



ENGAGE. EXPERIENCE. EMBRACE. EDUCATE.

## CIEE Study Center - Budapest, Hungary

### Course Syllabus

<b>Course Title:</b>	Political Problems of Transformation in East Central Europe
<b>Course Code:</b>	CEAS 3004 BUDP
<b>Programs offering course:</b>	Central European Studies
<b>Language of instruction:</b>	English
<b>U.S. Semester Credits:</b>	3
<b>Contact Hours:</b>	45
<b>Term:</b>	Summer semester 2019, Session 2
<b>Time:</b>	6/17/2019 - 7/15/2019
<b>Place:</b>	CIEE, Study Center
<b>Professor:</b>	Dr. Sandor Gallai
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<b>Office hours:</b>	By appointment

### Introduction

Democratization was one of the key political developments of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The end of the cold war and the collapse of the East Central European communist regimes opened the way to democratic changes in the Visegrad countries (Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, and Slovakia). The post-communist transformation was more complex than the previous waves of democratization as it also incorporated unique, unprecedented economic and social changes, and was often accompanied by the process of nation- and/or state-building.

The course starts with an introduction to the key concepts and elements of political systems to provide a theoretical and analytical framework for the deeper studying and understanding of post-communist democratization. The second part of the semester is dedicated to the discussion of various aspects of post-communist transformation in East Central Europe. While approaching it from broader perspectives, our focus will be on the Visegrad countries, and we put a particular emphasis on the Hungarian experience.

### Aims, objectives, and description of the course

The course is designed to provide an understanding of democratization, which presents the bottom-line of the political transformation in the post-communist region. The classes offer an introduction to the key elements and variations of the democratic political systems, while also include a description of the main characteristics of the former communist regimes. Focusing on the Visegrad countries, we also give an insight to post-communist democratization by answering the fundamental questions of "From where? To where? And How?".

### Learning outcomes

- Deeper understanding of political systems and political processes
- Insight to the nature of non-democratic regimes
- Analysis of democratization and changes of regimes
- Knowledge on post-communist transformation
- Political impediments and challenges to democracy-building in ECE in general and in Hungary in particular

### Methodology

The course is based on interactive lectures, in-class discussions and group work, visit to and by local political actors, and out-of-class assignments. Awareness to the challenges and dilemmas of decision-makers will be drawn in forms of in-class discussions. Discussions will be based on previous studies and recommended readings. Information gained from invited lecturers and external class visits will be processed individually and reported to the professor in form of reflection sheets. Analytical skills and lexical knowledge of the students will be tested in the two exams (mid-session and final, respectively).

### Prerequisites

None.

### Course Requirements

#### Assignments:

Students are expected to process the information covered during the classes with the help of handouts and reading assignments; they also have to attend classes, actively participate in in-class discussions, and take the mid-session and the final exams. In addition, students are required to submit individual reflection sheets on information gathered from external classes and invited lecturer. Deadline for the submission of reflection sheets is the day of the final exam).

#### Assessment, grading:

Grades are **earned** by the students based on their class attendance, class participation, their achievements in the assignments and any quizzes, and midterm and final exam. If the student completed at least one of the course takes either in full or in part, the subject can only be closed with a grade.

**Grades are not negotiable.** Any attempt at negotiation may potentially result in official disciplinary action! Both the mid-session and the final exam consist of the combination of test and essay questions.

The final grade will be a composite of four elements:

In-class activity:	10%
Mid-session exam:	35%
Reflection sheets (4x5%):	20%
Final exam:	35%

There are no make-up exams in this course.

**Cheating, plagiarism**

Plagiarism and any attempt at cheating at examinations shall result in an automatic “F” (fail) grade.

