



EAST TENNESSEE STATE  
UNIVERSITY

College of Arts and Sciences

Department of Political Science, International Affairs, and Public Administration

PSCI 3900  
Government and Politics of Russia and East Europe  
Fall 2021

## Syllabus

### Contact Information

**Instructor:** Dr. Crumley  
**Email:** [crumleym@etsu.edu](mailto:crumleym@etsu.edu)  
**Phone:** 423-439-6629  
**Office:** 301D Rogers Stout

### Student Hours

Monday and Wednesday, 3:10-4:00 in room 301D Rogers Stout; you are required to wear a mask.

Tuesday, 3:00-4:30 on Zoom. Please have instructor send Zoom link to you for meeting.

Instructor will do her best to respond to emails within 2-3 days. I check work email daily, but there are times when daily emails must be triaged due to the amount that floods in at certain times in the semester.

### Meetings and Location

Classroom: 327 Rogers Stout  
Class Meeting; 1:40 pm - 3:00 pm Monday and Wednesday

### Course Description and Purpose

The former President of the USSR and leader of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union Mikhail Gorbachev suggested that the USSR needs to join civilization. What is civilization? Is Russia part of a civilization? Is Russia a European power or is it unique? Are Central East European states and the Western Balkans a civilization? What does it mean to be European?

This course introduces culture, institutions, political and economic transition, and current domestic and foreign policies in contemporary Russia and East Europe. The course specifically examines the countries of Russia, Poland, Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary, and the former Yugoslavia.

### Course Goals

In this course we will examine the political institutions, political process, and contemporary challenges facing former communist states in Eurasia and Central East Europe. We will compare democratic reforms and transitions from planned economies to market economies, and we will analyze the diversity of political challenges facing the region.

Given the geopolitical, military, economic and historical significance (and time constraints of the class), this course will focus primarily on Russia. However, we will spend a portion of the class studying the political and economic transition in Central East Europe, and briefly discussing the 1990s conflict in the Balkans. What similarities do these states share, and how are they culturally and institutionally different? Why did some develop into democratic states, some have evolved into illiberal democratic states, and some authoritarian? Why did some former communist states erupt in violent genocidal conflict while others transitioned to democracy with relatively little violence? The theoretical paradigms of historical institutionalism and political culture are the lens in which we examine cases in this course.

## Course Objectives

By the end of this course, you will be able to

- describe social and historical patterns that have had implications on contemporary politics in Russia
- understand reforms during the process of transition and consolidation in Eurasia and Central East Europe
- understand and critically analyze political developments in Russia and East Europe
- define political cleavages in societies
- identify important political parties and institutions
- assess civil society and its ability operate
- evaluate the potential for or strength of democracy in the specific case studies highlighted in this class

## FACE COVERING POLICY for Fall 2021\*

“Please wear a mask or other appropriate Face Covering to class. Wearing a mask that covers your nose and mouth communicates the care and respect you have for yourself, the care and respect you have for those you live with, and the care and respect you have for other members of this classroom community. The best evidence we have, from public health professionals, is that wearing masks is one of the best ways to protect against the spread of COVID-19 and other airborne illnesses. Students with medical conditions that inhibit their ability to wear masks should register through disability services by contact Disability Services by telephone at 423-439-8346 or by email at [littleme@etsu.edu](mailto:littleme@etsu.edu) to request an accommodation. The policy can be found at <https://www.etsu.edu/policies/health-safety/face-coverings.php>.”

If a student is not wearing a face covering in a classroom where one is required, and the student is not otherwise exempt from the requirement **and** registered with ETSU Disability Services, the student may be found in violation of the Student Code of Conduct.

\* Updates on masking policy will be made public on Bucs Are Back website at <https://www.etsu.edu/coronavirus/>.

# Course Requirements

## Textbooks and Readings

Sakwa, Richard. *Russian Politics and Society 5<sup>th</sup> ed.* New York: Routledge, 2021

Sakwa, Richard, Henry E. Hale, and Stephen White, eds. *Development in Russian Politics 9<sup>th</sup> ed.* Durham, NC: Duke University Press, 2019.

Wolchik, Sharon L., and Jane Leftwich Curry, eds. 2018. *Central & East European Politics From Communism to Democracy*, 4<sup>th</sup> ed. New York: Rowman & Littlefield.

Additional readings are available on D2L

# Course Policies and Expectations

## Classroom Policies

### Attendance and Participation

Regular attendance is expected. ETSU requires faculty to report attendance within the first month of a course.

Do **NOT** come to class sick. If you miss a lecture, you can get the notes from a classmate once you have recovered and are well enough to come to class. You can do the readings, get notes from a classmate after recovery, and come talk to your professor once you recover if you do not understand the material you missed during your illness.

