



**COURSE SYLLABUS
GLB/European Political Systems
PSCI 331.01E
SPRING 2022**

**January 13 through May 10, 2022
Tuesday/Thursday 2:00pm-3:15pm
Location: SS 141**

**Dr. Robert G. Rodríguez
Associate Professor, Political Science
Coordinator, Latin American & U.S. Latino Studies Minor**

Office: Ferguson Social Science Building 149

email: robert.rodriguez@tamuc.edu

Office Hours: Tu/Th 12:15pm-2:00pm, 3:15pm-4:00pm (please send me an email in advance if you would like to meet at a specific time); or by appointment (in-person or zoom)

The BEST way to contact me is via email.

Course Description:

Welcome to European Political Systems! This course is introduction to the comparative study of the political systems of Great Britain and selected European countries representing different cultural, social, and political environments. This particular course will focus on case studies of Russia and Ukraine. We will have ample discussions on the transitions from one-party Communist rule to democracy in the Former USSR and Soviet satellite states in addition to the Balkans.

We will explore concepts that relate to politics in central and eastern Europe, such as: democratization, revolutions, nationalism, the media, social change and globalization. You will learn about European politics utilizing political science texts in a classroom setting, in addition to feature films, guest speakers, and documentaries to aid our understanding of politics in the region.

Format:

Each class session will involve lectures and discussions about the assigned readings. Lecture outlines will be available on D2L- you should print these out and bring them to class to fill in information during lectures. You will regularly be asked about the readings and to contribute your opinions about the course material. In addition to the assigned readings listed in the syllabus, we will regularly discuss current political events in Russia, Ukraine and Eastern Europe.

Assignments and Exams will be required to be completed online or in-person, as specified in the Requirements/Assignments section.

This syllabus is subject to change at any time at the professor's discretion.

Learning Objective:

Students will understand the dominant issues in European politics, including important concepts, theories and debates in the field.

Global Learning Objectives:

Learning Outcome 1: Students will be able to demonstrate **knowledge** of the interconnectedness of global dynamics (issues, processes, trends, and systems).

Learning Outcome 2: Students will be able to **apply** knowledge of the interconnectedness of global dynamics.

Learning Outcome 3: Students will be able to view themselves as **engaged** citizens within an interconnected and diverse world.

***NO PERSONAL ELECTRONIC DEVICES ARE ALLOWED IN CLASS AT ANY TIME.
THIS INCLUDES (BUT IS NOT LIMITED TO):***

CELL PHONES,

LAPTOPS,

Smartwatches,

iPADS,

iPODS,

MP3 Players/Recorders,

Translation Devices

VIDEO CAMERAS

OR ANY OTHER AUDIO AND/OR VIDEO RECORDERS OF ANY KIND

***IF ANY OF THESE DEVICES ARE PRESENT IN CLASS THE INDIVIDUAL(S) RESPONSIBLE
MAY BE DIRECTED TO LEAVE THE CLASSROOM IMMEDIATELY, AND THE ENTIRE CLASS
MAY HAVE A POP QUIZ.***

Requirements/Assignments

Examinations: In this course, all students are required to take TWO exams, each of which will consist of 30 multiple choice questions that stem directly from the readings, lectures, and any other course materials presented.

Exam 1 will be given **ONLINE** on **Thursday, March 10 from 2:00pm-2:30pm**. You will have 30 minutes to complete the exam, it is open-book, and it is worth **20%** of your grade.

Exam 2 will be given **IN-PERSON** on **Tuesday, May 10 from 1:15pm-2:30pm**, and it is worth **30%** of your grade. You will have 75 minutes to complete Exam 2, and no resources can be used (e.g., closed-book). Although Exam 2 will be given during Finals Week, it will only cover the material presented after Exam 1-- there is NOT a comprehensive final exam in this course.

If you miss an exam, you will receive 0% for that exam.

If you have a **legitimate reason** for missing an exam (e.g. severe illness or injury requiring professional medical care, emergencies in your immediate family, participation in official university activities, legal obligations) **AND** you have **supporting documentation** for your absence, then you may request taking the MAKE-UP EXAM, which will take place at a mutually-agreed upon time and date **-ONLY IF APPROVED**. Exam 2 will be held during Finals Week, therefore no make-up exams will be scheduled, except in the most extraordinary, legitimate, and documented circumstances.

