



EXTENDED CAMPUS

COLLEGE of PROFESSIONAL
and CONTINUING STUDIES

IAS 5940-239: Topics in International Studies: Eastern European Politics

Course Description:

This course is designed for Master's program with emphasis in International Relations. The course examines the developments of contemporary politics across Eastern and Central European countries. These states have undergone a dramatic transformation since World War II - politically, economically, and socially. In order to understand these developments, this course looks at how East Central European states came under the dominance of the Soviet Union, how the rebellious societies contested and resisted the communist regimes, and finally, how those regimes collapsed in the late 1980s. The course also examines the most recent transformations and challenges – nationalism, democratization, the “color revolutions” of the early 21st century, and tensions in relations between Russia and the West.

Class Dates, Location and Hours:

Class format has changed COVID-19 travel restrictions.

Dates: May 12 – 26, 2020

Location: Building 2775, Rooms 10 and 11. Kapaun Air Station on Vogelweh Air Base. *Course will be held online, please contact professor for more information.*

Hours: Tuesday - Friday 6:00-9:30 pm; Saturday and Sunday 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

Last day to enroll or drop without penalty: April 13, 2020

Site Director:

Email: apramstein@ou.edu. Phone: DSN 480-6807, Civilian 06371-47-6807.

Professor Contact Information:

Course Professor: Rebecca Cruise, Ph.D.

Mailing Address: College of International Studies

729 Elm St.

Hester Hall 118

Norman, OK 73019

Telephone Number: (405) 325-1075

Email Address: rebecca@cruise@ou.edu

Professor availability: The professor will be available via email to students.

Textbook(s) and Instructional Materials:

Student materials are available at the OU Bookstore Website at <https://ou.textbookx.com/institutional/index.php>. There is no longer a physical bookstore, the store will remain, but textbooks will not be stocked. The website has book selling, renting, buying, returning, and order tracking capabilities. If you need help with an order, or if you have any questions contact the toll-free phone at 1-(855)-790-6637, agents are available from 9a – 5p (EST) Monday – Friday. For more information or questions about textbooks, feel free to contact apsyllabi@ou.edu. Text prices are available online

1. Rosenberg, T. (1996). *The haunted land: Facing Europe's ghosts after communism*. Vintage. ISBN 978-0679744993.

2. Howard, M. M. (2003). *The weakness of civil society in post-communist Europe*. New York: Cambridge University Press. ISBN 9780521011525.
3. Materials posted on the OU Canvas learning management system: Access Canvas at <https://canvas.ou.edu> , enter your OU NetID and password, and select course to access material. If you require assistance with Canvas, please click on the Help icon. You can search the Canvas guides, chat with Canvas support, or contact OU IT.

Course Objectives:

The objective of the course is to provide students with an understanding of major themes of totalitarianism, the “spheres of influence” and their relevance in contemporary Europe, democratic transitions and its challenges, and importance of historical legacies in analyzing the post-communist regimes.

Assignments, Grading and Due Dates:

Tuesday, May 12: Cold War 2?

1. *Washington Post*. 2014. “Transcript: Putin Says Russia Will Protect the Rights of Russians Abroad”, March 18.
2. *The Economist*. “Diplomacy and Security after Crimea: The New World Order.” March 22, 2014.
3. Mcfaul, Michael A. 2014. “Confronting Putin’s Russia.” *The New York Times*. March 23, 2014.
4. Mearsheimer, John. 2014. “How the West Caused the Ukraine Crisis.” *Foreign Affairs* 93(5): 77- 89.
5. Walt, Stephen. 2015. “Why Arming Kiev Is a Really, Really Bad Idea.” *Foreign Policy*. June 25, 2015.
6. Treisman, Daniel. 2016. “Why Putin Took Crimea: The Gambler in the Kremlin.” *Foreign Affairs* 95 (May/June): 47–54.
7. *The Economist*. 2015. “From Cold War to Hot War; What Russia Wants,” February 14. p.19.
8. Kudelia, Serhiy. 2014. “Domestic Sources of the Donbas Insurgency.” *PONARS Eurasia Policy Memo*. September.