If you have been exposed to or have symptoms of Covid-19, please follow ETSU protocol, see <https://www.etsu.edu/coronavirus/>

## Assignments

You are responsible for readings, class discussions, two tests, two geography assignments, progress on your research paper, and a completed research paper. Exams are structured in a way that makes it difficult to perform well if classes are missed. Do NOT come to class sick. See Attendance policy above.

The writing assignment for this class requires that each undergraduate student write a 10-15-page double-space, typed research paper. Each student is required to turn in a paper topic, an outline, and a list of sources that you may include in your final paper. The list of sources must include a minimum of eight scholarly peer reviewed journal articles, books, think tank reports or analysis, newspaper articles, and non-U.S. sources. This assignment is due September 15.

Next, the first 2-3 pages of your research paper indicating progress on your paper with the development of a well written introduction and evidence showing that you are using citations correctly must be submitted on October 13. You will need to develop a research question early in the semester to create parameters for your research, and the research question must

be explicit in the research paper progress assignment and final paper. The final paper is due at the beginning of class on November 22.

The focus of the paper must be related to politics, but you have much leeway in what you may choose to research. You should have a research topic that is of interest to you. If you have questions about topics or need guidance with your research question, please come see your professor in person during office/student hours or make an appointment for a Zoom meeting. While e-mail correspondence is efficient for most communication, hammering out research questions and agreeing on topics works better in an exchange face to face even on Zoom.

It is **required** that you use Russian or East European sources in addition to American or West European sources. A handout will be provided with additional guidance on writing your research paper. Sources need to be cited in the form of **footnotes** or endnotes using Chicago style citation, and the research paper must have a **bibliography**.

All written assignments will be submitted in the Dropbox. If an assignment is submitted late, the penalty is one letter grade per day. If a paper is submitted after the deadline, then the penalty will reflect the following: a paper of "A" quality will receive the grade of "B" if submitted within one day of the deadline, or the "A" paper becomes a grade of "C" if 2 days late, and so on.

### Late and Missing Submission Policy

There will be **no make-ups or extensions** other than for genuine, documented emergencies. Documentation should include a note from the health clinic/medical doctor, or an obituary for a death in the immediate family. If you contract Covid around the time of a deadline, please contact your professor.

Computer and printer problems do not qualify as emergencies. Late research papers will be penalized one full letter grade for each day late, and papers submitted after the class in which it is due are considered one day late.

Students with disabilities that require accommodations are to make arrangements with disability services and consult with your professor.

### Respectfulness and Academic Misconduct

Behavior interfering with the educational environment will lead to lowering of a student's grade. It is strongly encouraged that you are respectful toward your classmates and professor. Do NOT use your cell phone in class. Do NOT text message in class.

Tardiness is disruptive to the learning environment; therefore, you are expected to be on time for class. *Consistent* tardiness will be penalized, but a student will receive a warning before any points are deducted.

According to the ETSU Honor Code, "East Tennessee State University is committed to developing the intellect and ethical behavior of its students. Students found to be in violation of policies on plagiarism, cheating, and/or fabrication will be held accountable for their actions. Any knowledge of academic misconduct should be reported. Students are expected to act with honesty, integrity, and civility in all matters."

The penalty for academic misconduct in this class is a grade of F for the assignment and the reporting of academic misconduct to the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences whereupon a permanent report will go into your academic file. In the case of a second academic misconduct offense, the penalty is permanent expulsion from ETSU.

## Extra Credit

Extra credit worth up to 3% of your final grade is possible by writing a 2–3-page essay on one of the three following films: *East-West*, *Katyn*, and *The Lives of Others*. You may turn in the extra credit paper any before 5 pm, December 3, 2021. After viewing one of the selected films, the film review should address the following:

- What is the main theme of the film?
- Who were the main characters? What did the main characters do?
- What problems did the main characters run into during the film? How did they respond?
- How does this film relate to the history of Russia or East Europe? Explain how events portrayed in the film were shaped by the politics and culture of the society portrayed.
- What is the relationship between government and individuals portrayed in the film?
- Do you believe that events portrayed in the film influence politics or society today in Russia or East Europe?
- How does this film relate to the readings or lectures in the class?
- Assess the importance of the film and write concluding remarks.