Requests for taking the make-up exam must be **submitted in writing within 24 hours** of the scheduled exam **AND include documentation** explaining and substantiating why the absence was legitimate. An approval to take the make-up exam will be based solely upon the professor's evaluation of your request and any supporting documentation.

Attendance: 10% of your grade is based on your class attendance. Students are required to attend class and attendance will be taken at the end of each class session using a sign-in sheet. Signing in a student who is not present or asking a student to sign you in when you are absent constitutes academic dishonesty (see p.3). It is the student's responsibility to ensure that they have signed in. Arriving late and/or leaving early will negatively impact your attendance grade. *Attendance is critical, discussions are irreplaceable, and course sessions cannot be "made up."* **I will not be managing any excuses for absences.** It is not necessary to provide me with any excuses for absences (unless you are absent during an examination-read previous section.) ***You can miss up to two class sessions without penalty for any reason. More than two absences will result in a reduction in your grade, REGARDLESS of the reason (excused OR unexcused). On the flip-side, students with perfect attendance will receive a bonus of 2%.***

The attendance grade scale appears below.

- ***0 absences = you will get a bonus of 2% added to your grade***
- ***1-2 absences= no penalty***
- ***3 absences= -1% from your grade***
- ***4 absences= -3% from your grade***
- ***5 absences= -5% from your grade***
- ***6 absences= -7% from your grade***
- ***7 or more absences= -10% from your grade***
- ***Attendance Note 1: If a pop quiz or any other assignment is given when you are absent, you CANNOT make it up, regardless of the reason for your absence (excused or unexcused).***
- ***Attendance Note 2: I will NOT reply to any emails asking what we did in class during your absence- We will follow the syllabus. If you miss class, get notes from a classmate and ask him/her if there were any announcements.***
- ***Attendance Note 3: Students who attend ALL class sessions and do not have ANY unexcused OR excused absences will receive a bonus of 2% added to their attendance grade.***
- ***Attendance Note 4: ARRIVE ON TIME! The classroom door will not be opened for late arrivals 5 minutes after class starts. Notify the professor in advance if you need to arrive late or leave early.***

Participation: Your participation in this class is worth up to **3%** of your grade.

Your contributions to the class discussions are highly desirable and will make class sessions more interesting. Positive participation includes responding to my questions, asking your own questions, and contributing to class discussions. All of these activities will positively impact your participation grade.

Negative participation includes: sleeping in class, side-talk with your neighbors, coming to class late, and any other class disruptions- any of these activities will negatively impact your participation grade, even if you contribute to class discussions. If you use personal electronic devices in class that may result in your removal from the classroom and a pop quiz for the entire class, and it will negatively impact your participation grade. Also, if you misbehave in class or disrupt class in any way you may be directed to leave the classroom and your participation grade will be negatively impacted.

Your participation grade will be calculated as follows:

Never Contributes to Class Discussions/Disrupts class:	0%
Rarely/Sometimes Contributes to Class Discussions:	1%
Often Contributes to Class Discussions:	2%
Almost Always/Always Contributes to Class Discussions:	3%

Pop Quizzes: These may be assigned at any time for any reason. The usage of electronic devices in class, as well as sensing that students are not reading the course material are two reasons that are likely to prompt a pop quiz being assigned. Pop quizzes will collectively count for a total of **2%** of your grade. Pop quizzes will be very difficult to pass, as they will be based upon the readings that will be covered in a particular class session. If you are *absent* when a pop quiz is given, you **cannot** make it up, irrespective of the circumstances, and will earn 0% for any quiz you miss. Pop quizzes will be graded on the basis of the content and clarity of your answers. If no pop quizzes are assigned in the course, everyone will receive the full 2%.

