This course will explore contemporary political trends in Central and Eastern Europe. We will explore the process of the transitions of 1989 -- social, political and economic -- and explore both their positive and negative effects. In this way we will explore the benefits and deficits of capitalism, liberalism, and Western-style democracy.

Throughout the semester, students will be expected to keep up with the assigned readings (noted for each week on the syllabus) and be prepared for discussion in class. This is very important, as this will be a discussion intensive course. Students will also be required to write four “thought” papers during the course of the semester. These pieces, four to five pages in length, will be based on the weeks’ readings, and will form the basis of debate and discussion in class. In addition, there will be a research paper of fifteen to twenty pages, and a final examination.

**Required Texts:**


**Optional:**

PART ONE: THE SECOND GREAT TRANSFORMATION

Week One: *Introductions*
September 5

Week Two: *Unheard Rumblings; Unforeseen Consequence*
September 12


Week Three: *Collapse of Institutions*
September 19

Project Due: Short Paper on Ramet (3-5 pages)

Readings: Subversive Institutions: The Design and Destruction of Socialism and the State, Bunce, Valerie (Cambridge, 1999). (pp. 1-164)


Week Four: *(Re)Building Civil Society?*
September 26

Readings: Civil Society, Constitution and Legitimacy, Arato, Andrew (Rowman and Littlefield, 2000). (pp. 1-166).


Week Five: *Constitutions, Legitimacy and Democratization*
October 4

Project Due: Short paper on Civil Society and Transitions (4-5 pages)

Readings: Civil Society , Constitution and Legitimacy, Arato, Andrew (Rowman and Littlefield, 2000). (pp. 167-256)


**Week Six: Parties and Interests**
October 11

**Readings:**

**Reserves:**


**Week Seven: Holiday**
October 18

**PART TWO: ALTERED IDENTITIES**

**Week Eight: German Identities**
October 25

**Project Due:** Short Paper on Berdahl (4-5 pages)

**Readings:**

**Reserve:**

**Week Nine: Families and Gender**
November 1

**Readings:**
*Politics of Gender After Socialism*, Gal, Susan and Kligman, Gail, (Princeton, 2000). (pp. 3-118)


**Week Ten: Religious and Ethnic Identities**
November 8

**Readings:**

**Reserve:**
*Bloodlines: From Ethnic Pride to Ethnic Terrorism*, Volkan, Vamik, (Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 1997), Chapters 1, 3, 6 & 10 (pp. 3-29, 36-49, 101-115, 156-167)

*Religion and the Politics of Identity in Kosovo*, Duijzings, Ger (Columbia, 2000), Chapters 1 & 3 (pp. 1-36 & 65-85)
Week Eleven: Organized Hatred
November 15

Project Due: Short Paper on Identities, or Politics of Hate

Readings: All on Reserves


Free to Hate, Hockenos, Paul, (Routledge, 1993), Intro, Chapters 1 & 8, Conclusion (pp. 1-68 & 269-316).

PART THREE: ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATIONS

Week Twelve: Corruption: The Effect of New Money or Old Power?
November 22


Week Thirteen: Liberalism’s Dream: Building Capitalism
November 29


Week Fourteen: Transitions Gone Wrong?
December 6


Week Fifteen: Final Papers Due