



University of  
New Haven

## *Democracy in the Czech Republic*

### SECTION I: Course Overview

**Course Code:** POL366PRG

**Subject Area(s):** Political Science

**Prerequisites:** None

**Language of Instruction:** English

**Total Contact Hours:** 45

**Recommended Credits:** 3

### COURSE DESCRIPTION

A transition to democracy can be long and full of challenges. This course explores the stages of democratization in the Czech Republic, from the initial cracks in the authoritarian regime, to transition, consolidation, and democratic backsliding. Deconstructing the process of Czech democratization, this course provides an overview of conditions that may foster or impede the democratization process. The course considers i.a. the impact of various historical legacies, institutional choices, mode of economic transition as well as roles played by key political agents, civil society, and external conditionality exerted by the EU. The course draws on foundational literature on democratization as well as area-specific expertise on fourth-wave transitions and Europeanization. Introducing common democracy indexes, the course also puts the quality of Czech democracy into a broader comparative perspective.

### LEARNING OBJECTIVES

Upon successful completion of this course, you will be able to:

- Differentiate between the concepts of liberalization, democratic transition, democratic consolidation, and democratic backsliding.
- Analyze the constitutive and causal factors for democratization and democratic decline in the Czech Republic.
- Apply the theories of transition, consolidation, and erosion of democracy to an empirical analysis of Czech political developments.
- Compare and contrast the quality of Czech democracy with other countries using various democratization indexes.

### SECTION II: Instructor & Course Details

#### INSTRUCTOR DETAILS

<b>Name:</b>	TBD
<b>Contact Information:</b>	TBD
<b>Term:</b>	SEMESTER

## GRADING & ASSESSMENT

The instructor will assess your progress towards the above-listed learning objectives by using the forms of assessment below. Each of these assessments is weighted and will count towards your final grade. The following section (Assessment Overview) will provide further details for each.

<b>Engagement</b>	<b>20%</b>
<b>Response Paper</b>	<b>20%</b>
<b>Midterm Exam</b>	<b>20%</b>
<b>Group Project</b>	<b>20%</b>
<b>Final Exam</b>	<b>20%</b>

## ASSESSMENT OVERVIEW

This section provides a brief description of each form of assessment listed above. Your course instructor will provide further details and instructions during class time.

**Engagement (20%)**: Engagement in class is expected of all CEA CAPA students. Guidelines for engagement can be found on the list of academic policies.

**Response Paper (20%)**: You will have one response paper due in this course. The paper will be your reflection on course field visits undertaken. This written reflection should contextualize your first-hand empirical observations within our course readings. A successful paper will establish a clear connection between your first-hand observations and our course readings, relevant terminology, themes, and concepts presented in the assigned literature. Further instructions for this assignment will be provided during class.

**Midterm Exam (20%)**: The midterm exam will consist of seven short answer questions; of which you will select five to answer. The exam will also include short ID tasks. The exam will be based on the course readings, lectures, discussions, and activities. A review will be held and a study guide provided to aid your preparation for the exam.

**Group Project (20%)**: In small groups, you will research a selected democratization index to understand its basic parameters and general assessment criteria. You will research the available democratization scores for the Czech Republic and put these into context of Czech political developments we have studied. You will compare your findings for the Czech Republic with the democratization scores of your group's selected country. You will present your research, analysis, and findings to class in a group presentation supported by a PowerPoint presentation summarizing your research, analysis and findings.

**Final Exam (20%)**: The final exam will consist of seven short answer questions; of which you will select five to answer. The exam will also include short ID tasks. The exam will be based on the course readings, lectures, discussions, and activities from the second part of the course. A review will be held and a study guide provided to aid your preparation for the exam.

## ACTIVE LEARNING

CEA CAPA courses are designed to include a variety of active learning component that will take you out of the classroom and allow you to explore your local, host city. This course includes:

- Nuclear Fallout Shelter
- Museum of Communism
- Chamber of Deputies

## REQUIRED READINGS

The reading assignments for this course are listed below. All required readings must be completed according to the due date assigned by the course instructor. You will not need to purchase these readings; the instructor will provide these selected readings to you in class (either in paper or electronic format) and/or through CEA CAPA's online Moodle classroom.

