

## INTERNATIONAL SUMMER INTERNSHIP PROGRAM 2009

### ACADEMIC PROGRAM

#### Course Syllabus

**TITLE:** Geopolitics of East and Central Europe

**INSTRUCTOR:** main instructor: Serge Pukas, Dr; visiting lecturers: Professors Dariusz Stola, Bohdan Szklarski, Ryszard Zoltaniecki, Joanna Jastrzebska, Jadwiga Koralewicz, Aneta Gawkowska, Mariusz Handzlik, Adam Daniel Rotfeld.

**PRE-REQUISITES:** participation in the Civitas International Summer Internship Program

**LENGTH:** 30 hours

**CREDITS:** 5 ECTS (2.5 American credits) or 6 ECTS (3 American credits) with additional assignment (extra written paper, 1500 words).

#### AIMS:

This course seeks to have students achieve an understanding of:

- difficulties faced by a new democratic authorities with regard to the legacies of the autocratic/communist regimes
- intricacies of a transition process from an oppressive regime indicted for perpetration of numerous crimes to a democratic political order
- distinctions between economic, political and social dimensions of geopolitics
- factors that account for differences in economic and political development of East Central European countries
- problems with building a new security system and establishing new diplomatic relationships
- differences between values and interests of the main social groups
- strategies, available for the countries of the region, of joining the most important international organizations
- the criteria for measuring success
- particular examples used to illustrate main arguments

## LEARNING OUTCOMES:

Upon completion students will have had an opportunity to acquire or enhance:

- their working knowledge of the above themes, gleaned from lectures, seminars, readings, assignments and interactions with the instructor
- their critical comprehension of prudential and normative issues entangled in the problems of transition from authoritarianism to democracy and of contemporary political and economic aspirations of the countries of the region
- their reasoning related to evaluation of the advantages and disadvantages of the future oriented and past oriented strategies in transitional processes
- their writing and analytical skills, through writing a final research paper, in which they are supposed to pose a valid research question, find convincing arguments to answer it, indicate and meet possible objections to the arguments, etc.
- their information-seeking skills, through the use of electronic resources available via the library and over the Internet
- their communication skills, facilitated through seminar discussions and brief presentations to the class

## COURSE CONTENT

Introduction. Aims of the course and organization of classes. Requirements. Grading system. Overview of the literature.
Brief History of the Countries of the Region
Recent Polish Politics
Legacies of Communism
Polish Society after 1989
Economic Interdependence of Central and East Europe
Diplomatic Service in Central and East Europe
Geopolitics of the Region through Economic Connections

Central Europe from the Global Perspective: a View of a Diplomat
Religious Creeds in the Region
Relationships of the Countries of the Region with the US
Relationships of the Central and East European Countries with Russia
Conflicts and Conflict Resolution Strategies
Energy Security
Conclusions

**LITERATURE** (excerpts from the readings below will be handed out in class):

Aslund, A. (2007). *How Capitalism Was Built: The Transformation of Central and Eastern Europe, Russia, and Central Asia*, Cambridge University Press.

Fish, Steven (2007). **Democratization and Economic Liberalization in the Post-Communist World**, *Comparative Political Studies*, Vol. 40, pp. 254 – 282.

Goldthau, Andreas (2008). **Five Myths about “Energy Superpower”**, *Policy Review* 147, pp. 53 – 65.

Goldthau, Andreas (2008). **Rhetoric versus reality: Russian threats to European Energy Supply**, *Energy Policy*, Elsevier, vol. 36(2), pp. 686-692, February.

Hedenskog J. & Larsson R. (2007). **Russian Leverage on the CIS and the Baltic States**, *Defence Analysis*, Swedish Defence Research Agency (FOI).

Holmes, S. (1997). *Post-Communism*, Cambridge, Polity Press.

Huntington, Samuel P. (1996). *The Clash of Civilizations and the Remaking of World Order*, New York, Simon & Schuster.

Kuzio, Taras (2008). **Democratic Breakthroughs and Revolutions in Five Post-Communist Countries: Comparative Perspectives on the Fourth Wave**, *Demokratizatsiya*, vol.16, no.1, pp.97-109.

Light, Margot (2007). *The Evolution of EU Policy towards its CIS Neighbors*, CASE.

McFaul, Michael (2005). **Russia and the West: A Dangerous Drift**, *Current History*, October issue.

Moravcsik, Andrew (2005). *Europe without Illusions*, Rowman & Littlefield Pub Inc.

Mudde, C. (2005). *Racist Extremism in Central and Eastern Europe*, Routledge.

Osica, O. (2003). **In Search of a New Role: Poland in Euro-Atlantic Relations** in Dunn, D. and Zaborowski, M. *Poland - a New Power in Transatlantic Security: A New Power in Transatlantic Security*, Routledge.

Roszkowski, W. (2006). **The Lands Between: The Making of East-Central Europe**, in T. Harmstone and P. Dutkiewicz *New Europe: The Impact of the First Decade*, Collegium Civitas Press, pp. 13-57.

Trumbull, W, Leeson, P. **Comparing Apples: Normalcy, Russia, and the Remaining Post-Socialist World**, *Post-Soviet Affairs*, Forthcoming.

Zielonka, J. (2007). **The Quality of Democracy after Joining the European Union**, *East European Politics and Societies*, Vol. 21, pp. 162 – 180.

### **TEACHING AND LEARNING STRATEGY:**

The course will consist of lectures, seminars and talks by visiting speakers. Students will be expected to read the mandatory readings in advance and be ready to discuss them in class. Each student will have to make a presentation on a chosen topic (approved by the lecturer). A topic of a final paper and its brief outline will have to be submitted in the middle of the course. The lecturer's feedback should be used in writing the final version of the paper. Students will be encouraged to discuss their drafts of the final paper both with the lecturer and with their peers.

### **ASSESSMENT STRATEGY:**

The final grade from the course will be decided on the basis of a written paper at the end of the course (50%), and an assessment of participation and a presentation (or a position paper) during the course (50%).