

Bowie State University
School of Arts and Sciences
Department of History & Government

Course Syllabus and Schedule of Learning Activities

Course: Government & Politics of Eastern Europe (3 Credits)

Course # & Section: Govt 325

Office Bldg.: MLK Bldg., Rm 0207

Schedule:

Office Phone: (301) 860-3611

Class Location:

E-Mail:

Off. Hrs:

Course Description: This course is a comparative study of the major governments and politics of Eastern European states since 1917. Though the Russian Republic will be a primary focus, its relations with other states in the region will be examined particularly since the collapse of communism.

Course Prerequisites: The prerequisites are Govt 130, Govt 140, or permission of the instructor.

The Required Texts:

Goldman, Minton F. (ed.). *The Soviet Union and Eastern Europe*. Connecticut: The Duskin Publishing Group, Inc. 1986.

Nogee, Joseph L. *Soviet Politics: Russian after Brezhnev*. New York: Praeger Publishers, 1985.

Volgyes, Ivan. *Politics in Eastern Europe*. Illinois: The Dorsey Press, 1986.

Daily readings of national newspapers: *The New York Times* and *The Washington Post*.

Additional reading assignments will be placed in the Reserve Collection of the Thurgood Marshall Library at Bowie State University.

Disability Policy Statement for Accommodations: Students with any form of disability and would like to be considered for accommodations should immediately communicate their interests to Dr. Michael S. Hughes [Coordinator of Disability Support Services (DSS) & Academic Advisement Specialist]. His office in the new Business/Graduate Studies Building (Room 1328), and he can be reached (301) 860-4067. It is also important to share such an interest or desire for ADA assistance with the instructor of the course.

Instructional Modes: The methods would include these graded learning activities:

- traditional lectures with assigned readings and handouts to illuminate/challenge students
- in-class/online participation/discussions and study group/collaborative presentations
- viewing and interpretive analysis of the relevant/appropriate CD/Video-tapes
- written assignments (an essay, two quizzes, two examinations, extra-credit projects), and
- (possibly) inviting outside professionals and experts as guest lecturers or speakers.

Learning Objectives: The course objectives are as follows:

1. To introduce the students to the people, the land, and history of the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe
2. To describe the structure of power of the region
3. To understand the issues of politics of the area
4. To identify the political values in the USSR and Eastern Europe; and
5. To examine the foreign policy process of the nations of the region

Students Requirements:

A) Attendance

1. Students are required to attend class sessions regularly and punctually
2. Students are required to sign the role at each class session, and a record of attendance will be maintained; and
3. It is the responsibility of the students to make up all work missed during any period of absence.

B) Quizzes and Examinations

1. Quizzes will be given based on readings and lectures. There will be no make-up quizzes
2. Unit examinations will be announced a week before they are administered. There will be no make-up unit examinations.

C) Class Participation

1. Students will be required to participate in class discussions.

Evaluation

A) Methods

Examinations, quizzes, term papers, oral presentations and class participation will be used in evaluating the performance of students.

1. Students will be given three unit examinations. The lowest unit score will be dropped in the computation of the final grade
2. Students will be given seven quizzes, five of which will be 20% of the final grade
3. Students will be required to take the mid-semester and the final examinations
4. Students are required to take all examinations as scheduled
5. Term Paper and Oral Presentation
 - a) Each student will be required to submit a term paper of no more than 12 pages long; typed with double-spacing
 - b) Students will be required to select topics from a list provided by the instructor
 - c) An outlined of each paper is required; and
 - d) Students will be required to give oral presentations of their papers in-class.
6. Term Paper Procedures and Deadlines: Students are required to follow these procedures and deadlines in completing their term papers:

Procedures

Deadlines

Selection of Topic
Submission of Outline
Submission of Draft
Submission of Final Copy

Note: Deadlines will be strictly enforced

7. The Oral Presentations of the term papers will be evaluated as follows:
 - a) Clarity of thesis statement 5%
 - b) Organization and coherence of presentation 15%
 - c) Conclusion & Evaluation 5

Total: 20%

8. Term Papers will be graded as follows:

a) Clarity of thesis statement	5%
b) Organization & coherence	15%
c) Depth of research demonstrated by citations & analysis	40%
d) Footnotes & Endnotes format	10%
e) Bibliography format	10%
f) Oral presentation	20%
<u>Total:</u>	<u>100%</u>

B) Grading Scale and Distribution of Percentages

1. First Unit Exam	10%
2. Second Unit Exam	10%
3. Mid-Term Exam	15%
4. Final Exam	15%
5. Quizzes	20%
6. Term Paper	20%
7. Class Participation	10%

The numerical equivalents of the letter grades are as follows:

- 90+ = A
- 80+ = B
- 70+ = C
- 60+ = D
- 50+/- = F.

Some Important Announcements: Information & Dates:

English Proficiency Examination: After completing ENGL 101 and 102, Composition and Literature I and II, students must take and successfully pass the Bowie State University English Proficiency Examination. Transfer students who completed their English composition requirements at another university should take the English Proficiency Examination during their first semester of enrollment at the University.

Technical Assistance: For technical questions or instructions, please call (301) 860-4357 or (301) 860-HELP and someone, possibly Mrs. Mariann Hawken (the Blackboard Administrator), will help you. For additional information, check and click on the Tech/OIT Support via the Course Menu.

Course Modifications: The instructor reserves the right to make some necessary adjustments and appropriate changes or modifications) to course with your consent and due communication.

Inclement Weather: In cases of inclement weather, please tune in to a local radio or television station and also monitor for BSU announcements. The area media may announce whether BSU will be opened or closed, but such an announcement depends on the severity and degree of weather inclemency. Many of these sources will begin announcing late openings and closings by 6:00 a.m. Consult university publications for the information or call (301) 860-4000.

Units of Instruction & Schedule of Learning Activities with Reading Assignments

Weeks/Dates	Learning Modules & Objectives	Required Reading Assignments
Weeks 1-2:	<p><u>Module One:</u></p> <p>a) Course Overview b) The People, the Land, and the History of the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe</p>	<p>Read Volgyes, Chapters 1-4</p> <p>Yutaka Akino, "Soviet Policy in Eastern Europe, 1943-1948: A Geopolitical Analyses," Eastern European Quarterly, 17(3), 1983, 257-266 (required)</p>
Weeks: 3-6:	<p><u>Module Two:</u></p> <p>The Structure of Power: The bases of Communist Ideology Marxist-Leninism The Communist Party & Its Functions</p>	<p>Read Noguee, Chapters 1, 2, & 6 Read Volgyes, Chapters 5-6</p>
Weeks 7-8:	<u>Module Three:</u>	Volgyes, Chapter 7

	The Formal Structures of Government	Mark R. Beissinger, "The New Leadership and the Soviet Party Congress," <i>Current History</i> , 85(513), 1986, 309-312
Wks 9-13	<u>Module 4:</u> The Issues of Politics Political Values in the Soviet Union & the Eastern Europe	Volgyes, Chapters 8-12 Nogee, Chapters 4, 7-9
Wks 14-15:	<u>Module 5:</u> Foreign Policy	Volgyes, Chapters 13-14 Nogee, Chapter 10

Bibliography

Aspaturian, Vernon V. *The Soviet Union and the International Communist System*

Bender, Peter. *East Europe in Search of Security*

Bornstein, Moms et al. (eds.). *East-West Relations and the Future of Eastern Europe*

Byrnes, Robert F. (ed.). *After Brezhnev: Sources of Soviet Conduct in the 1980's.*

Rubinstein, Alvin. *Soviet Foreign Policy since World War 2*

