

Socialist Control and Resistance Eastern Europe after 1945

EUS 3221 – Section XXX

Time: TBA

Location: TBA

Instructor

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352-294-7149 (voice)

Office Hours: TBA

Office Location: Turlington Hall (TUR) 2326-A

Course Description

“Socialist Control and Resistance – Eastern Europe after 1945” is designed to explore the political, social, and cultural history of Eastern Europe after WWII. It examines the rise and fall of communism both as a utopian theory and institutional practice in the 20th century. The course content will include the overview of the daily life behind the Iron Curtain from the view of the faithful communists as well as the critics of the system.

Course Objectives and Learning Outcomes

In this course student will explore the evolution and the mutation of the Socialist/Communist ideology and learn about the role of the prominent figures whose names linked to it.

The course will be divided in three segments: (1) We will analyze how the leaders of the USSR manipulated the governing and legal system of the Eastern European countries to fit its design. Students will examine the meaning and the mechanism of “control” and its affection of everyday practices of different social groups; (2) Students will learn about different forms of the “resistance”, the success and failure of individual and group struggle (3) Students will understand how communist ideology was “translated” into the language of material objects and rituals of consumption. Topics will include popular culture, celebration, youth subcultures, housing, and fashion.

To examine these periods, we will discuss variety of primary and secondary sources (memoirs, photographs, films, music, and documentaries). Students are expected to evaluate, analyze the Cold War period in Eastern Europe; recognize and understand the similarities and differences within the socialist bloc and the “western” societies.

At the end of this course, students will be expected to have achieved the following learning outcomes in content, communication, and critical thinking:

Content: Students will demonstrate knowledge of the chronology, narrative, major events and turning points of the history of Central Eastern European countries after WWII.

They will become familiar with the structure of the communist party and the state; the relationship between the Soviet satellite countries and USSR and to be able to interpret them in historical context.

They will follow the path of the development of the resistance movement, but they will also see the life of

the people who made expected the rules of the system and the authorities. Learning outcome will be assessed through reflection papers (movies and books), and a final assessment.

Communication: Students will prove the ability to communicate effectively in groups and with audiences at different levels as well as present material individually and in group using audio-visual aids where appropriate. Students will participate in small group discussions during class time as well as during presentations of arguments on specified topics. Participation grades will also reflect how well a student communicates during these tasks.

Critical Thinking: In researching and writing the Eastern European experience, this course will ask students to sift through many differing types of data and interpretations and to form from this morass a well-articulated and defensible understanding of the past. Broadly speaking this course is intended to foster a greater facility in organizing, prioritizing, synthesizing, and reporting information. Students will define a problem for historical study; how to find relevant evidence upon which to base your findings; how to write up this research into informed, judicious, and convincing representations of the past. This will culminate in reflection papers during and at the end of the semester.

Textbooks

Instructor's packet – all classroom materials (readings, visual materials, worksheets) will be uploaded on Canvas. The virtual or physical location of the materials will be mark in this syllabus, under *Course Schedule*

Evaluation of Grades

Assignment	Total Points	Percent of Grade
Class Participation - Attendance	15	10%
Class Participation - Discussion	25	10%
Movie/Book Reflection - 1	10	15%
Movie/Book Reflection - 2	10	15%
Movie/Book Reflection - 3	10	15%
Final Exam	45	35%
TOTAL	115	100%

Class Participation (10%): A good class participation grade depends on regular attendance and active participation in discussions and mini projects. Please come to class prepared! This means that you have read all the assigned materials and are prepared to answer the relevant study questions posted on the course website.

Class Discussion (10%) How to earn a high mark? Ask informed questions and make informed, substantive comment that demonstrate your understanding of the required readings. Your weekly performance in class discussion will be evaluated/self-evaluated in the following way:

0 = absent, did not speak in class that day or comments showed that you did not prepared for the class (did not watch movie, did not read the required reading)

1 = participated in discussion in a meaningful way (understood the readings and ask informed questions)

2 = excellent performance (sophisticated analysis of readings, made connections between readings, added information/theory form outside of readings)

Students are also required to visit one office hour during the semester (preferably between week 4 and week 10) and talk to the course instructor about his/her progress.

Movie/Book Reflection (3) (3x15%)

- **Week 3-5** Schedule a meeting with me to discuss your **first and second movie/book titles** and the direction/focus of the before you start the project (**required**)
The movies and the books' stories need to relate to the Central-Eastern European history during the Cold War. The movies and the books need to be created between 1945 and 1990 (production(s) before and after this time frame should be discussed)
- **Week 7-10-13** you are required to submit your three reflection papers (4-page long/each, minimum 2000 words) and give a 10-15 minutes ppt presentation about one of your topics (it could be recorded and post in the Canvas Discussion if we won't have time - TBA)

Possible titles for the Reflection Paper are at the end of the syllabus

Final exam: (35%)

The exam will be based on reading/visual materials, lectures, and handouts. Since lectures and handouts will complement rather than repeat the reading material, attendance will be important factor in doing well on this exam.

The exam will be a timed and proctored take-home exam. The questions of the **Final exam** will be posted on the Final Week on Canvas. Details of the exam (format, length, due date, submission etc.) will be discussed in class on week 15.

