, the student's presentation or other graded class assignments are administered, **make-up assignment will only be allowed in approved circumstances**, such as serious medical issues. In this case, the student must submit a local doctor's note within 24 hours of his/her absence to the PC, who will decide whether the student qualifies for a make-up assignment. Doctor's notes may be submitted via e-mail or phone (a scan or a photograph are acceptable), however **the student must ensure that the note is delivered to the PC.**

Should a truly **extraordinary situation** arise, the student must contact the PC immediately concerning permission for a make-up assignment. Make-up assignments are not granted automatically! The PC decides the course of action for all absence cases that are not straightforward. **Always contact the PC with any inquiry about potential absence(s) and the nature thereof.**

Personal travel (including flight delays and cancelled flights), handling passport and other document replacements, interviews, volunteering and other similar situations are not considered justifiable reasons for missing class or getting permission for make-up assignments.

For class conflicts (irregularities in the class schedule, including field trips, make-up classes and other instances), **always contact the Academic Assistant** to decide the appropriate course of action.

Course attendance is recorded on individual Canvas Course Sites. **Students are responsible for checking their attendance regularly to ensure the correctness of the records.** In case of discrepancies, students are required to contact the Academic Assistant **within one week of the discrepancy date** to have it corrected. Later claims **will not** be considered.

CIEE staff does not directly manage absences at FAMU and ECES, but they have similar attendance policies and attendance is monitored there. Grade penalties may result from excessive absences.



CIEE Academic Honesty Policy

CIEE subscribes to standard U.S. norms requiring that students exhibit the highest standards regarding academic honesty. Cheating and plagiarism in any course assignment or exam will not be tolerated and may result in a student failing the course or being expelled from the program. Standards of honesty and norms governing originality of work differ significantly from country to country. We expect students to adhere to both the American norms and the local norms, and in the case of conflict between the two, the more stringent of the two will preside. Three important principles are considered when defining and demanding academic honesty. These are related to the fundamental tenet that one should not present the work of another person as one's own.

The first principle is that final examinations, quizzes and other tests must be done without assistance from another person, without looking at or otherwise consulting the work of another person, and without access to notes, books, or other pertinent information (unless the professor has explicitly announced that a particular test is to be taken on an "open book" basis).

The second principle applies specifically to course work: the same written paper may not be submitted in two classes. Nor may a paper for which you have already received credit at your home institution be submitted to satisfy a paper requirement while studying overseas.

The third principle is that any use of the work of another person must be documented in any written papers, oral presentations, or other assignments carried out in connection with a course. This usually is done when quoting directly from another's work or including information told to you by another person. The general rule is that if you have to look something up, or if you learned it recently either by reading or hearing something, you have to document it.

The penalty ranges from an F grade on the assignment, failure in the course to dismissal from the program. The Academic Director is consulted and involved in decision making in every case of a possible violation of academic honesty.

Weekly Schedule

Week 1	Class 1 & 2 The introduction to the course is very much about terminological problems. From book to book and from article to article any student of the above-mentioned topics is confronted with inconsistent usage of geographic, political, and ideological terms and concepts: e.g. East and Central Europe, European integration, Czech and Bohemian, totalitarian, communist or socialist, Austrian, German or German-speaking etc. Each term has one or more connotations and should be used adequately.
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	<p><i>Required readings:</i> European news servers as specified by the instructor</p> <p><i>Homework assignment:</i> Political maps of Central Europe: States, Nations, Regions, Populations</p>
Week 2	<p>Class 1 The World War I and the collapse of Empires. The new states in Central Europe.</p> <p><i>Required reading:</i> Central European news servers and other websites relevant for the Country Report as specified by the instructor</p> <p><i>Assignment:</i> CE Country Report 1</p> <p>Class 2 The political history of Czechoslovakia 1918 - 1945. Survey of literature published on the 100th anniversary of WM (prepared by the teacher)</p> <p><i>Required reading:</i> Taylor (1990), 272-291.</p>
Week 3	<p>Class 1 The political history of Czechoslovakia 1945 – 1989. 1948-1989: Communism in Czechoslovakia.</p> <p><i>Required reading:</i> Central European news servers and other websites relevant for the Country Report as specified by the instructor</p> <p><i>Assignment:</i> CE Country Report 2</p> <p>Class 2 Prague Spring 1968.</p> <p><i>Required reading:</i> Schoplin (1998), 57-74.</p>



Week 4	<p>Class 1 The collapse of communist regimes in Central Europe in 1989.</p> <p><i>Required reading:</i> Central European news servers and other websites relevant for the Country Report as specified by the instructor</p> <p><i>Assignment:</i> CE Country Report 3</p> <p>Class 2 Round-table talks in Warsaw and Prague.</p> <p><i>Required reading:</i> Rupnik (1999), 231-243.</p>
Week 5	<p>Class 1 The dissolution of Czechoslovakia. The new states: Czech Republic and Slovak Republic. Failed federalism and negotiated break-up in the context of complex political and economic transformation.</p> <p><i>Required reading:</i> Central European news servers and other websites relevant for the Country Report as specified by the instructor</p> <p><i>Assignment:</i> CE Country Report 4</p> <p>Class 2 NATO and EU membership. Present political situation in both Czech and Slovak republics.</p> <p><i>Required reading:</i> Stein (2000), 355-363.</p>
Week 6 Midterm Exam Period	<p>Class 1 The political history of Poland 1918-1945.</p> <p><i>Required reading:</i> Mazower (2008), 78-101.</p> <p>Class 2</p>

