



EXTENDED CAMPUS

COLLEGE of PROFESSIONAL
and CONTINUING STUDIES

IAS 5940-498: Topics in International Studies: Eastern European Politics

Course Description:

This course examines the developments of contemporary politics across Central and Eastern European (CEE) countries. The objective of the course is to provide students with an understanding of major themes of transition from communism. What is the impact of the communist legacy on the development of civil society in CEE? Is transition to democracy successful? What are the challenges of democratic transition? What is the significance of the recent political upheaval in Ukraine, the tensions in relations between Russia and the West, and what are the implications of these tensions for international stability?

Course Dates:

January 16 - 27, 2018

Last day to enroll or drop without penalty: December 18, 2017

Please note that this is an intensive course, demanding extensive and ongoing reading, interaction and writing over an 11-day period. Students are expected to start working on the reading and writing assignments 3-4 weeks prior to the beginning of the course.

Site Director:

This is a three-credit hour online course. Please see your local Site Director or email our online site coordinator at aponline@ou.edu

Professor Contact Information:

Course Professor: Max Kovalov, Ph.D.
Mailing Address: Department of Political Science
College of Charleston
66 George St.
Charleston, SC 29424
Telephone Number: (872) 222-8715
Email Address: maksym@ou.edu
Professor availability: The professor will be available to students via Canvas discussion board.

Contacting the Professor:

1. You should **email me about any personal issues**. I will respond to all emails within 24 hours (48 hours during the weekend).
2. Use the discussion board in Canvas to ask any questions related to **technical difficulties** or problems. I will respond to technical inquiries within 24 hours (48 hours during the weekend).
3. You should also use the discussion board to ask questions **about the course material**. I will respond to discussion board questions within 24-48 hours.
4. Other students are encouraged to answer any questions posted on the discussion board

Expectations:

This course is offered entirely online. All assignments will be completed and graded online. The online sessions will be asynchronous. This means that students will be able to set their own schedule for online activities **as long as they occur within the set timeframe**.

It is essential that you check your email and the course website in Canvas regularly to do well in the course. Students will be required to login to **Canvas at least once a day** to be successful in this course. I expect students to actively engage in online discussions, comments, and debates. Each student's participation in each discussion is essential for performing well in the course and good participation requires that students keep up with readings.

Textbook(s) and Instructional Materials:

Student materials are available at the OU Follett Bookstore located at 1185 Asp Avenue; Norman, OK, and can be ordered online, by phone, by email, or by fax. Ordering online at <http://www.bkstr.com/oklahomastore/home> is strongly recommended – students can track the status of their order within 48 hours. If an order has not been shipped within three days, students can contact the Follett textbook manager by phone (405) 325-3511, (800) 522-0772 (toll-free) or email 0831mgr@fhg.follett.com. Phone orders (ask for the textbook manager and identify yourself as an Advanced Programs student) can be placed 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Thursday; 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Friday; 10 a.m. to 4p.m. on Saturday (CST). Summer hours: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday (CST). Fax orders can be placed 24 hours a day at (405) 325-7770. Text prices are available online.

1. Howard, M. M. (2003). *The weakness of civil society in post-communist Europe*. New York: Cambridge University Press. ISBN 9780521011525.
2. 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.

Note: Follett is the Advanced Programs contractual textbook provider. Should text changes become necessary after publication of the course syllabus, Advanced Programs will facilitate text returns/refunds only for texts purchased through Follett.

OU Email:

All official correspondence from distance learning instructors will be sent only to students' ou.edu address.

Assignments, Grading and Due Dates:

There are four graded components to the course:

1. an analytical essay on the topic provided below -- of approximately 1,250 words (5 double-spaced pages) **due to the Canvas dropbox by noon Central Standard Time on Monday, January 16, 2018** (25% of course grade);
2. an online debate on the causes of the Ukrainian conflict and its implications for IR (15% of course grade);
3. regular, substantive, high-quality contributions to three online discussions, each taking place during a 48-hour discussion window (30% of grade; 10% for each discussion);
4. a second essay -- topic to be assigned -- of 1500 words (6 double-spaced pages) **due by 11:59pm Central Time on Sunday, January 31 (30%)**.