## Grading Policy

A	94-100	B+	87-89	C+	77-79	D+	67-69
A-	90-93	B	84-86	C	74-76	D	60-66
B-	80-83	C-	70-73	F	0-59		

First geography assignment	10%
Second geography assignment	10%
Research Paper topic, outline, sources	5%
Research Paper progress	10%
Research Paper	25%
Exam I.	20%
Exam II.	20%

## Tentative Course Schedule and Readings

### *I. Russian Institutions and the Political Process*

Aug. 23 Introduction to the course and requirements

Aug. 25 Historical Perspective

- Colton, Timothy J., 2016. *Russia: What Everyone Needs to Know*. New York, NY: Oxford University Press, pp. 13-84. On D2L
- Russian Politics and Society, ch. 1

Supplemental:  
Trotsky, "The Overthrow of Tzarism,"  
<http://www.marxists.org/archive/trotsky/1930/hrr/ch01.htm>  
Trotsky, "The Russian Revolution: Conclusion,"  
<http://www.marxists.org/archive/trotsky/1930/hrr/ch48.htm>  
Land socialization, (1918),  
<http://www.barnsdle.demon.co.uk/russ/land.html>  
The Grain Problem,  
<http://www.loc.gov/exhibits/archives/k2grain.html>  
Stalin's Purges,  
<http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/mod/1936purges.html>  
Bukharin's Last Plea, <http://art-bin.com/art/obukharin.html>

Aug. 30, Sept. 1 Historical perspective & the legacy of Soviet institutions

- Russian Politics and Society, ch. 2-
- Handout first geography assignment

Supplemental:  
Solzhenitsyn, "What I learned at the Gulag,"  
<http://www.mrbauld.com/gulag.html>  
Khrushchev's Secret Speech at 20<sup>th</sup> Party Congress,  
<http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/mod/krushchev-secret.html>  
Brezhnev Doctrine,  
<http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/mod/1968brezhnev.html>

Sept. 1, 8 Yeltsin, constitutional crisis, executive-legislative relations

- Research paper discussion\*
- Russian Politics and Society, ch. 3, 4

\*\* First geography assignment DUE Wednesday, Sept. 8

**Sept. 6 Labor Day holiday - NO CLASS**

Sept. 13 The Presidency and power vertical

- Developments in Russian Politics, ch. 2, 9
- Russian Politics and Society, ch. 7

Sept. 15 Political culture and cultural transformation

- Russian Politics and Society, ch. 16

\*\* Research paper topics, outline, and start of bibliography DUE Sept. 15

Sept. 20, 22, 27 Political parties, the legislature, and electoral politics

- Developments in Russian Politics, ch. 3, 4
- Russian Politics and Society, ch. 8, 9, 10

Sept. 29, Oct. 4 Economic transition & privatization

- Developments in Russian Politics, ch. 10, 11
- Russian Politics and Society, ch. 14,15

Supplemental:

- Heleniak, Timothy, "Population Trends," *Putin's Russia: Past Imperfect, Future Uncertain 6<sup>th</sup> ed.*, Stephen K. Wegren, ed. Lanham, MD: Roman and Littlefield, 2016, pp. 153-176. On D2L
- Oct. 6 Frontline **FILM** "Putin's Way" on D2L
- Oct. 11 Fall break - NO CLASS**
- Oct. 13 Rule of law vs. rule by law
- The Constitution of the Russian Federation, <http://www.constitution.ru/en/10003000-01.htm>
  - Developments in Russian Politics, ch. 8
  - Russian Politics and Society, ch. 6
- \*\* Research paper progress DUE
- Oct. 18 Civil society, protest, and media
- Developments in Russian Politics, ch. 6, 7
- Oct. 20, 25 Russian Foreign Policy
- Developments in Russian Politics, ch. 12, 13
  - Russian Politics and Society, ch. 17, 18
- Oct. 27 \*\* **Exam I.**
- II. Central & East European Politics*
- Nov. 1 The Return to Europe and the Visegrad States
- Wolchik, Sharon L. and Jane Leftwich Curry, "Democracy, the Market, and the Return to Europe: From Communism to the European Union and NATO," in *Central & East European Politics: From Communism to Democracy*, Sharon L. Wolchik and Jane Leftwich Curry, eds. Lanham, Maryland: Rowman and Littlefield, 2018, pp. 3-32.
- Handout second geography assignment
- Nov. 3 Poland
- Jane Leftwich Curry, "Poland: The Politics of 'God's Playground,'" in *Central & East European Politics: From Communism to Democracy*, Sharon L. Wolchik and Jane Leftwich Curry, eds. Lanham, Maryland: Rowman and Littlefield, 2018, pp. 225-254.
- Guest speaker?  
"The Polish Presidential Election of 2020: Issues and Controversies"
- Nov. 8, 10, 15 The Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary
- Wolchik, Sharon L., "The Czech and Slovak Republics: Two Paths to the Same Destination," in *Central & East European Politics: From Communism to Democracy*, Sharon L. Wolchik and Jane Leftwich Curry, eds. Lanham, Maryland: Rowman and Littlefield, 2018, pp. 255-286.
  - Argentieri, Federico, "Hungary: Pathbreaker of Populist Nationalism," in *Central & East European Politics: From Communism to Democracy*,