	<p><i>Selection of the topics for the final paper.</i></p> <p><i>Midterm test.</i></p>
<p>Week 7 Midterm Exam Period</p>	<p>Class 1</p> <p><i>Evaluation of the midterm test.</i></p> <p>Poland: 1945-2015. The economic transformation in former communist countries.</p> <p><i>Required reading:</i> Central European news servers and other websites relevant for the Country Report as specified by the instructor</p> <p><i>Assignment:</i> CE Country Report 5</p> <p>Class 2</p> <p>Similarities and differences in political transformation of former communist countries in Central Europe.</p> <p><i>Required reading:</i> Ash (1991), 19-37</p>
<p>Week 8</p>	<p>Class 1</p> <p>The political history of Austria. Austrian neutrality based on the State Treaty 1955.</p> <p><i>Required reading:</i> Central European news servers and other websites relevant for the Country Report as specified by the instructor</p> <p><i>Assignment:</i> CE Country Report 6</p> <p>Class 2</p> <p>Contemporary political situation in Austria.</p> <p><i>Required reading:</i> Hyde-Price (1996), 223-243.</p>
<p>Week 9</p>	<p>Class 1</p> <p>The political history of Hungary. The revolution of 1956.</p>

	<p><i>Required reading:</i> Central European news servers and other websites relevant for the Country Report as specified by the instructor</p> <p><i>Assignment:</i> CE Country Report 7</p> <p>Class 2 The economic reform in Hungary in 1968-1989.</p> <p><i>Required reading:</i> The new constitution of Hungary 2011.</p>
Week 10	<p>Class 1 The constitution as an expression of political philosophy of the respective country: the constitutions of the Czech and Slovak republics, Poland, Austria and Hungary.</p> <p><i>Required reading:</i> Central European news servers and other websites relevant for the Country Report as specified by the instructor</p> <p><i>Assignment:</i> CE Country Report 8</p> <p>Class 2 Topical issues in political life and parliamentary debate in the Czech republic.</p> <p><i>Required reading:</i> Comparative approach: Preambles of the constitutions of Central European states.</p>
Week 11	<p>Class 1 Eleven years of the membership of Central European states in the European Union.</p> <p><i>Required reading:</i> Central European news servers and other websites relevant for the Country Report as specified by the instructor</p> <p><i>Assignment:</i></p>



	<p>CE Country Portfolio due</p> <p>Class 2 The elections into the European Parliament in May 2014.</p> <p><i>Required reading:</i> The results of the elections into the European Parliament in May 2014. Statistics.</p>
Week 12	<p>Class 1 USA relations with central European countries: History after 1918.</p> <p>Class 2 Final test.</p>
Week 13 Final Exam Week	<p>Class 1 <i>Evaluation of the Final Test.</i> <i>Final Paper due before Class 1</i></p> <p>Class 2 <i>Presentation of Final Papers and discussion.</i> <i>Evaluation of the course.</i></p>

Course Materials

The students will be offered regularly English-speaking articles on fresh developments in the countries under review (EU information, newspapers, and academic journals).

Ash, Timothy Garton: *The Magic Lantern*. New York, Random House, 1990.

Bockmann, Johanna: *Markets in the Name of Socialism*. Stanford University Press, 2011

Čornej, Petr-Pokorný, Jiří: *A Brief History of the Czech Lands*. Praha, 2003.

Cornwall ,M.-Evans, R.J.W.: *Czechoslovakia in a Nationalist and Fascist Europe*. Oxford University Press, 2007.

Glenn, John K. III.: *Framing Democracy*. Stanford University Press, 2001.



- Ferrell, Robert: *Woodrow Wilson and WWI*. Harper/Row Publ., N.Y., 1985.
- Hauner, Milan: *Fall and Rise of a Nation*. Columbia University Press, 2004.
- Henderson, K.-Robinson, N.: *Post-Communist Politics*. London 1997.
- Hyde-Price, Adrian: *The International politics of East-Central Europe*. Manchester University Press, 1996.
- Ines, Abby: *Czechoslovakia*. Yale University Press, 2001.
- Magris, Claudio: *Danube*. London, 2001.
- Mason, David S.: *Revolution and Transition in East-Central Europe*. Boulder, 1996.
- Mazower, Mark: *Hitler's Empire (Nazi Rule in Occupied Europe)*. London – New York, 2008.
- Michnik, Adam: *Letters from Freedom*. University of California Press, 1998.
- Sayer, Derek: *The Coast of Bohemia. A Czech History*. New Jersey, Princeton University Press, 1998.
- Stein, Eric: *Czecho/Slovakia. Ethnic Conflict - Constitutional Fissure - Negotiated Breakup*. Michigan, University of Michigan Press, 1997.
- Tismaneanu, Vladimir: *The Revolutions of 1989*. London/New York, Routledge, 1999.