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.

Schedule of Assignments and Discussions:

Module 1: Cold War 2?

1. *The Economist*. “Diplomacy and Security after Crimea: The New World Order.” March 22, 2014.
2. Mcfaul, Michael A. 2014. “Confronting Putin’s Russia.” *The New York Times*. March 23, 2014.
3. Mearsheimer, John. 2014. “How the West Caused the Ukraine Crisis.” *Foreign Affairs* 93(5): 77-89.
4. Walt, Stephen. 2015. “Why Arming Kiev Is a Really, Really Bad Idea.” *Foreign Policy*. June 25, 2015.
5. *The Economist*. 2015. “From Cold War to Hot War; What Russia Wants,” February 14. p.19.
6. Kudelia, Serhiy. 2014. “Domestic Sources of the Donbas Insurgency.” *PONARS Eurasia Policy Memo*. September.
7. Kudelia, Serhiy. 2014. “The House That Yanukovych Built.” *Journal of Democracy* 25 (3): 19–34.
8. **Online discussion-1: Noon on Tuesday, January 16-Noon on Thursday, January 18, 2018.**
9. **Essay-1 (Due in Canvas dropbox by noon Central Standard Time on Monday, January 16, 2018:**
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.

Module 2. Challenges of democratic transition

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. Kotkin, Stephen. 2015. “The Resistible Rise of Vladimir Putin.” *Foreign Affairs* (March/April 2015).
4. **Watch film:** Frontlines: Putin’s Way, PBS Video <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/pages/frontline/putins-way/>
5. Hanson, Stephen E. 2011. “Plebiscitarian Patrimonialism in Putin’s Russia Legitimizing Authoritarianism in a Postideological Era.” *The Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science* 636(1): 32–48.
6. Matthes, Claudia-Yvette. 2016. “The State of Democracy in Poland after 2007.” *Problems of Post-Communism* 63 (5/6): 288–99.
7. Innes, Abby. 2015. “Hungary’s Illiberal Democracy.” *Current History* 114 (770): 95.
8. Review Nations in Transit reports on Russia, Hungary, and Poland and use these reports for the debate
 - a. <https://freedomhouse.org/report/nations-transit/2017/russia>
 - b. <https://freedomhouse.org/report/nations-transit/2017/poland>
 - c. <https://freedomhouse.org/report/nations-transit/2017/hungary>

9. **Online Debate on challenges of democratic transition: Noon on Friday, January 19 – Noon on Sunday, January 21**

Module 3. Civil Society in Eastern Europe

1. Howard, Marc M. 2003. *The Weakness of Civil Society in Post-Communist Europe*.
2. Julie Hemment. 2012. "Nashi, Youth Voluntarism, and Potemkin NGOs: Making Sense of Civil Society in Post-soviet Russia." *Slavic Review* 71 (2). 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.
5. **Online discussion-2: Noon on Monday, January 22-Noon on Wednesday, January 24, 2018.**

Module 4. Color Revolutions

1. Tudoroiu, Theodor. 2007. "Rose, Orange, and Tulip: The Failed Post-Soviet Revolutions." *Communist and Post-Communist Studies* 40 (3): 315–42.
2. D'Anieri, P. 2006. "Explaining the Success and Failure of Post-Communist Revolutions." *Communist and post-communist studies* 39(3): 331–50.
3. Bunce, Valerie J., and Sharon L. Wolchik. 2006. "International Diffusion and Postcommunist Electoral Revolutions." *Communist and Post-Communist Studies* 39 (3): 283–304.
4. Way, Lucan. 2008. "The Real Causes of the Color Revolutions." *Journal of Democracy* 19(3): 55–69.
5. Gorenburg, Dmitry. 2014. "Countering Color Revolutions: Russia's New Security Strategy and Its Implications for U.S. Policy." *Ponars Eurasia Policy Memos*, September.
6. Koesel, Karrie J., and Valerie J. Bunce. 2013. "Diffusion-Proofing: Russian and Chinese Responses to Waves of Popular Mobilizations against Authoritarian Rulers." *Perspectives on Politics* 11 (03): 753–768.
7. **Online discussion-3: Noon on Thursday, January 25-Noon on Saturday, January 27, 2018.**
8. **Essay-2 Topic TBD (due at 11:59pm on January 31, 2018 in Canvas)**

Changes to syllabus:

I reserve the right to make minor changes to the syllabus. Any changes will be announced in Canvas.