**Session schedule:**

<p>Week 1</p>	<p><b>Theme 1: Basic Concepts, political systems and the change of regimes; Political institutions and division of power</b>          Heywood pp. 3–13; 25–41; 163–180; 337–340, 361–372; Caramani pp. 122–179</p> <p><b>Theme 2: Political culture and ideologies; Parties, party systems and electoral systems</b>          Heywood pp. 43–69; 206–219; 271–291; Caramani pp. 182–197</p> <p><b>Theme 3: The communist regimes; The collapse of the communist regimes</b>          Swain – Swain pp. 101–126, 189–201; 204–208; Körösényi et al pp. 7–10; Kornai</p>
<p>Week 2:</p>	<p><b>Theme 4: Visiting the House of Terror</b>  <a href="http://www.terrorhaza.hu/en">http://www.terrorhaza.hu/en</a></p> <p><b>Theme 5: Post-communist constitutions and constitution design</b>  <a href="http://www.psp.cz/cgi-bin/eng/docs/laws/1993/1.html">http://www.psp.cz/cgi-bin/eng/docs/laws/1993/1.html</a>  <a href="http://www.kormany.hu/download/e/02/00000/The%20New%20Fundamental%20Law%20of%20Hungary.pdf">http://www.kormany.hu/download/e/02/00000/The New Fundamental Law of Hungary.pdf</a>  <a href="http://www.sejm.gov.pl/prawo/konst/angielski/kon1.htm">http://www.sejm.gov.pl/prawo/konst/angielski/kon1.htm</a>  <a href="http://www.slovakia.org/sk-constitution.htm">http://www.slovakia.org/sk-constitution.htm</a></p> <p><b>Theme 6: Post-communist institutional choices and electoral systems</b>          Constitutions; Lijphart; Birch</p> <p><b>Mid-session exam</b></p>
<p>Week 3</p>	<p><b>Theme 7: Elections and party systems in the Visegrad countries</b>  <a href="http://www.parties-and-elections.eu/">http://www.parties-and-elections.eu/</a>; O'Dwyer; Körösényi et al pp. 187–205</p> <p><b>Theme 8: Transitional justice; Government communication in Hungary</b>          Stan; <a href="http://www.kormany.hu/en">http://www.kormany.hu/en</a>; <a href="https://www.facebook.com/AboutHungary/">https://www.facebook.com/AboutHungary/</a></p> <p><b>Theme 9: The political problems of economic transformation; Post-2008 crisis management in Hungary</b>          Fisher; György–Veress</p>

Week 4	<p><b>Theme 10: The political problems of social transformation, Roma issues; Demography and family policy in Hungary</b> Kaufman; <a href="http://www.koppmariaintezet.hu/">http://www.koppmariaintezet.hu/</a></p> <p><b>Theme 11: Post-communist political culture; Corruption</b> <a href="http://www.pewglobal.org/2009/11/02/end-of-communism-cheered-but-now-with-more-reservations/">http://www.pewglobal.org/2009/11/02/end-of-communism-cheered-but-now-with-more-reservations/</a>; <a href="http://www.pewglobal.org/2010/01/20/the-post-communist-generation-in-the-former-eastern-bloc/">http://www.pewglobal.org/2010/01/20/the-post-communist-generation-in-the-former-eastern-bloc/</a>; <a href="https://transparency.hu/en/">https://transparency.hu/en/</a></p> <p><b>Theme 12: Europeanization, security challenges and the V4 cooperation</b> Schimmelfennig–Sedelmeier, Bosold–Achrainer; Lázár</p> <p><b>Final exam</b></p>
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## Bibliography

### **Compulsory reading:** (in the order of the class schedule):

- Andrew Heywood (2007): *Politics*; Palgrave Macmillan; 3<sup>rd</sup> edition
- Daniele Caramani (2011): *Comparative Politics*; Oxford University Press
- Geoffrey Swain and Nigel Swain (1993): *Eastern Europe since 1945*; The Macmillan Press Ltd.
- András Körösenyi – Csaba Tóth – Gábor Török (2009): *The Hungarian Political System*; Hungarian Center for Democracy Studies Foundation (also available on CD)
- János Kornai (2000): "What the Change of System from Socialism to Capitalism Does and Does Not Mean", *Journal of Economic Perspectives*, Vol. 14, No. 1, pp. 27–42
- The Constitution of the Czech Republic (<http://www.psp.cz/cgi-bin/eng/docs/laws/1993/1.html>)
- The Fundamental Law of Hungary ([http://www.kormany.hu/download/e/02/00000/The New Fundamental Law of Hungary.pdf](http://www.kormany.hu/download/e/02/00000/The%20New%20Fundamental%20Law%20of%20Hungary.pdf))
- The Constitution of the Republic of Poland (<http://www.sejm.gov.pl/prawo/konst/angielski/kon1.htm>)
- The Constitution of the Slovak Republic (<http://www.slovakia.org/sk-constitution.htm>)
- Arend Lijphart (1992): "Democratization and Constitutional Choices in Czechoslovakia, Hungary and Poland, 1989–1991", *Journal of Theoretical Politics*, Vol. 4, No. 2
- Sarah Birch (2003): *Electoral Systems and Political Transformation in Post-Communist Europe*, Palgrave Macmillan, New York, Chapter 2: An Overview of Post-Communist Electoral Systems: Design and Measurement, pp. 28–51
- Conor O'Dwyer (2014): "What Accounts for Party System Stability? Comparing the Dimensions of Party Competition in Postcommunist Europe", *Europe–Asia Studies*, Vol. 66, No. 4, pp. 511–535
- Heribert Kohl (2008): "Where Do Trade Unions Stand Today In Eastern Europe? Stock-taking After EU Enlargement", Briefing Paper, No. 5/ 2008, Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung
- Lavinia Stan (2009): 'Conclusion – Explaining country differences', in: Lavinia Stan (ed): *Transitional Justice in Eastern Europe and the Former Soviet Union*, Routledge, London and New York, pp. 246–270
- Sharon Fisher (2008): 'Re-Creating the Market', in: Sharon L. Wolchik and Jane L. Curry (eds.): *Central and East European Politics*, Rowman and Littlefield Publishers, Lanham – Boulder – New York – Toronto – Plymouth, pp. 55-85
- László György – József Veress (2016): "The Hungarian Economic Policy Model After 2010", *Public Finance Quarterly* 2016/3 pp. 360–381 ([https://www.asz.hu/storage/files/files/public-finance-quarterly-articles/2016/gyorgy\\_2016\\_3\\_a.pdf](https://www.asz.hu/storage/files/files/public-finance-quarterly-articles/2016/gyorgy_2016_3_a.pdf))
- Robert R. Kaufman (2007): "Market Reform and Social Protection: Lessons from the Czech Republic, Hungary, and Poland", *East European Politics and Societies*, Vol. 21, No. 1, pp. 111–125

