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D330/R500 Eastern Europe under Communism: From the Iron Curtain to the Velvet Revolution

The Communist experiment failed in Eastern Europe. But the history of this experiment had a lasting impact on our contemporary world. This course will take you through a journey that will uncover the origins of communism in Eastern Europe, the early period of brutal take-over and Stalinization, and the attempts to reform communism in this area. The fall of communism and the ensuing battles for privatization, democratization, and the Wars in Yugoslavia will constitute the last part of this course. We will look at both the political institutions that shaped communist and post-communist eastern Europe, as well as the important social and cultural developments that took place during this period.

Requirements:

Undergraduates:

There will be a midterm (15%) and final examination (25%)*, 1 paper (15%), and in-class participation (45%). Classroom participation will be evaluated based on my observation of your performance and your contribution to the in-class assignments, which will be connected primarily to the readings on e-reserves. You will have to complete at least 9 assignments and score 36 points (max. 4 points for each assignment) in order to get full credit for class participation. You are free to do as many assignments as you wish to reach the max. 36 points. The rest of the 9 points (up to the 45%) will be based on general participation in class discussions and attendance. All assignments are due on the day we are to discuss the relevant reading, before our meeting, through our on-course page. I will only accept hard copies handed to Susan Williams or me in class, rather than in my mailbox later on that day, etc.

* Those interested in writing a research paper (40% of the grade) instead of the short paper above and the final should come and talk to me early in the semester. Anyone interested in this option should consult with me in the **first 4 weeks** of class. The research paper will be due on the same date as the final exam, by 5 p.m.

Attendance policy: You are entitled to 3 unmotivated absences. Your grade will be lowered for additional such absences.

The paper: you will have to write a 6 page paper on the topic of the communist takeovers

in Eastern Europe or the War in Kosovo. Please go to the on-course site, under the “in touch” tab, and look under “discussion forums.” You will find there a full breakdown of who is doing which paper. Both assignments are described in detail.

The papers for the communist takeover debate will be due in class on **February 15th**. The papers for the Kosovo War will be due in class on **April 26th**. **We will not accept the papers as attachments.** Please consult the *Chicago Manual of Style* for correct MLA citation and footnote styles. See also the following website:
<http://www.indiana.edu/~wts/wts/citing.html>

Plagiarism:

“A student must not adopt or reproduce ideas, words, or statements of another person without appropriate acknowledgment. A student must give credit to the originality of others and acknowledge an indebtedness whenever he or she does any of the following:

- a. Quotes another person's actual words, either oral or written;**
- b. Paraphrases another person's words, either oral or written;**
- c. Uses another person's idea, opinion, or theory; or**
- d. Borrows facts, statistics, or other illustrative material, unless the information is common knowledge.”**

(quoted from *Code of Student Rights, Responsibilities, and Conduct*)

for more information, see:

<http://www.indiana.edu/~wts/wts/plagiarism.html>

(this page provides useful examples to enable you to recognize and avoid plagiarizing)

You are responsible for recognizing and avoiding plagiarizing the work of other individuals, whether classmates, professors, or published authors. If you choose to disregard this responsibility, the penalties for plagiarism range from a reduced class grade to failing the class or further academic disciplinary action. **DON'T DO IT!**

Graduates:

In addition to the exams, you will have to write a review of a book focusing on the communist takeover and meaning of totalitarianism during the early Stalinist period (4 pages). We will select the books together early in the semester. You will have to schedule a meeting with me for this purpose. The largest percentage of your grade will

be based on a historiographic paper (12-15 pages), a review of the historical literature on a topic that falls within the scope of this course. You will have to choose the topic and the bibliography for this paper with my guidance. The bibliography for the longer paper should include at least 6 monographs and 4 essays, or something equivalent (e.g., 7 monographs).

The grade breakdown for graduate students is: midterm (15%); final exam (25%); book review (10%) and historiographic paper (50%).

Readings available at the bookstores:

Mark Pittaway, *Eastern Europe 1939-2000*

Gale Stokes, *From Stalinism to Pluralism: A Documentary History of Eastern Europe Since 1945* (selections)

Milan Kundera, *The Joke*

Additional readings have been placed on e-reserve; see on-course for password, under the “in touch” tab, “e-reserves and other readings.” As bound by copyright regulations, you may not give this password out to people who are not enrolled in this course. Thanks for your assistance!

Meetings and Assignments:

Week 1

Jan. 11 Introduction

Jan. 13 Eastern Europe before 1918

Read: e-reserves, R.J. Crampton, pp. 1-27

Week 2

Jan. 18 Eastern Europe in the Interwar Period

Read: e-reserves Crampton, pp. 31-38

Jan. 20 Ideological experiments in the Interwar period: Communism and the Radical Right.

Read: e-reserves: Crampton, 152-76; Weber, 165-69; recommended :Berend, 61-83.

Week 3

Jan. 25 World War II

Read: Pittaway Intro and Ch. 1.; Stokes, readings 2-4.