Essay-1 (Due on first class session. Bring hard copy to class & upload the electronic copy to Canvas). You have to use the readings assigned above for Essay-1. You can use other readings in addition to the assigned material.

The military conflict between Russia and Ukraine was quite unthinkable just a few years ago, as the two countries share historical legacies, language, religion, and institutions. The media, policymakers, and scholars have used several narratives to explain the armed conflict between Russia and Ukraine, attributing the blame to external factors, such as (a) Russian involvement and its support of the rebels in Eastern Ukraine, (b) the role of the NATO and the West, or (c) domestic causes within Ukraine.

- a. How can we explain this conflict? Is this a proxy war between Russia and the West? Is this conflict caused by external structural factors, such as balance of power, interference in the sphere of influence, and expansion of Euro-Atlantic institutions? Or, should we look for domestic explanations of the crisis within Ukraine? What is the role of Russia in this conflict? Finally, does this conflict pose a threat to the international order and security?
- b. In your response, make sure to **clearly identify and explain** alternative factors accounting for the armed conflict in Ukraine, explain which factor(s) you find to be the most convincing, and explain why.

Wednesday, May 13. What is Eastern Europe? Fault Lines, Origins of Communism, and Spheres of Influence

1. Stokes, Gale. 1998. “Eastern Europe’s Defining Fault Lines.” In *Eastern Europe: Politics, Culture, and Society Since 1939*, Indiana University Press, 15–34.
2. Verdery, Katherine. 1996. “What Was Socialism, and Why Did It Fall?” In *The Revolutions of 1989*, Oxford University Press: 63-88.

3. Gregory, Paul R. 1990. "The Stalinist Command Economy." *The ANNALS of the American Academy of Political and Social Science*: 18–25.
4. Gross, Jan T. 1989. "Social Consequences of War: Preliminaries to the Study of Imposition of Communist Regimes in East Central Europe." *East European Politics & Societies* 3(2): 198–214.
5. Primary documents
 - a. Bohlen "Poland at the Teheran Conference" in Stokes (28-30)
 - b. Churchill "The Percentages Agreement" in Stokes (30-31)
 - c. Truman "The Truman Doctrine" in Stokes (33-37)
 - d. Zhdanov "The Two-Camp Policy" in Stokes (38-42)
 - e. Berman "The Case for Stalinism" in Stokes (44-50)
6. Watch documentary on Youtube: search for CNN - Cold War – Iron Curtain

Thursday, May 14. Resistance to communist rule and communism's collapse

1. Valenta, Jiri. 1984. "Revolutionary Change, Soviet Intervention, and 'Normalization' in East-Central Europe." *Comparative Politics* 16(2): 127–51.
2. Chirot, Daniel. 1990. "What Happened in Eastern Europe in 1989?" *PRAXIS International*: 278–305.
3. Primary documents
 - a. Brezhnev "The Brezhnev Doctrine" in Stokes (131-134)
 - b. Gorbachev "A Common European Home" in Stokes (265-267)
4. Watch documentaries on the Hungarian Revolution, Prague Spring, and Solidarity (see Canvas)

Friday, May 15. Challenges of transition: incomplete democratization

1. Diamond, Larry Jay. 2002. "Thinking About Hybrid Regimes." *Journal of Democracy* 13(2): 21–35.
2. Levitsky, Steven and Lucan Way. 2002. "The Rise of Competitive Authoritarianism." *Journal of Democracy* 13(2): 51–65.
3. Innes, Abby. 2015. "Hungary's Illiberal Democracy." *Current History* 114 (770): 95.
4. Kotkin, Stephen. 2015. "The Resistible Rise of Vladimir Putin." *Foreign Affairs* (March/April 2015).
5. Watch film: Frontlines: Putin's Way, PBS Video
6. Review Nations in Transit Russia report
<https://freedomhouse.org/report/nations-transit/2019/russia>.