Pew Research Center (2009): Two Decades After the Wall's Fall; <http://www.pewglobal.org/2009/11/02/end-of-communism-cheered-but-now-with-more-reservations/> and <http://www.pewglobal.org/2010/01/20/the-post-communist-generation-in-the-former-eastern-bloc/>

Frank Schimmelfennig and Ulrich Sedelmeier (2005): Introduction: Conceptualising the Europeanization of Central and Eastern Europe. In: Schimmelfennig – Sedelmeier (eds.): Europeanization of Central and Eastern Europe, Cornell University Press, Ithaca and London, pp. 1–28

David Bosold – Christian Achraimer (2012): Democratization and Security in Central and Eastern Europe and the Post-Soviet States. In: Bosold et al (eds.): Democratization and Security in Central and Eastern Europe and the Post-Soviet States, Nomos, Baden-Baden, pp. 9–17

András Máté Lázár (2014): "Post-EU-Accession Visegrád Cooperation – Results, Rhetoric, Prospects", Biztpol Affairs, Vol. 2:1, pp. 22-44

### **Recommended reading** (in the order of the class schedule):

Rod Hague and Martin Harrop (2010): Comparative Government and Politics – An Introduction; Palgrave Macmillan, 8th edition

Peter Joyce (2010): Understand Politics; Teach Yourself

Zoran Zic (1992): Eastern Europe. In: Mary Hawkesworth – Maurice Kogan (eds.): Encyclopedia of Government and Politics, Routledge, London and New York, Volume 2, pp. 1227–1251

Judy Batt (1991): "The End of Communist Rule in East-Central Europe: A Four-Country Comparison", Government and Opposition, Vol. 26, No. 3, pp. 368–390

IDEA (2008): Direct Democracy. The International IDEA Handbook, International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance, Stockholm

Gábor Tóka and Andrija Henjak (2006): 'Party Systems and Voting Behaviour in the Visegrad Countries 15 Years after the Transition', in: Pavel Šaradin and Eva Bradová (eds.): Visegrad Votes: Parliamentary

Sabina Avdagic (2005): "State-labour relations in East Central Europe: explaining variations in union effectiveness", Socio-Economic Review, Vol. 3, No. 3, pp. 25–53

Martin Myant – Jan Drahekoupil (2013): "Transition Economies after the Crisis of 2008: Actors and Policies", Europe-Asia Studies, Vol. 65, No. 3, pp. 373–382

János Kornai (2006): "The great transformation of Central Eastern Europe", Economics of Transition, Vol. 14, No. 2, pp. 207–244

The World Bank (2002): Transition. The First Ten Years. Analysis and Lessons for Eastern Europe and the Former Soviet Union, Washington, D.C., pp. 81–87

Hilary Appel (2005): "Anti-Communist Justice and Founding the Post-Communist Order: Lustration and Restitution in Central Europe", East European Politics and Societies, Vol. 19, No. 3, pp. 379–405

Detlef Pollack – Jörg Jacobs – Olaf Müller – Gert Pickel (2003): Political Culture in Post-Communist Europe; Ashgate

Jeffrey Simon (2008): 'Security Issues? NATO and Beyond', in: Sharon L. Wolchik and Jane L. Curry (eds.): Central and East European Politics, Rowman and Littlefield Publishers, Lanham – Boulder – New York – Toronto – Plymouth, pp. 147–161

Balázs Dobos (2014): Between Importing and Exporting Minority Rights: The Minority Self-Governments in Hungary. In: Salat Levente, Constantin Sergiu, Osipov Alexander, Székely István Gergő (szerk.): Autonomy Arrangements around the World: A Collection of Well and Lesser Known Cases. Cluj-Napoca: The Romanian Institute for Research on National Minorities., pp. 275-298.

Ivan Szelenyi (2008): "A Theory of Transitions", Modern China, Vol. 34, No. 1, pp. 165–175

Larry Diamond – Francis Fukuyama – Donald L. Horowitz – Marc F. Plattner (2014): "Reconsidering the Transition Paradigm", Journal of Democracy, Vol. 25, No. 1, pp. 86–100