

Vesalius College

**POL 389E**

*"Democratic Transitions in Central and Eastern Europe. The Quality of New Democracies and the Impact of the EU"*

Tommaso Chiamparino

Summer Programme 2010

**Course Schedule:**

27<sup>th</sup> May – 9<sup>th</sup> July

Tue 9:00 - 11:00 ; 11:00 – 13:00

Thu 9:00 – 11:00 ; 11:00 – 13:00

**Office hours and contact information**

Office hours: Thursdays 14:00 -16:00

Office: 006 (Vesalius College)

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**Course Description**

The course aims at critically observing the process of democratization and democratic consolidation in Central and Eastern Europe after 1989. The students will be confronted with the main theoretical positions on democratic transition and their application to the region concerned. The recent debates on the “quality” of democracies and on their social and economic outcomes will also be explored. The concepts and theoretical tools examined during the course will be applied to the empirical analysis of country cases in Central and Eastern Europe.

The following topics will be addressed in the six weeks of the course:

**Week 1:** Patterns of democratization in Central and Eastern Europe;

**Week 2:** Role of the EU and other international actors in democratic transition and consolidation;

**Week 3:** Quality of new democracies in the region;

**Week 4:** Social and economic outcomes of democracy;

**Week 5:** Democracy, nationalism and ethnic conflicts;

**Week 6:** Future of democracy in Central and Eastern Europe.

The cases proposed for discussion will be communicated by the teacher.

### **Prerequisite**

There are no formal prerequisites. Students will find it helpful to have already taken at least one course in politics or history.

### **Objectives**

By the end of this class students will be acquainted with:

- the main theoretical debates in the study of democratic theory and democratization;
- a series of case studies of democratization in Central Eastern Europe;
- the enlargement policy of the EU and its effects on democratization processes.

They should also be able to:

- identify and make good use of additional research sources on democracy and democratization;
- develop analytical criteria for comparison across cases;
- develop theoretically and empirically grounded research on democratic studies.

### **Teaching methods**

The class is based on lectures, in-class discussions and also student presentations. A number of guest-speakers with expertise on particular topics will also occasionally be invited. Students are expected to read the corresponding reading material for each class and to actively engage in class discussions.

### **Required reading**

A complete reader with the texts to be discussed in class (see schedule) will be made available on "Point Carré".

### **Assignments**

The assignments for this class are as follows:

- One oral presentation. Topics for the presentations will be agreed with the lecturer. A short synthesis of this presentation (or the powerpoint slides) will have to be submitted;
- One mid-term multiple choice test and one final written exam;
- One written assignment of around 3,000 words (counting for 30% of the final grade). Ideally, papers should focus on (at least) one empirical case and analyze it in relation to one (or more) of the theoretical debates in the literature. The lecturer will offer guidance to the choice of the paper topic. The deadline for choosing a topic and discussing it with the lecturer is June 4<sup>th</sup>. The paper itself will be due on July 2<sup>nd</sup>.

### **Assessment**

Evaluation:

- Presence and participation in class: 10 %
- Oral presentation: 10%
- Mid-term Test: 20 %
- Paper: 30 %
- Written Exam: 30 %

Grades will be given both on a 0-20 scale and in a letter grade. The computation of the final grade will be based on the 0-20 scale (which gives a more accurate outcome). Conversion between the two systems of grading will follow the following table. Scores on the 0/20 grade will always be converted in the letter grade that approaches most closely the score.

Grade	Grade points	Score (./20)	Score (./20) rounded to nearest .5	Score (as a %)
A	4,00	17,00	17,0	85%
A-	3,67	16,22	16,0	81%
B+	3,33	15,44	15,5	77%
B	3,00	14,67	14,5	73%
B-	2,67	13,89	14,0	69%
C+	2,33	13,11	13,0	66%
C	2,00	12,33	12,5	62%
C-	1,67	11,56	11,5	58%
D+	1,33	10,78	11,0	54%
D	1,00	10,00	10,0	50%
F	0,00	7,67	Below 10	38%

### **Academic Integrity**

Academic honesty is not only an ethical issue but also the foundation of scholarship. Cheating and plagiarism are therefore serious breaches of academic integrity. Students caught receiving or giving illicit aid during an examination will receive an “F” for the examination. Documented plagiarism of a paper will be given a “D” in instances of one or two sentences, and an “F” in more severe cases, and no revision will be allowed in either instance. Following the College policy, cheating and plagiarism cases will be communicated in writing to the Associate Dean for Students and submitted to the Student Conduct Committee for disciplinary action.