Saturday AM, May 16. The politics of memory and transitional justice

1. Rosenberg, T. (1995). The haunted land: Facing Europe's ghosts after communism.
2. Stan, Lavinia. 2006. "The Vanishing Truth? Politics and Memory in Post-Communist Europe." *East European Quarterly* 40 (4): 383–409.
3. Shevel, Oxana. 2016. "Decommunization in Post-Euromaidan Ukraine: Law and Practice." *Ponars Eurasia - Policy Memos*, January.
4. *The Economist*. 2016. "The Politics of Memory," April 9, 2016.

Saturday PM, May 16. Color revolutions

1. D'Anieri, P. 2006. "Explaining the Success and Failure of Post-Communist Revolutions." *Communist and post-communist studies* 39(3): 331–50.
2. Bunce, Valerie J., and Sharon L. Wolchik. 2006. "International Diffusion and Postcommunist Electoral Revolutions." *Communist and Post-Communist Studies* 39 (3): 283–304.
3. Way, Lucan. 2008. "The Real Causes of the Color Revolutions." *Journal of Democracy* 19(3): 55–69.
4. Gorenburg, Dmitry. 2014. "Countering Color Revolutions: Russia's New Security Strategy and Its Implications for U.S. Policy." *Ponars Eurasia Policy Memos*, September.
5. Koesel, Karrie J., and Valerie J. Bunce. 2013. "Diffusion-Proofing: Russian and Chinese Responses to Waves of Popular Mobilizations against Authoritarian Rulers."

Sunday AM, May 17. The European Union and Central Eastern Europe

1. Haughton, Tim. 2017. “Central and Eastern Europe: The Sacrifices of Solidarity, the Discomforts of Diversity, and the Vexations of Vulnerabilities.” *The European Union in Crisis*, 253–268.
2. Seibel, Wolfgang. 2017. “The European Union, Ukraine, and the Unstable East.” *The European Union in Crisis*, 269–293

Sunday PM, May 17. Civil society in Eastern Europe

1. Howard, Marc M. 2003. *The Weakness of Civil Society in Post-Communist Europe*. Cambridge University Press.
2. Julie Hemment. 2012. “Nashi, Youth Voluntarism, and Potemkin NGOs: Making Sense of Civil Society in Post-soviet Russia.” *Slavic Review* 71 (2). Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies: 234–60.
3. Way, Lucan. 2014. “Civil Society and Democratization.” *Journal of Democracy* 25 (3):35–43.
4. Borys, Christian. 2016. “Poland’s Massive Abortion Protest Shows That Citizens Are Frustrated With The Country’s Rightward Surge.” *Huffington Post*, October 12, 2016.

Essay-2 Topic TBD (due on May 27, 2020 in Canvas)

Class Participation and Essay Guidelines:

The instructor will be available to students via e-mail or telephone before the course. It is important that students regularly check their OU email and Canvas in the weeks prior to the start of the course and during the course.

1. Participation. This is a discussion-based class. Each student's participation is essential for its success, and good participation requires good preparation. All students are expected to read the assigned material **prior to each class** and actively engage in discussion. Student participation will be measured by quality rather than quantity of contributions.
2. Essay guidelines.
 - a. Start by clearly stating your argument – what is it that you are explaining, arguing, or disagreeing with?
 - b. Use the literature you’ve read for class to support your argument.
 - c. Cite all the sources for ideas and direct quotations. Make sure to include the author, the year, and page(s) if you are quoting the text or the author and year if you are referring to ideas or concepts. Examples:
 - i. Mearsheimer (2014) argues that the West is responsible for the conflict between Russian and Ukraine
 - ii. According to Robert Dahl, “democracy requires not only free, fair, and competitive elections, but also the freedoms that make them truly meaningful” (Diamond 2002, 22).
 - d. Include the list of all cited work. You can use any citation style as long as you are consistent.

Grading:

This is a letter-graded course: A, B, C, D, or F. This is a 3 credit hour course that requires two written assignments of about 1500 words each (approximately 5-6 double-spaced pages) and active participation in class discussions.