Writing Assignment: You will be assigned a case study of a country in Central or Eastern Europe. There will be one short (5 page) writing assignment in this course, which will focus on a description of the contemporary political situation in your assigned case study. Your writing assignment will be **DUE ONLINE via D2L ONLY on Tuesday, April 5 by 11:59pm**. This writing assignment is designed to provide political science majors with an artifact for their senior portfolio. Specific details on the requirements and expectations for the short writing assignment, which is worth **10%** of your grade, will be provided later in the course.

Poster Presentation: You will be assigned a chapter from the Central & East European Politics Textbook for your poster presentation. Each student will create a poster presentation of an assigned chapter, using ONLY the information from the book. A **Symposium on Central & East European Politics** will be held on campus on **Tuesday, May 3, 2022** where the campus community will be invited to browse your posters and interact with you about your chapter, just as you would if you were presenting your poster at an academic conference. Your poster presentation will be graded on the basis of visual appearance, content, and your ability to respond to questions from observers at the symposium. It is worth **25%** of your grade.

Grades:

Your grade in this course will be determined by the criteria listed below. The following scale will be used to determine your grade:

- Exam #1 (**ONLINE, March 10**): 20%
- Writing Assignment (**ONLINE, April 5**): 10%
- Poster Presentation (**In-Person, May 3**): 25%
- Exam #2 (**In-Person, May 10**): 30%
- Attendance: 10%
- Participation: 3%
- Pop Quizzes: 2%

A 90-100%; B 80-89.9%; C 70-79.9%; D 60-69.9%; F Below 60%

Notes on Academic Dishonesty of ANY kind: Any student who is caught committing any kind of academic dishonesty will receive an “F” in this course and will be reported to the University administration. “Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, plagiarism (the appropriation or stealing of the ideas or words of another and passing them off as one’s own), cheating on exams or other course assignments, collusion (the unauthorized collaboration with others in preparing course assignments), signing the attendance sheet for a student who is absent (or asking another student to sign you in when you are absent), and abuse (destruction, defacing, or removal) of resource material” (Texas A&M University-Commerce Procedures A13.12). If you have any doubt as to what may constitute academic dishonesty, please consult with me prior to submitting any assignments.

Notes on plagiarism: All writing assignments will be submitted to *turnitin.com*, a *digital plagiarism detection system*. Any student who is caught plagiarizing will receive an “F” in this course and will be reported to the University administration for academic dishonesty. If you have any doubt as to what may constitute plagiarism, please consult me prior to submitting any written work.

In order to maximize your performance in this course, you must:

- **TURN OFF ALL PERSONAL ELECTRONIC DEVICES BEFORE CLASS BEGINS.**
- **IF ANYONE IS FOUND TO BE TEXTING OR ANSWERS A PHONE CALL DURING CLASS, THE ENTIRE CLASS MAY TAKE A POP QUIZ**
- Attend each class session AND arrive ON TIME (**the classroom door will not be opened for late arrivals 15 minutes after class starts**); Notify the professor in advance if you need to arrive late or leave early;
- Read the assigned material before class;
- Be prepared to discuss the topics presented in class;
- Refrain from reading materials or working on other homework during class;
- Do NOT get up in the middle of class to go to the bathroom unless absolutely necessary;
- Be courteous to -and respectful of- your fellow students and professor.

Email Policy: Before you ask me a question in an email, check to see if the syllabus answers your question **FIRST**. I generally reply to emails within 24 hours, Monday-Friday. Emails sent to me over weekends will be replied to on Mondays. I do not reply to emails that ask questions about items covered in the syllabus, such as what chapters are covered on an exam or what the assigned readings are for a given week.