### **Schedule and course outline**

#### **Week 1: 27 May**

*Democracy between transition and consolidation: an overview on the main issues in Central and Eastern Europe*

#### **Topics**

#1 Introduction: course and assignment description

#2 Definitions, context and methodological approach: an overview on democratization in Central and Eastern Europe

#### **Read:**

Linz, Juan J. and Alfred Stepan (1996) “Stateness, Nationalism, and Democratization”, in *Problems of Democratic Transition and Consolidation. Southern Europe, South America, and Post-Communist Europe*, Baltimore and London: The Johns Hopkins University Press, pp. 16-37

- Pridham, Geoffrey (2005) "Theoretical Perspectives on European Enlargement and Democratisation", in *Designing Democracy*, Basingstoke: Palgrave MacMillan, pp. 1-24.
- Schmitter, Philippe C. and Imco Brouwer (1999), "Conceptualizing, Researching and Evaluating Democracy Promotion and Protection", EUI Working Paper 99/9, Florence: European University Institute.
- Ross, Michael (2006) "Is Democracy Good for the Poor?", *American Journal of Political Science* 50, n. 4, pp. 860–874.
- Pittaway, Mark (2007) "From Communist to Post-Communist Politics", in White, Stephen, Judy Batt and Paul G. Lewis, *Developments in Central and East European Politics*, Basingstoke: Palgrave MacMillan, pp. 20-36.

### **Week 2: 1 -3 June**

*Patterns of democratization: the role of the EU and other international actors in democratic transition and consolidation*

#### **Topics**

- #1 Determinants of democratization
- #2 Democratic consolidation in Central and Eastern Europe
- #3 The EU and other Western international actors

#### **Read:**

- Fink-Hafner, Danica and Mitja Hafner-Fink (2009) "The determinants of the Success of Transitions to Democracy", *Europe-Asia Studies* 61, n. 9, pp. 1603-1625;
- Lane, Jan-Erik and Svante Ersson (2003) "Democratic Consolidation. The Fate of Eastern Europe and the CIS Countries" in *Democracy. A Comparative Approach*, London and New York: Routledge, pp.140-157.
- Vachudova, Milada Anna (2005) "Liberal and Illiberal Democracy After Communism" in *Europe Undivided. Democracy, Leverage & Integration after Communism*, Oxford: Oxford University Press, pp. 25-61.
- Smith, Karen E. (2001) "Western Actors and the Promotion of Democracy", in Zielonka, Jan and Alex Pravda, *Democratic Consolidation in Eastern Europe – Volume 2 International and Transnational Factors*, Oxford New York: Oxford University Press.
- Börzel, Tanja A. and Thomas Risse (2009) "Venus Approaching Mars? The European Union's Approaches to Democracy Promotion in Comparative Perspective", in Magen, Amichai, Thomas Risse and Michael A. McFaul (eds.), *Promoting Democracy and the Rule of Law. American and European Strategies*, Basingstoke: Palgrave MacMillan, pp. 34-60.

### **Week 3: 8-10 June**

*The quality of democracy in Central and Eastern Europe*

#### **Topics:**

- #1 Rule of law and institutional settings
- #2 Citizens, participation and democratic governance
- #3 Political parties and representation in Central and Eastern Europe
- #4 Case studies (to be determined)

**Read:**

- Morlino, Leonardo (2004) "'Good' and 'Bad' Democracies: How to Conduct Research into the Quality of Democracy", *Journal of Communist Studies and Transition Politics* 20, n. 1, pp. 5-27;
- Lord, Christopher and Erika Harris (2006), "Assessing Democracy in the New Europe", in *Democracy in the New Europe*, Basingstoke: Palgrave MacMillan, pp. 124-150.
- Berg-Schlosser, Dirk (2007) "The Quality of Post-Communist Democracy", in White, Stephen, Judy Batt and Paul G. Lewis (eds.), *Developments in Central and East European Politics*, Basingstoke: Palgrave MacMillan, pp. 264-275
- Taras, Ray (2007) "Executive Leadership", in White, Stephen, Judy Batt and Paul G. Lewis (eds.), *Developments in Central and East European Politics*, Basingstoke: Palgrave MacMillan, pp. 127-144.
- Millard, Frances (2004) *Elections, Parties and Representation in Post-Communist Europe*, Basingstoke: Palgrave MacMillan, pp. 253-280.
- Stojarová, Věra, Jakub Šedo, Lubomír Kopeček and Roman Chytilek (2007), "Political Parties in Central and Eastern Europe. In Search of Consolidation", *Central and Eastern Europe Regional Report*, Stockholm: International Institute for Democracy and Electoral Assistance, pp. 4-28 and 69-77.