Assignment	Due Date	Percent of Grade
Essay 1	Due first night of class	30%
Essay 2	Due by midnight, due on May 27, 2020	35%
Class Participation	During class sessions	35%

Notice: Failure to meet assignment due dates could result in a grade of I (Incomplete) and may adversely impact Tuition Assistance and/or Financial Aid.

POLICIES AND NOTICES

Attendance/Grade Policy

Attendance and participation in interaction, individual assignments, group exercises, simulations, role playing, etc. are valuable aspects of any course because much of the learning comes from discussions in class with other students. It is expected that you attend all classes and be on time except for excused emergencies.

Excused absences are given for professor mandated activities or legally required activities such as emergencies or military assignments. It is the policy of the University to excuse absences of students that result from religious observances and to provide without penalty for the rescheduling of examinations and additional required class work that may fall on religious holidays. Unavoidable personal emergencies, including (but not limited to) serious illness; delays in getting to class because of accidents, etc.; deaths and funerals, and hazardous road conditions will be excused.

If you are obtaining financial assistance (TA, STAP, FA, VA, Scholarship, etc.) to pay all or part of your tuition cost, you must follow your funding agency/institution's policy regarding "I" (Incomplete) grades unless the timeline is longer than what the University policy allows then you must adhere to the University policy. Students who receive Financial Aid must resolve/complete any "I" (Incomplete) grades by the end of the term or he/she may be placed on "financial aid probation." If the "I" grade is not resolved/completed by the end of the following term, the student's Financial Aid may be suspended making the student ineligible for further Financial Aid.

Students are responsible for meeting the guidelines of Tuition Assistance and Veterans Assistance. See the education counselor at your local education center for a complete description of your TA or VA requirements.

Academic Integrity and Student Conduct

Academic integrity means honesty and responsibility in scholarship. Academic assignments exist to help students learn; grades exist to show how fully this goal is attained. Therefore all work and all grades should result from the student's own understanding and effort.

Academic misconduct is any act which improperly affects the evaluation of a student's academic performance or achievement. Misconduct occurs when the student either knows or reasonably should know that the act constitutes misconduct. Academic misconduct includes: cheating and using unauthorized materials on examinations and other assignments; improper collaboration, submitting the same assignment for different classes (self-plagiarism); fabrication, forgery, alteration of documents, lying, etc...in order to obtain an academic advantage; assisting others in academic misconduct; attempting to commit academic misconduct; destruction of property, hacking, etc...; intimidation and interference with integrity process; and plagiarism. All students should review the Student's Guide to Academic Integrity at http://integrity.ou.edu/students_guide.html

Students and faculty each have responsibility for maintaining an appropriate learning environment. All students should review policies regarding student conduct at <http://studentconduct.ou.edu/>

Accommodation Statement

The University of Oklahoma is committed to making its activities as accessible as possible. For accommodations on the basis of disability, please contact your local OU Site Director.

Adjustment for Pregnancy/Childbirth-Related Issues

Should you need modifications or adjustments to your course requirements because of documented pregnancy-related or childbirth-related issues, please contact me as soon as possible to discuss. Generally, modifications will be made where medically necessary and similar in scope to accommodations based on temporary disability. Please see <http://www.ou.edu/content/eoo/faqs/pregnancy-faqs.html>.

Title IX Resources

For any concerns regarding gender-based discrimination, sexual harassment, sexual misconduct, stalking, or intimate partner violence, the University offers a variety of resources, including advocates on-call 24/7, counseling services, mutual no-contact orders, scheduling adjustments, and disciplinary sanctions against the perpetrator. Please contact the Sexual Misconduct Office at smo@ou.edu or (405) 325-2215 (8-5), or the Sexual Assault Response Team at (405) 615 -0013 (24/7) to report an incident. To learn more about Title IX, please visit the Institutional Equity Office's website at <http://www.ou.edu/content/eoo.html>

Course Policies

Advanced Programs policy is to order books in paperback if available. Courses, dates, and professors are subject to change. Please check with your OU Site Director. Students should retain a copy of any assignments that are mailed to the professor for the course. Advanced Programs does not provide duplicating services or office supplies.