Code of Student Conduct: All students enrolled at the university shall follow the tenets of common decency and acceptable behavior conducive to a positive learning environment. *Faculty have the authority to request students who exhibit inappropriate behavior to leave the class and may refer serious offenses to the University Police Department and/or the Dean of Students for disciplinary action.* Failure to comply with the Code of Student Conduct and commonsensical directions listed above may result in a verbal request to cease inappropriate behavior, your immediate removal from the class, being dropped from the class, and/or a review by an appropriate university disciplinary agency. For more information on this subject, please see the Student Guidebook: http://www.tamuc.edu/student_guidebook/Student_Guidebook.pdf

Campus Carry: Texas Senate Bill - 11 (Government Code 411.2031, et al.) authorizes the carrying of a concealed handgun in Texas A&M University-Commerce buildings only by persons who have been issued and are in possession of a Texas License to Carry a Handgun. Qualified law enforcement officers or those who are otherwise authorized to carry a concealed handgun in the State of Texas are also permitted to do so. Pursuant to Penal Code (PC) 46.035 and A&M-Commerce Rule 34.06.02.R1, license holders may not carry a concealed handgun in restricted locations. For a list of locations, please refer to <http://www.tamuc.edu/aboutUs/policiesProceduresStandardsStatements/rulesProcedures/34SafetyOfEmployeesAndStudents/34.06.02.R1.pdf>) and/or consult your event organizer). Pursuant to PC 46.035, the open carrying of handguns is prohibited on all A&M-Commerce campuses. Report violations to the University Police Department at 903-886-5868 or 9-1-1.

Note to Students with Disabilities: The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal anti-discrimination statute that provides comprehensive civil rights protection for persons with disabilities. Among other things, this legislation requires that all students with disabilities be guaranteed a learning environment that provides for reasonable accommodation of their disabilities. If you have a disability requiring an accommodation, please contact:

Office of Student Disability Resources and Services
Texas A&M University-Commerce
Velma K. Waters Library- Room 162
Phone (903) 886-5150 or (903) 886-5835
Fax (903) 468-8148
Email: studentdisabilityservices@tamuc.edu
Website: Office of Student Disability Resources and Services
<https://www.tamuc.edu/campuslife/campuservices/studentDisabilityResourcesAndServices/default.aspx>

Non-discrimination notice: A&M–Commerce will comply in the classroom, and in online courses, with all federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination and related retaliation on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, genetic information or veteran status. Further, an environment free from discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression will be maintained.

TAMUC Counseling Center Statement:

The Counseling Center at A&M-Commerce, located in the Halladay Building, Room 203, offers counseling services, educational programming, and connection to community resources for students. Students have 24/7 access to the Counseling Center's crisis assessment services by calling 903-886-5145. For more information regarding Counseling Center events and confidential services, please visit www.tamuc.edu/counsel.

TAMUC COVID-19 Statement: A&M-Commerce recommends the use of face-coverings in all instructional and research classrooms/laboratories.

IMPORTANT REMINDER FOR POLITICAL SCIENCE MAJORS & DOUBLE MAJORS

All political science majors must complete and submit a graduating senior portfolio made up of course work. You should keep copies of your work from this class for potential submission. For more information, including the forms, guidelines and an instructional video on how to compile the portfolio, please see the "INFORMATION FOR SENIORS" link on the Department of Political Science webpage.

Required Readings:

Textbook

There are **THREE required texts** for this course. MAKE SURE TO PURCHASE THE CORRECT EDITIONS:

Russian Politics and Presidential Power: Transformational Leadership from Gorbachev to Putin

Donald R. Kelley (2017)
978-0-8728-9404-4

Central & East European Politics: From Communism to Democracy FIFTH EDITION

ZSUZSA CSERGŐ; DAINA S. EGLITIS AND PAULA M. PICKERING, Eds.
(2022)
978-1-5381-4280-6

My Soviet Youth: A Memoir of Ukrainian Life in the Final Years of Communism

Irina Rodriguez (2019)
9781476677590

Course Schedule:

Week 1 Introduction to Course; United Kingdom Case Study

January 13, 18

Read:

Buy your books

Readings for the UK Case Study will be provided to the class

Week 2 Executive Power in Soviet and Russian Politics: An Overview; Statement of Personal Responsibility DUE

January 20, 25

Read:

Kelley, Ch. 1: Executive Power in Russian Politics (24)

Statement of Personal Responsibility DUE via D2L ON THURSDAY, **JANUARY 20**

Week 3 The Collapse of the USSR

January 27, February 1

Read:

Kelley, Ch. 2: The Gorbachev Presidency (30)

Week 4 The Rise of New Russia

February 3, 8

Read:

Kelley, Ch. 3 The Yeltsin Presidency, 1991-1993 (32)

Week 5 State-(re)building

February 10, 15

Read:

Kelley, Ch. 4: Yeltsin and Russia Reborn (34)

Week 6 The Rise of Putin

February 17, 22

Read:

Kelley, Ch. 5: Putin I 2000-2008 (40)

Week 7 The Tandem

February 24, March 1

Read:

Kelley, Ch. 6: The Tandem (36)

Week 8 Putin II; EXAM 1

March 3, 8

Read:

Kelley, Ch. 7: Putin II 2012- (49)

March 10

*Exam #1 will take place on **Thursday, March 10 ONLINE at 2pm on D2L**. You will have 30 minutes to complete it. The exam will cover all of the material presented since the first class session. (Do not come to class on March 10.)*

Week 9 SPRING BREAK (No Classes)

March 15, 17

Read:

Nothing.

Week 10 The Return to Europe

March 22, 24

Read:

Central & East European Politics: Chapter 1 Central and East Europe: Turbulent Histories, Dramatic Transformations, and Twenty-First-Century Challenges

Week 11 Ukraine Case Study

March 29, 31

Read:

Central & East European Politics: Chapter 19 Ukraine

Week 12 WRITING ASSIGNMENT DUE on D2L; Ukraine in the Final Years of Communism – Part I;
April 5

Your Writing Assignment is DUE ONLINE on D2L by 11:59pm on April 5, 2022. (Do not come to class on April 5- work on your paper and submit it online by 11:59pm).

April 7, 12
Read:

Rodriguez: Acknowledgements
Rodriguez: Preface
Rodriguez: Propaganda and Life
Rodriguez: Teachers
Rodriguez: Culture, Entertainment and Censorship
Rodriguez: Parties and Holidays
Rodriguez: More Celebrations and Home Life
Rodriguez: Military Training and Shadows of The War

Week 13 Ukraine in the Final Years of Communism – Part II
April 14, 19

Read:
Rodriguez: Community and Town
Rodriguez: School Fears
Rodriguez: Exams
Rodriguez: Joys of Labor at the Soviet Schools
Rodriguez: More About School
Rodriguez: Living on Land

Week 14 Ukraine in the Final Years of Communism – Part III
April 21, 26

Read:
Rodriguez: Extracurricular Activities
Rodriguez: Death of a Leader
Rodriguez: Healthcare
Rodriguez: Bureaucracy
Rodriguez: Turn to Democracy
Rodriguez: The News
Rodriguez: American Afterword

Week 15/16 Thirty Years After the Fall; SYMPOSIUM

April 28

Read:

Central & East European Politics: Chapter 20 Changes and Challenges: Three Questions

May 3

Our Symposium on Eastern European Politics will be held on May 3 from 2:00pm-3:15pm at a location that will be announced. (Do not come to the classroom on this day.)

Finals Week

Exam #2

May 10

Exam #2 will take place **IN-PERSON** during our scheduled Final Exam time (**Tuesday, May 10 from 1:15pm-2:30pm**). It will consist of 30 multiple choice questions, and you will have 75 minutes to complete it. The exam will cover all of the material presented in class since March 22.

STUDENT STATEMENT OF PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY

YOU MUST SUBMIT A STATEMENT ON D2L ACKNOWLEDGING YOU HAVE READ THE SYLLABUS AND AGREE TO THE FOLLOWING *STUDENT STATEMENT OF PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY* BY **THURSDAY January 20, by 11:59 p.m. This is a requirement to remain enrolled in this course.**

*****DO NOT EMAIL YOUR STATEMENT TO ME- IT WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED. I WILL PROVIDE INSTRUCTIONS TO THE CLASS ON HOW TO SUBMIT A FILE ON D2L*****

Statement: I have read the syllabus in its entirety, and understand the guidelines and agree to the policies detailed therein as a condition of being enrolled in this course. I understand my obligation to adhere to these guidelines and policies in this course, and that failure to do so may result in serious consequences, including (but not limited to) being dropped from the course, and/or receiving a grade of "F" in the course.