Grading:

This is a letter-graded course: A, B, C, D, or F. Failure to meet assignment due dates could result in a grade of I (Incomplete) and may adversely impact Tuition Assistance and/or Financial Aid.

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.

Policy for Late Work:

Please contact the professor regarding his/her policy for late work

Attendance Policy:

In addition to interaction via Canvas and email contact, students are required to contact the instructor via email or telephone **before** the beginning of the course term for an initial briefing. Although physical class meetings are not part of this course, participation in all interactive, learning activities is required.

Student assignments and student/instructor communications will be conducted via Canvas, although students may contact the instructor via telephone, postal mail, email, or fax as needed

Incomplete Grade Policy:

A grade of "I" is not automatically assigned, but rather must be requested by the student by submitting to the instructor a "Petition for and Work to Remove an Incompleted Grade" form. An "I" can never be used in lieu of an "F" nor can an "I" be assigned because of excessive failure to participate in class activities.

Avoiding Plagiarism

“Plagiarism falls into two categories: using someone else’s *words* or using someone else’s *ideas* as if they were your own. You must be scrupulous in avoiding both categories of plagiarism in your writing. Properly cite all quotations, paraphrases, and summaries of information from other sources. The only exception to this rule is common knowledge, or information commonly known and accessible to your audience... If you are unsure whether certain information constitutes common knowledge, document it. Collusion, a form of plagiarism, occurs when two or more people agree to devise a piece of writing that will be attributed to only one of them... For any individual writing assignment, the idea and the organization of ideas in your paper must be your own... You can incorporate into your writing ideas that have arisen from class discussion [and] lectures... You may revise and edit your writing with other people... but you should not have others do your writing or revising for you.”¹

¹ Frank O’Hare and Edward A. Kline, *The Modern Writer’s Handbook, Fourth Edition*, Boston: Allyn and Bacon, 1996, pp. 447-450.

POLICIES AND NOTICES

Attendance/Grade Policy

Note: Attendance/absences do not apply to online courses. However, participation in all course activities is extremely important to student success in online courses.

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 make 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.

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

Max Kovalov, PhD

Education

- 2013 PhD, Political Science, University of Oklahoma
- 2004 MS, International Studies, Oklahoma State University
- 2001 BA Business, Vinnytsia National Technical University, Ukraine

Current Positions

- Adjunct Professor, Advanced Programs, University of Oklahoma
- Adjunct Professor, International Studies Program and Department of Political Science, College of Charleston
- Program Coordinator, Initiative for Public Choice and Market Process, College of Charleston

Frequently Taught Programs Courses

- Eastern European Politics
- European Studies Capstone
- Democratization
- Model UN
- Comparative Politics

Major Areas of Teaching and Research Interest

- Eastern European Politics
- The politics of protest
- Democratization
- Populism

Representative Publications and Presentations

- Kovalov, Maksym. 2014. "Electoral Manipulations and Fraud in Parliamentary Elections: The Case of Ukraine." *East European Politics & Societies*, 28(4): 781–807.
- Kovalov, Maksym. 2014. "The Armed Conflict in Eastern Ukraine: Exploring Competing Narratives." *The Copernicus Journal of Political Studies* 1 (5): 144–51.
- "Protest Mobilization in Ukraine: Svoboda before the Euromaidan," Paper Presented at the 73rd MPSA Annual National Conference, Palmer House Hotel, Hilton, Chicago, IL. April 2015

Major Professional Affiliations

- Midwest Political Science Association
- American Political Science Association