**SELECTED READING(S):** The selected readings for this course are listed below. You will not need to purchase these readings; the instructor will provide these selected readings to you in class (either in paper or electronic format).

- Agnew, H. *The Czechs and the Lands of the Bohemian Crown* (1<sup>st</sup> Edition). Stanford: Hoover Press, 2013, chapters 11-16.
- Bustikova, L., Guasti, P. *The State as a Firm: Understanding the Autocratic Roots of Technocratic Populism*, East European Politics and Societies and Culture, Vol. 33, No. 2, May 2019, pp. 302-330.
- Dahl, R. *On Democracy*. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1998, chapters 4-5.
- Pehe, J. *Judging Prague's Democratic Difficulties: The Quality of Czech Democracy*, Special Report available at [www.indexforcensorship.org](http://www.indexforcensorship.org), 2014, pp. 28-32.
- Rupnik, J., Zielonka, J. *Introduction: The State of Democracy 20 Years on: Domestic and External Factors*, East European Politics and Societies and Culture, Vol. 27, No. 1, February 2013, pp. 3-25.
- Schmitter P., Karl, T. *What Democracy is...and is not*. Journal of Democracy, Summer 1991, pp. 2-15.
- Tuma, P. *Czech President-Elect Turns the Page on Populism*. Available at: <https://foreignpolicy.com/2023/02/01/czech-president-elections-petr-pavel-populism/>

## RECOMMENDED READINGS

The recommended reading(s) and/or text(s) for this course are below. These recommended readings are not mandatory, but they will assist you with research and understanding course content.

- Bustikova, L., Guasti P. *The Illiberal Turn of Swerve in Central Europe?* Politics and Governance 5(4), 2017, 10 pp.
- Ekiert, G. *Eastern Europe's Post-Communist Transformations*. World Politics Review, March 2012, available at [www.worldpoliticsreview.com/articles/11749/eastern-europes-postcommunist-transformations](http://www.worldpoliticsreview.com/articles/11749/eastern-europes-postcommunist-transformations)
- Ekiert, G, Kubik, J., Vachudova, M.A. *Democracy in the Post-Communist World: An Unending Quest?* East European Politics and Societies, Vol 21 (7), 26 pp.
- Foa, R.S., Mounk Y. *The Signs of Deconsolidation*. Journal of Democracy 28(1), 2007, pp. 2-12.
- Grabbe, H. *The EU's Transformative Power: Europeanization through Conditionality in Central and Eastern Europe*. Palgrave, McMillan, 2006, 231 pp.
- Havel, V. *The Power of the Powerless*. International Journal of Politics, 1979, pp. 80.
- Huntington, S. *The Third Wave: Democratization in the Late Twentieth Century*, Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1991, 336 pp.
- Jureckova, A. October 18, 2021. "The End of the Babis Era? The Czech Republic Between the Past and the Future." Heinrich Boll Stiftung Foundation. Available at: <https://eu.boell.org/en/2021/10/19/end-babis-era-czech-republic-between-past-and-future>.
- Linz, J., Stepan A. *Problems of democratic transition and consolidation: Southern Europe, South America, and post-communist Europe*, Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins University Press, 1996, 479 pp.
- Linz, J., Stepan A. *Toward Consolidated Democracies*. Journal of Democracy, Vol. 7(2), 1996, pp. 14-33.

- Lipset, S. M. *The Social Requisites of Democracy Revisited*. American Sociological Review, Vol. 59(1), 1994, pp. 1-22.
- McFaul, M. *The Fourth Wave of Democracy and Dictatorship: Noncooperative Transitions In the Postcommunist World*. World Politics 54(2), 2002, 32 pp.
- Norris, P. *Is Western Democracy Backsliding? Diagnosing the Risks*. Journal of Democracy, April 2017, 27 pp.
- Pridham, G., Dimitrova, A. *International Actors and Democracy Promotion in Eastern and Central Europe: The Integration Model and Its Limits*. Democratization, Dec 2004, pp. 1-24.
- Rupnik, J. *Is East-Central Europe Backsliding?* Journal of Democracy, Vol 18(4), 2007, pp. 1-10.
- Sorensen, G. *Democracy and Democratization: Processes and Prospects in a Changing World*. (3<sup>rd</sup> Edition). Boulder, CO: Westview Press, 2018, 224 pp.
- Way, L.W., Levitsky, S. *Linkage, Leverage and the Post-Communist Divide*. East European Politics & Societies 21(1), 2007, 18 pp.