**Week 4: 15-17 June****Mid-term multiple choice test (on the topics and readings of weeks 1-2 & 3)***Social and economic outcomes of the new democracies***Topics**

- #1 Social and economic performance: the effects of market liberalization
- #3 Poverty and inequality in Central and Eastern Europe
- #4 Civil society and identity
- #5 Case studies (to be determined)

**Read:**

- Orenstein, Mitchell A. (2009) "What Happened in East European (Political) Economies?: A Balance Sheet for Neoliberal Reforms", *East European Politics and Societies* 23, n. 4, pp. 479-490.
- Nuti, D. Mario (2007), "Managing Transition Economies", in White, Stephen, Judy Batt and Paul G. Lewis, *Developments in Central and East European Politics*, Basingstoke: Palgrave MacMillan, pp. 245-263.
- The International Bank for Reconstruction and Development / The World Bank (2005), "Growth, Poverty, and Inequality: Eastern Europe and the Former Soviet Union - Overview", Washington: The World Bank, pp. 1-45.
- Pridham, Geoffrey (2005) "The Socio-economic Arena and Deepening Democracy: Economic Transformation, Civil Society and Ethnic Minorities in Candidate Countries", in *Designing Democracy*, Basingstoke: Palgrave MacMillan, pp.191-218.
- Velikonja, Mitja (2009) "Lost in Transition: Nostalgia for Socialism in Post-socialist Countries", *East European Politics and Societies* 23, n. 4, pp. 535-551.

## **Week 5: 22-25 June**

*Democracy, nationalism and ethnic conflicts in Central and Eastern Europe*

### **Topics**

- #1 Democracy, nationalism and ethnicity
- #2 EU enlargement and minority rights
- #3 Secession and statehood in the new Europe
- #4 Democracy in deeply divided societies
- #5 Case studies (to be determined)

### **Read:**

- Lord, Christopher and Erika Harris (2006), "Democracy Within the State", in *Democracy in the New Europe*, Basingstoke: Palgrave MacMillan, pp. 26-39.
- De Nevers, Renée (1993) "Democratization and ethnic conflict", *Survival*, 35, n. 2, pp. 31-48;
- Brown, David (1999) "Are there good and bad nationalisms?", *Nations and Nationalism* 5, no. 2, pp. 281-302;
- Harris, Erika (2002) "How Compatible are Nationalism and Democracy", in *Nationalism and Democratisation. Politics of Slovakia and Slovenia*, Aldershot: Ashgate, pp. 45-71;
- Ferrero, Ruth (2003) "The Forgotten Issue? Eastward Enlargement and National Minorities", in Barbé, Esther and Elisabeth Johansson-Nogués (eds.), *Beyond Enlargement: The New Members and New Frontiers of the Enlarged European Union*, Barcelona: Institut Universitari d'Estudis Europeus, pp. 97-118
- Kymlicka, Will (2002) "Multiculturalism and Minority Rights: West and East", *Journal on Ethnopolitics and Minority Issues in Europe*, Issue 4, pp. 1-26
- Banac, Ivo (2009) "What happened in the Balkans (or Rather ex Yugoslavia)?", *East European Politics and Societies* 23, n. 4, pp. 461-478;

## **Week 6: 29 June – 1 July**

*The future of democracy in Central and Eastern Europe (and beyond)*

### **Topics:**

- #1 EU accession and neighborhood strategy after 2010
- #2 Future of the EU: towards a political and democratic Union?
- #3 Challenges to new democracies: conflicts, nationalism and territorial fragmentation
- #4 Case studies (to be determined)

### **Read:**

- Vachudova, Milada Anna (2005) "The Endgame of the Negotiations and the Future of an Enlarged European Union", in *Europe Undivided. Democracy, Leverage & Integration after Communism*, Oxford: Oxford University Press, pp. 223-255.
- Balfour, Rosa and Antonio Missiroli (2007) "Reassessing the European Neighbourhood Policy", EPC Issue Paper n. 54, July.
- European Commission (2009), "Enlargement Strategy and Main Challenges 2009-2010", Communication from the European Commission to the European Parliament and the Council, COMM(2009) 533, Brussels.

Harris, Geoffrey (2004) "The Wider Europe", in Cameron, Fraser (ed), *The Future of Europe. Integration and Enlargement*, London and New York: Routledge, pp. 98-113.

Bellamy, Richard (2006) "Between Past and Future: The Democratic Limits of EU Citizenship", in Bellamy, Richard, Dario Castiglione and Jo Shaw, *Making European Citizens. Civic Inclusion in a Transnational Context*, Basingstoke: Palgrave MacMillan, pp. 238-265

**Week 7:**

**6 July (make up lesson)**

**Topics**

#1 Summing up & revision for exam, case studies (to be determined)

**Final exam (date to be determined)**