Any and all course materials, syllabus, lessons, lectures, etc. are the property of professor teaching the course and the Board of Regents of the University of Oklahoma and are protected under applicable copyright.

For more information about Advanced Programs, visit our website at: <http://www.goou.ou.edu/>

INSTRUCTOR VITA

Rebecca J. Cruise, PhD

Education

- PhD Political Science, University of Oklahoma. 5/2011
Fields: Comparative Politics, International Relations, American Politics

Current Positions

- Assistant Dean and Lecturer OU College of International Studies
- Teaching at OU, in some capacity, for 6 years

Major Areas of Teaching and Research Interest

- Security Studies
- International Institutions
- Comparative Politics of Post-Communist Europe
- Female Political Participation
- International Activism and Leadership
- Maritime Security

Representative Publications

- Suzette R. Grillot and Rebecca J. Cruise. 2014. "Building Trust and a Sense of Community in the Western Balkans: They Shall Overcome (Their Violent Past)?" *Journal of Southeastern European and Black Sea Studies*. Vol. 14: (4).
- Rebecca J. Cruise and Suzette R. Grillot. 2013. "Regional Security Community in the Western Balkans: A Cross-Comparative Analysis." *Journal of Regional Security*. (1): 7-24.
- Robbin Smith, Rebecca Cruise and John Forren. July 2012. "Teaching and Civic Engagement," *PS: Political Science and Politics*.
- Rebecca J. Cruise and Suzette R. Grillot. December 2010. "The Development of Security Community in Croatia: Leading the Pack," *Croatian International Relations Review*. Zagreb, Croatia. XVI. No: 60/61. 89-103.
- Suzette Grillot and Rebecca J. Cruise with Valerie D'Erman. 2010. *Protecting Our Ports: The Politics of Containerized Freight Security*. Ashgate Publishing House.
- Suzette Grillot, Rebecca J. Cruise and Valerie D'Erman. January 2010. "Developing Security Community in the Western Balkans: The Role of the EU and NATO," *International Politics*. Vol. 47:1. 62-90.
- Suzette Grillot, Rebecca J. Cruise and Valerie D'Erman. July 2009. "National and Global Efforts to Enhance Containerized Freight Security." *Journal of Homeland Security and Emergency Management*. Vol. 6:1. Article 51.
- Rebecca J. Cruise. 2008. "The New NATO and Collective Security in Europe," *Defense Politics: International and Comparative Perspectives*. Ed. Ike Wilson/J.F. Forest. London: Routledge Publishing House.
- Gary W. Copeland, Ronald Keith Gaddie and Rebecca J. Cruise. 2006. "Oklahoma: Evangelicals and the Secular Realignment." In Charles S. Bullock, III and Mark Rozell (Eds.) *The New Politics of the Old South* (3rd). Lanham, MD: Rowman and Littlefield Press.
- Charles S. Bullock III, Rebecca J. Cruise and Ronald Keith Gaddie. 2005. "Sessions versus Frost in the Texas 32nd" In Robert Dewhirst and Sunil Ahuja, (Eds.) *The Roads to Congress 2004*. Boca Raton, FL: Nova University Press.
- Rebecca J. Cruise. 2009 "Promoting Women: How the International Community Can Advance the Position of Women," *League of Democracies as Foreign Policy Innovation*. Ashburn Institute.
- Rebecca J. Cruise June 11, 2008. "A New, More Active Generation of Czech Women?" *The Prague Post*. Prague, Czech Republic.

Representative Honors and Awards Recieved

- DAAD (German Academic Exchange Service) Grant: 4 Months research in Leipzig, Germany
- American Council of Learned Societies: Language Training Grant: Study in Romania
- University of Oklahoma POLL Fellowship for Quantitative Research
- Presidential International Travel Fellowship for Fieldwork in the Western Balkans

Major Professional Affiliations

- American Political Science Association
- Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies
- Association for Women in Slavic Studies
- Midwest Political Science Association