

**Charles University, Faculty of Arts
East and Central European Studies**

FALL 2023

Central Europe in the Context of European Integration

CUFA POL 302

Instructor: Jiří Holub
Office Hours: by appointment
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Class Days/Time: NP 111, Monday, Tuesday 17:30 – 19:00

Course description:

This course reacts to the last developments in the Central European space in the dynamic process of the European integration. The migration situation since 2015, the threats of terrorism, the decision of Great Britain to leave the European Union in 2020 are largely influencing also the political atmosphere in Central European countries.

This class will make an attempt to explain the interdependence of both the developments of five Central European countries (Czech republic, Slovakia, Poland, Austria, Hungary) after the historical changes in 1989, as well as those developments inside the EU caused by the enlargement of the EU into Central Europe. Special attention will be paid to the results of the elections to the European Parliament in May 2019, the British referendum (Brexit) in June 2016, and the consequences of the war in Ukraine (after the invasion of Ukraine by the Russian Federation in 2022).

Course Prerequisites:

General interest in European politics and in integration studies is expected. The course is based on active participation. The weekly assigned readings will provide the students with opportunities to discuss and interpret political literature concerning this topic. The students will develop the basic skills in the respective areas of studies. The teacher will help the students choose and write their final papers paying respect to their major and minor studies in their home universities.

Course Requirements:

The grading will be based on attendance and participation in the discussion, the midterm test, the final written test and the final paper.

The midterm test will be written in the classroom in the middle of the program and it will test basic acquaintance with the issues discussed in the first five weeks.

The final written test will be written in the classroom to test the knowledge of the second half of the program. The final paper (8 pages) will be handed over and presented for the evaluation in the last week of the program.

Assessment and Final Grade:

- Class attendance and active participation: 10%
- Midterm written test: 30%
- Final written test: 30%
- Final paper: 30%

Attendance

Students are responsible for completing all course requirements as set forth by the instructor. Students are permitted only 180 minutes of absences per class (either one 180-minute class, or two 90-minute classes). Any subsequent 90-minute unexcused absence after this allotment will lower the student's final grade by 1/3 letter (eg. A to A-).

Students are accountable for all course assignments, whether or not the assignments were announced during an absence. In order to receive a passing grade for each course, all students must attend at least 70% of the meetings for each course; failure to do so will result in a failing grade, or „F“, on the final transcript.

Excused Absences:

Observance of a major religious holy day: any student absent from class in observance of a religious holy day shall not be penalized in any way for an examination or assignment missed during the period of absence. Absence in observance of a religious holy day does not relieve students from responsibility for any part of the course work required during the period of absence. Students who are absent on days of examinations or class assignments shall be offered a reasonable opportunity to make up the work without penalty, only if the student PREVIOUSLY arranged to be absent. Please be aware that this policy only allows students to be absent in observance of a holiday; days surrounding the particular holiday will not be included in excused absences. If a student plans to miss a class due to a religious holiday, he or she should discuss this with the instructor and should notify the Director of International Programs by e-mail at least 7 days in advance.

Absence due to medical illness: any student absent from class due to a medical illness shall not be penalized in any way for an examination or assignment missed during the period of absence. In order for a medical illness to be excused, the student must submit a doctor's note to ECES staff which must include the dates for which the doctor recommends the student be absent. Medical notes which do not explicitly say the dates for which absence is recommended cannot be accepted as an excuse. ECES staff will notify each of the student's professors should a medical excuse be given. Students must see a physician in person to be excused, and have an original note to be excused.

Other cases should be approved by the Director of International Programs in advance. Unforeseen absences should be reported to the Director of International Programs as soon as possible.

Presentation Policy: Missing the presentation will result in an F (when applicable). If the student wants to switch the date, he/she must find someone to do it and both students must confirm the change in e-mails to the professor at least 10 days in advance. If the student is sick and has a medical note, then the professor must agree with the student on how the work will be made up for.

Final Test or Paper Policy: Completing the final test or paper is required. Failure to submit the final test or paper according to the deadline will result in a letter grade F for the entire course.