Jan. 27 World War II—continued; The Holocaust

Read: e-reserves: Steinlauf, pp. 23-42

Week 4

Feb. 1 Jan Gross, *Neighbors*—selections; discussion

Read: ereserves: Gross, pp. 14-32; 41-53; 79-104

Feb. 3 The End of the War—Communist Takeovers: debate

Read: Pittaway, ch. 2; ereserves: Crampton, pp. 211-239; Stokes, reading 7; for bibliography and assignments see On-Course

Week 5

Feb. 8 Communist Takeovers—contd; The Communist System

Read: Stokes, reading 8; ereserves: Crampton, pp. 240-254;

Feb. 10: Trial in Prague (film)

bonus writing assignment **due Feb. 15**

Week 6

Feb 15 The Consolidation of Power: Political Purges—discuss film; **papers for debate due in class**

Read: Pittaway, ch. 3, Stokes, reading 10

Feb. 17 . Consolidation of Power: Collectivization and Industrialization

Read: Pittaway, ch. 4, Stokes, reading 16; e-reserves: Bokovoy, 126-152

Week 7

Feb. 22 Stalinist Repression: Todorov

Read: e-reserves Todorov, *Voices from the Gulag*, selections

Feb. 24 The political upheavals of the 1950s

Read: ereserves Crampton, pp. 288-303
<http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/mod/1956khrushchev-secret1.html> for Khrushchev's secret speech; Stokes, reading 12

Week 8

Mar 1: Remaking the private sphere

Read: Pittaway, ch. 5

Mar. 3: Cultural dissent: Kundera

Read: Kundera, *The Joke*

Week 9

Mar. 8 From separate roads to socialism to the Brezhnev Doctrine

Read: Pittaway, ch. 6; Stokes, readings 19-21.

Mar. 10 Midterm.

Week 10

Spring break

Week 11

Mar. 22 Normalization and stagnation—the 1970s.

Read: Pittaway, ch. 7; Stokes, readings 27-28

Mar. 24 Solidarity

Read: ereserves, Crampton, pp. 367-76, Stokes, readings 33 and 35; ereserves: Michnik, *A Year Has Passed*, pp. 290-95

Week 12

Mar 29: The 1980s: Stasis and nationalism

Read: Pittaway, ch. 8

March 31: Nationalism and disintegration in Yugoslavia

Read: reserves: Udovicki, pp. 80-107; also selections from the memorandum:
<http://www.4cbiz.net/kosta/tar/memorandum/memorandum.html#status>

Week 13

April 5. Revolutions of 1989

Read: reserve Crampton 391-400; Stokes, reading 47; recommended on
reserves: Isaac, Tamas

April 7 . The Yugoslav Wars

Read: reserves: Donia and Fine, pp. 220-280; Nikolic-Ristanovic, pp. 214-20;
225; <http://www.crimesofwar.org/onnews/news-milosevic2.html> (click on “Bosnia” at
bottom of the page)

Week 14

April 12 . Movie: No Man’s Land

April 14: No Man’s Land (Continued); discussion

Week 15

April 19. War in Kosovo—War Crimes and Trials: for guidelines regarding the debate
and papers see On-Course page

Read: reserves: W. J. Buckley, pp. 108-115; 128-132; 201-209; 273-281;
<http://www1.umn.edu/humanrts/peace/docs/daytonaccord.html> (especially Annex 1B and
Annex 2); <http://www.crimesofwar.org/archive/archive-kosovo.html>

April 21 Political transformations: towards democracy and integration in NATO;

Read: Pittaway, Ch. 9; reserves: Michnik, Letters from Freedom, pp. 317-27;
suggested reading, reserves: Nelson and Pourchot, pp. 375-95;

Week 16

April 26: The New Europe and the War on Terror.

Read: TBA

April 28: Review; **Kosovo War paper due in class.**

Final examination: **Thu, May 5, 2:45-4:45 p.m.; Final papers (for those opting for the research paper instead of final exam) due by 2:45 in my mailbox**

Writing assignments (questions for in-class discussion from the e-reserves and other readings and for the Communist Takeover paper)

For each reading response you are to answer the question that falls by the first letter of your last name according to the following:

When there are 4 questions:

A-F=1
G-M=2
N-R=3
S-Z=4

Accordingly, if your last name is "Nichols," you are to answer question 3

When there are 6 questions

A-D=1
E-J=2
K-M=3
N-Q=4
R-S=5
T-Z=6

Accordingly, if your last name is "Nichols," you are to answer question 4

When there are 2 questions

A-F;N-R=1
G-M;S-Z=2

Accordingly, if your last name is "Nichols," you are to answer question 1

When there are 3 questions

A-D;N-Q=1
E-J;R-S=2

K-M;T-Z=3

Accordingly, if your last name is “Nichols,” you are to answer question 1

When there are 5 questions

A-D=1

N-Q=2

E-J=3

R-S=4

K-M, T-Z=5

Accordingly, if your last name is “Nichols,” you are to answer question 5

Guidelines for Short Writing Assignments

1. All assignments have to be submitted through on-course or handed in class typed/printed, on the day of class. Make a **printout for yourself to bring to class**, so you can follow your own answer in participating in the discussion of the readings.
2. Make sure you indicate the question you are answering at the top of the page, along with the date and your name.
3. The answers should be written in essay form, 2-3 paragraphs (250-300 words).
4. You will be graded on the basis of grammar and stylistic clarity, so make sure you proofread your answers.
5. When you make reference to the reading and quote, make sure you use a footnote, either in brief form, or in full form:
 - a. Brief form: “When you make a reference...” (**Guidelines, p. 1**)
 - b. Full form: “When you make a reference...”¹ (either footnote or endnote is fine)

¹ Guidelines for Short Writing Assignments (Answers to Questions for In-Class Discussion), p. 1