

## ACADEMIC PROGRAM

### Course Syllabus

**TITLE:** Central Europe: democratization, economic transition, civil society and EU integration

**INSTRUCTOR:** Serge Pukas, Dr

**PRE-REQUISITES:** participation in the Civitas Global Professional Internship program

**LENGTH:** 6 hours per week for 8 weeks

#### 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 transitions
- problems with adopting a new constitution
- 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 AND LITERATURE

**Introduction.** Aims of the course and organization of classes. Requirements. Grading system. Overview of the literature. No readings.

### ***Brief History of the Countries of the Region***

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.

### ***The First Phase of Transition***

Holmes, S. (1997). *Post-Communism*, Cambridge, Polity Press, ch. 4 and 6.

### ***Constitutional Reforms, Values and Interests***

Sakwa, R. (1999). *Postcommunism*, Buckingham, UK, ch. 4.

Sanford, G. (2002). *Democratic government in Poland: constitutional politics since 1989*, Palgrave Macmillan, ch. 3.

### ***Political Parties***

Kitschelt, H. (1999). *Post-Communist Party Systems: Competition, Representation, and Inter-Party Cooperation*, Cambridge University Press, part V.

<p><b>Economy</b></p> <p>Aslund, A. (2007). <i>How Capitalism Was Built: The Transformation of Central and Eastern Europe, Russia, and Central Asia</i>, Cambridge University Press.</p>
<p><b>Nationalism</b></p> <p>Mudde, C. (2005). <i>Racist Extremism in Central and Eastern Europe</i>, Routledge, ch. 7.</p>
<p><b>National Security, Conflicts</b></p> <p>Dunn, D. (2003). <i>Poland - a New Power in Transatlantic Security: A New Power in Transatlantic Security</i>, Routledge, ch. 3.</p>
<p><b>Globalization, EU Integration</b></p> <p>Zielonka, J. (2007). <i>Europe as Empire: The Nature of the Enlarged European Union</i>, Oxford University Press, ch. 6 and Conclusions.</p>
<p><b>Conclusions</b></p> <p>Student presentations, final papers due on the last session</p>

### TEACHING AND LEARNING STRATEGY (INDICATIVE):

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 during the course (50%).