- Sharon L. Wolchik and Jane Leftwich Curry, eds. Lanham, Maryland:  
Rowman and Littlefield, 2018, pp. 287-312.
- \*\* Second geography assignment DUE Monday, Nov. 8
- Nov. 17 Yugoslavia and its breakup
- Baskin, Mark, and Paula Pickering, "Former Yugoslavia and Its Successors," in *Central & East European Politics: From Communism to Democracy*, Sharon L. Wolchik and Jane Leftwich Curry, eds. Lanham, Maryland: Rowman and Littlefield, 2018, pp. 430-492.
- Nov. 22 Ethnicity, Nationalism, and the Expansion of Democracy & Re-Creating the Market
- Csergo, Zsuzsa, "Ethnicity, nationalism, and the Challenges of Democratic Consolidation," in *Central & East European Politics: From Communism to Democracy*, Sharon L. Wolchik and Jane Leftwich Curry, eds. Lanham, Maryland: Rowman and Littlefield, 2018, pp. 115-144.
  - Fisher, Sharon, "Re-Creating the Market," in *Central & East European Politics: From Communism to Democracy*, Sharon L. Wolchik and Jane Leftwich Curry, eds. Lanham, Maryland: Rowman and Littlefield, 2018, pp. 57-88.
- \*\* Research paper DUE Wednesday, Nov. 22 – place in Dropbox
- Nov. 24, 26 NO CLASS –Thanksgiving Holiday
- Nov. 29, Dec. 1 Comparing transitions & consolidations
- Bunce, Valerie, "The Political Transition," in *Central & East European Politics: From Communism to Democracy*, Sharon L. Wolchik and Jane Leftwich Curry, eds. Lanham, Maryland: Rowman and Littlefield, 2018, pp. 33-56.
  - Deegan-Krause, Kevin, "Civil Society and Political Parties: Growth and change in the Organizations Linking People and Power," in *Central & East European Politics: From Communism to Democracy*, Sharon L. Wolchik and Jane Leftwich Curry, eds. Lanham, Maryland: Rowman and Littlefield, 2018, pp. 89-114.
  - Wolchik, Sharon L., and Jane Leftwich Curry, "Thirty Years after 1989: A Balance Sheet," in *Central & East European Politics: From Communism to Democracy*, Sharon L. Wolchik and Jane Leftwich Curry, eds. Lanham, Maryland: Rowman and Littlefield, 2018, pp. 531-544.
- Dec. 6 \*\* **Exam II.**
- (Monday) **Scheduled time: 1:20-3:20**



# Student Services and Technical Resources

## Student Services

The [ETSU Services webpage](#) includes a comprehensive list of services available to all ETSU students.

### Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

It is the policy of ETSU to accommodate students with disabilities, pursuant to federal law, state law and the University's commitment to equal educational access. Any student with a disability who needs accommodations, for example arrangement for examinations or seating placement, should inform the instructor at the beginning of the course. Faculty accommodation forms are provided to students through Disability Services in the D.P. Culp Center, Room 326, telephone 423-439-8346. [Visit the Disability Services webpage for more information.](#)

### Other Services of Interest:

- ETSU Counseling Services – To inquire about services phone [\(423\) 439-3333](tel:423-439-3333) or email [counselingcenter@etsu.edu](mailto:counselingcenter@etsu.edu). For students residing outside the state of Tennessee, call [423-439-4841](tel:423-439-4841), press "2." See also, <https://www.etsu.edu/students/counseling/>
- ETSU Study Abroad/Education Abroad – (Study Abroad Fair, Tuesday, September 28, 11 am - 2 pm, Borchuk Plaza) <https://www.etsu.edu/honors/studyabroad/default.php>
- University Career Services – <https://www.etsu.edu/students/careers/>
- Bucs are Back Coronavirus Information - <https://www.etsu.edu/coronavirus/>

## Technical Resources

### Help Desk

The Information Technology Services (ITS) Help Desk is the best resource for most technical problems. Find answers to common questions on the [Help Desk website](#), call, email, or stop in to see them on the first floor of the Sherrod Library. Phone: 423-439-4648 Email: [itshelp@etsu.edu](mailto:itshelp@etsu.edu)

### Desire2Learn (D2L) Online Help

Many answers to D2L related questions can be found on the [D2L Help Student Home](#). If you are still having trouble finding what you need, contact the Help Desk.

### Microsoft Office Software

Microsoft Office productivity applications, including Word, PowerPoint, Excel, OneNote, and more, are available free for students through the University's Office 365 campus agreement. For instructions on how to obtain the software, see the [Office 365 page of the ITS Help Desk website](#).

### Turnitin Plagiarism Detection

Turnitin is a plagiarism detection service available to students and faculty at ETSU. This tool compares student written work against a comprehensive database of other work as well as various internet sources. Faculty may employ this service for some or all written assignments, in order to help students learn to cite sources accurately and to ensure academic integrity. Learn more on the [Turnitin home page](#).

**ETSU Technical Resources**

Many other technical resources can be found on the [Online Help webpage](#).