For further details, please see the Attendance Policy at the ECES website under "Academic Policies and Procedures": <http://eces.ff.cuni.cz/>.

Student Responsibility and Code of Conduct

Standards of study and conduct in the ECES Program are set and maintained. You are subject to the general standards and requirements of Charles University in regard to attendance, examinations, and conduct, as well as to specific requirements of the program. The student is expected to assume the initiative in completing all requirements at the time specified.

It is the responsibility of the student to be informed concerning all regulations and procedures required. In no case will a regulation be waived or an exception granted because a student pleads ignorance of the regulation or asserts that he/she was not informed by an advisor or other authority.

Charles University expects all students to adhere to the highest standards of ethics and academic integrity. Students certify that all work (whether an examination, research paper, research project, form of creative expression, or any other academic undertaking) submitted for evaluation, presentation, or publication meets these standards.

All forms of academic fraud are strictly prohibited. An automatic grade of F will result for the entire course if a student is found guilty of academic misconduct. These include, but are not limited to:

- Plagiarism
- Cheating
- Falsification
- Violation of professional ethics
- Misrepresentation or research data

Weekly schedule:

Week 1

Introduction will concentrate on: terminological problems in politics, geography and geopolitics.

Study of the maps.

Required reading: Political maps of Central Europe and European Union: States, nations, regions and populations.

Week 2

The results of the elections to the European Parliament in May 2019.

Based on statistics and analyses of the elections especially in the Central European countries.

The representation of the Central European deputies/politicians in the institutions of the European Union.

Required reading: An Unwinnable War by Samuel Charap, Foreign Affairs, July/August 2023

Week 3

History of the European idea in the 20. century with the emphasis on the institutional framework after 1945: United nations, Marshall Aid, Steel and Coal Union, the Treaties of Rome 1957.

Required reading: The Idea of Europe, pp. 33-34

by Anthony Pagden, Cambridge university press, 2002

Week 4

The political situation in Central European states after 1945- the starting political division of Europe. Communist regimes and the after-war situation in Austria and Germany.

Proposal of the final paper due (1 page)

Required reading:

Schöpflin, George: Politics in Eastern Europe, USA, 1998

(selected pages)

Week 5

Political and economic systems in the former Communist states: similarities and differences. Attempts to carry out some reforms: Czechoslovakia in 1968, Hungary in 1970s and 1980s.

Required reading: prepared by the teacher:

Conference proceedings concerning political and economic reform attempts in the former socialist countries.

Week 6

Review before the written test

Midterm written test

The collapse of Communist regimes in 1989, transition programs in individual countries.

Required reading: Ash, Timothy Garton: The Magic Lantern. N.Y., 1990

(selected pages)

Week 7

Correction of the tests - remaining questions after the midterm test

Reaction of the European politicians towards the changed situation in Central Europe: the Association agreements and pre-access negotiation.

Discussion of the consequences of the war in Ukraine

Required reading: The Korea Model by Carter Malkasian, Foreign Affairs, July/August 2023

Required reading: Foreign Affairs Sept/Oct 2023 (to be added)

Week 8

The development of the EU institutions in the years 1957-1992: Maastricht Treaty. The challenges of 1989. The discussion between europessimists and eurooptimists.

Required reading: Agra, Ali M.: The European politics. Cambridge, 2011

(selected pages)

Field Trip – urban walk.

Week 9

The enlargement of the EU to Central European countries in 2004 (Austria in 1995) and to the Balkans.

Required reading: Documents of the House of Europe in Prague.

Optional visit of the House of Europe in Prague.

Week 10

The Treaty of Lisbon. The ratification process of the Treaty. The approach of Central European countries. The budget of the EU. Public debts.

Required reading: selected Chapters of the Treaty of Lisbon.

Week 11

2015: the migration issue, economic problems (inflation, energy), the green deal. The impact on political elections in Central European space in selected countries.

Required reading: Eurostat statistics.

Week 12

Geopolitical changes in Europe.

Required reading: selected articles from International press.

Final written test.

Week 13

Presentation of the Final papers.

Evaluation of the program.