

Course syllabus

1. Core data

Course code	Credits	Semester
293NECOV415B	6	Fall 2024
Course title in English		
Transition and Post-Transition Challenges in Hungary		
Course title in Hungarian		
A rendszerváltozás és azt követő kihívások Magyarországon		
Course title in other language		
Course leader	Institute	
András Olivér Németh	Institute of Economics	
Course type	Type of final assessment	
lecture + seminar	exam	
Language of instruction	Class schedule	
English	see Weekly Schedule below	
Number of theoretical classes per week (full-time programmes)	Number of practical classes per week (full-time programmes)	
2	2	
Term when the course is announced/started		
Fall and spring semesters		

2. Main features

Course objectives
The course is built around three sub-subjects, all related to the concept of change. The first, introductory, topic deals with socio-economic transformation or 'regime change' of Central and Eastern Europe as it has evolved since the late 1980s. The second, and main, part discusses Hungary, covering a wide range of socio-economic issues such as privatization, structural changes, fiscal and monetary regimes as well as topics related to geopolitics. The third part investigates recent developments and the particular challenges that Hungary faces within the Western alliance and in the EU.
Brief description of the course
Disintegration of planned economy and shifts in international relations led to a regime change in Central Eastern Europe in 1989/1990, opening the road for the whole region to get free from Soviet tutelage, and to reintegrate into Western economic, political and security systems. The socio-economic transformation (transition in the parlance of development banks and academic literature) has been successful in some countries and has had a mixed record in others.
The course aims at analysing the particular Hungarian regime change and the transformation/transition process that has evolved since the country broke with the former political system in 1989/1990. In the early 1990s, Hungary was seen as a leading reformer and a natural candidate to join the European Union early. Accession to EU eventually took place in 2004, but not to the Eurozone. At present, Hungary – an EU member state – is in the news as a problem state of the EU. We will look at key policy areas and analyse recent political and economic policy events.

3. Learning outcomes

Skills	Knowledge	Attitudes	Autonomy and responsibility
Able to analyse macroeconomic situations, and to	Get acquainted with the transition process, its theories and with relevant facts.	Learn to see complex socio-economic phenomena in a holistic way.	Ready to take personal position on complex economic, social and political issues, but

<p>conduct policy analysis of complex issues.</p> <p>Possess the capacity to understand and apply statistical sources to real-life policy cases.</p> <p>Develop presentation skills through one individual class presentation and active participation in guided discussions.</p>	<p>Gain adequate knowledge about challenges of a particular transformation country, Hungary.</p> <p>Get an insight on the working of the EU with Hungary as a member state.</p> <p>Know more about the economic and political history and current affairs of Hungary.</p>	<p>Ready to work in a small team in supportive spirit.</p> <p>Show interest in politically charged, much debated policy issues.</p>	<p>willing to cooperate with others to analyse debated topics.</p> <p>Willing to stand for one's professional position and value statements in open debate.</p>
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4. Assessment system of the course

Method of assessment		
<p>Students are required to be active in class. Read the reading assignments as we go: there will be a test writing on 5th week on the materials of the first 4 weeks, and a mid-term test on the 8th week. Each student is required to choose a particular presentation topic (to be approved by lecturer), and to present it to class in solo, or with a peer in case of a complex subject, within given time limits (appr. 15 to 20 minutes) and to take questions from peers and the lecturer. The course ends with a final exam</p>		
Study activity	Minimum requirement for the course completion (if any)	Weighting of student activity in the final assessment (%)
first (literature) test		10
mid-term exam		20
presentation		20
final exam		50

5. Compulsory readings

Compulsory reading	URL
P. Á. Bod (ed.): Reader, 2024.	Items of the Reader will be available on Moodle
Lecture slides	Will be made accessible for download on Moodle after the class

6. Recommended readings

Recommended reading	URL
Additional materials may be recommended relating to the particular topic chosen for class presentation	

7. Thematic weekly schedule

Week no.	Brief description of topic
1	Clarifying the terms: reform, regime change, transition. Theories of institutional change.
2	Introduction to Hungarian economic history. The classical planned economy.
3	Economic legacy of planned economy. Role of foreign economic and political factors.
4	Privatization
5	Budget, national debt, monetary policy, inflation

6	Accession to EU
7	Political cycles and the Hungarian state
8	Policy changes after 2010
9	FDI, trade issues, structure of the economy
10	Hungary in the EU
11	Present issues and the outlook, case study presentations
12	Case study presentations
13	Case study presentations, conclusion of the course

8. Class data

Course code	Course type	Lecturer(s)	Time and venue
293NECOV415B	elective	Péter Ákos Bod	according to Neptun

9. Prerequisites and further information

Description of prerequisites and further information
None

10. Class participation

Not to be confused with attendance, class participation is the practice of engaging your professor and fellow students during presentations and discussions with thoughtful and timely contributions. If you miss classes, it will have an impact on your participation points!

Opinions vary, civility is constant. You should feel free to question or disagree with other students; however, such disagreement must be based on the idea and not the person. Respect for your peers and professor is the sine qua non of great discussions and great learning experiences.

DO NOTE THAT EVERY POINT IS EARNED, NOT NEGOTIATED!

11. Plagiarism

Any and all statements contained in any assignment or paper that are based upon ideas or words of another must be properly credited to the original author or source. Paraphrasing the ideas or words of another is acceptable so long as the original author or source is cited. DO NOT quote words or expressions from existing works verbatim without designating the passage as a quote and crediting the source. Any student who plagiarizes the work of any other person (author, professor, student, parent, friend, etc.) is committing academic dishonesty and misconduct. Any student caught committing plagiarism will automatically fail the course.

12. Grade Conversion Table for Courses taught in English

Percentage achieved	Hungarian Grade	ECTS Grade	International Grade	Explanation
97-100	5	A	A+	Excellent
94-96	5	A	A	Excellent
90-93	5	A	A-	Excellent
87-89	5	B	B+	Excellent/Very good
84-86	4	C	B	Good
80-83	4	C	B-	Good
77-79	4	C	C+	Good
74-76	3	D	C	Satisfactory
70-73	3	D	C-	Satisfactory
67-69	3	D	D+	Satisfactory
64-66	2	D	D	Low pass/Sufficient
60-63	2	E	D-	Low pass/Sufficient
0-59	1	FX/F	F	Fail, 0 credit
	N		N	No grade received, 0 credit