## KEY RESOURCES

In order to ensure your success abroad, CEA CAPA has provided the academic resources listed below.

- **UNH Online Library:** As a CEA CAPA student, you will be given access to the online library of the University of New Haven (UNH). You may access the UNH online library [here](#). You must comply with [UNH Policies](#) regarding library usage.
- **CEA CAPA Classroom – Moodle**

**COURSE CALENDAR**  
*Democracy in the Czech Republic*

SESSION	TOPICS	ACTIVITY	READINGS & ASSIGNMENTS
1	<b>Course Introduction:</b> Review Syllabus, Classroom Policies <b>Democracy: What it is...and what not?</b>	Course Overview Lecture & Discussion	Schmitter & Karl, 16 pp.
2	<b>Foundations of Democratic Theory</b>	Lecture & Discussion	Dahl, chapters 4 & 5, pp. 35-61
3	<b>First Czechoslovak State: Political Agents, Institutions &amp; Principles</b>	Lecture & Discussion	Agnew, chapter 11, pp. 175-202
4	<b>Totalitarian Legacies:</b> Fascism & Communism	Lecture & Discussion	Agnew, chapter 12 & 13, pp. 208-232, pp. 233-242
5	<b>Liberalization &amp; Prague Spring Normalization &amp; Dissent</b>	Lecture & Discussion <i>Field Study: Nuclear Fallout Shelter</i>	Agnew, chapter 13, pp. 242-260 & chapter 14 pp. 261-269
6	Museum of Communism	<i>Field Study: Museum of Communism</i>	Agnew, chapter 14, pp. 261-283 <b>Work on response paper</b>
7	<b>Transition to Democracy: The Velvet Revolution</b>	Lecture & Discussion <i>Midterm Exam Review</i>	Agnew, chapter 15, pp. 284-306 <b>Response paper due</b>

8	<b>MIDTERM EXAM</b>		
9	<b>Consolidation of Democracy: From Velvet Divorce to EU Membership</b>	Lecture & Discussion	Agnew, chapter 16, pp. 306-331 <b>Group project assigned</b>
10	<b>Czech Democracy After EU Accession</b>	Lecture & Discussion	Rupnik & Zielonka, pp. 3-25 Pehe, pp. 28-32 <b>Work on group project &amp; presentation</b>
11	<b>What now? Democratic Backsliding?</b>	Lecture & Discussion	Bustikova & Guasti, pp. 302-330 <b>Work on group project &amp; presentation</b>
12	Chamber of Deputies	<i>Field Study: Chamber of Deputies</i>	Tuma, P. <a href="https://foreignpolicy.com/2023/02/01/czech-president-elections-petr-pavel-populism/">https://foreignpolicy.com/2023/02/01/czech-president-elections-petr-pavel-populism/</a> <b>Work on group project &amp; presentation</b>
13	<b>Quality of Czech Democracy: Measures and Comparisons</b>	<b>Group Project Presentations</b>	<b>Group project &amp; presentation due</b>
14	<b>Review Session</b>	In-class Review & Discussion	<b>Prepare for final exam</b>
15	<b>FINAL EXAM</b>		

## **SECTION III: CEA CAPA Academic Policies**

To see all CEA CAPA academic policies outlined, please follow the following links. Students are expected to review and understand all CEA CAPA student policies, including the academic policies outlined online. CEA CAPA reserves the right to change, update, revise, or amend existing policies and/or procedures at any time.

Class & Instructor Policies can be found [here](#)

General Academic Policies can be found [here](#)