Grading Scale

A = 93.4-100%	B+ = 86.7-89.9%	C+ = 76.7-79.9%	D+ = 66.7-69.9%	E = 59% and below
A- = 90-93.3%	B = 83.4-86.6%	C = 73.4-76.6%	D = 63.4-66.6	
	B- = 80-83.3%	C- = 70-73.3%	D- = 60-63.3	

More information on grades and grading policies is here:

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/grades-grading-policies/>

Class Attendance and Make-Up Policy

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/attendance-policies/>

Class attendance is expected. If you miss class for medical reasons, religious holiday or for any other reason you consider valid, notify your instructor in advance.

Unexcused absence (each) will be lowered your final grade with one "notch" (ie. from an A to an A-)

Excused absences are consistent with university policies in the undergraduate catalog and require appropriate document(s).

Make-up Exam Policy: Students who have been granted an excused absence and miss a scheduled exam (because of illness, mandatory religious obligations, or other unavoidable circumstances), must rescheduled the make-up exam.

Auditors are requested to complete assignments and prepare for class as if they were registered as regular students. If an auditor does not fulfill these requirements, he/she will be asked to withdraw from the course.

Use of Canvas and Netiquette

Canvas Guide <https://elearning.ufl.edu/keep-learning/quickstart-guide-for-students/>

Netiquette <http://teach.ufl.edu/wpcontent/uploads/2012/08/NetiquetteGuideforOnlineCourses.pdf>

E-mail Policy

University of Florida requires that you use your UF Gatorlink account for university (and class) related email communication. Please see <http://www.it.ufl.edu/policies/#email> to read more on this policy.

Students Requiring Accommodations

Students with disabilities who experience learning barriers and would like to request academic accommodations should connect with the disability Resource Center by visiting <https://disability.ufl.edu/students/get-started/>

It is important for students to share their accommodation letter with their instructor and discuss their access needs, as early as possible in the semester.

Course Evaluation

Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing online evaluations at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/>.

Evaluations are typically open during the last two or three weeks of the semester, but students will be given specific times when they are open. Summary results of these assessments are available to students at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/>.

Class Demeanor

Students are expected to arrive to class on time and behave in a manner that is respectful to the instructor and to fellow students. Please avoid the use of cell phones and restrict eating to outside of the classroom. Opinions held by other students should be respected in discussion, and conversations that do not contribute to the discussion should be held at minimum, if at all.

Materials and Supplies Fees

There are no additional fees for this course.

University Honesty Policy

UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge which states, “We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: “On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.” The Honor Code

<https://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/process/student-conduct-code/>

specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. Furthermore, you are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor or TAs in this class.

Counseling and Wellness Center

Contact information for the Counseling and Wellness Center: <https://counseling.ufl.edu/>, 392-1575; and the University Police Department: 392-1111 or 9-1-1 for emergencies.

Canvas Privacy Policy

Our class sessions may be audio visually recorded for students in the class to refer back and for enrolled students who are unable to attend live. Students who participate with their camera engaged or utilize a profile image are agreeing to have their video or image recorded. If you are unwilling to consent to have your profile or video image recorded, be sure to keep your camera off and do not use a profile image. Likewise, students who un-mute during class and participate orally are agreeing to have their voices

recorded. If you are not willing to consent to have your voice recorded during class, you will need to keep your mute button activated and communicate exclusively using the "chat" feature, which allows students to type questions and comments live. The chat will not be recorded or shared. As in all courses, unauthorized recording and unauthorized sharing of recorded materials is prohibited.

Course Schedule

Week 1: Introduction to course

- Zoom and Canvas basics for the course
<https://elearning.ufl.edu/keep-learning/quickstart-guide-for-students/>
<https://elearning.ufl.edu/zoom/>
- UF Library and VPN setup
<https://it.clas.ufl.edu/kb/category/vpn/>
- Review the Netiquette Guide for Online Courses
<http://teach.ufl.edu/wpcontent/uploads/2012/08/NetiquetteGuideforOnlineCourses.pdf>
- Review the Course Syllabus
- Movie and Book Review Papers Topics-Sources-Deadlines

- Socialism and Communism Basics – The Idea of Communism
Read: Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels: *The Communist Manifesto (1848)* – selected pages
<https://www.marxists.org/archive/marx/works/1848/communist-manifesto/>

Documentary: *Heaven on Earth: The Rise and Fall of Socialism – Robert Owen and Marx&Engels* (2005)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tVkio5stM2w>

Week 2: Export of the Soviet model of the Communism to Central Eastern Europe

- Understanding the Soviet style Communism (Lenin and Stalin)
Read: Hiroaki Kuromiya: *Stalin and His Era (2007)* in: *The Historical Journal* vol.50 pp.711-724
<https://www.cambridge.org/core/journals/historical-journal/article/stalin-and-his-era/4CD3842B611A47CCCA1F0424B23F2714>

Documentary: *Heaven on Earth: The Rise and Fall of Socialism – Lenin and Stalin* (2005)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tVkio5stM2w>

Week 3: Soviet Control in Eastern Europe (1)

Eastern Europe under Stalin

Communist Takeover – Terror in Communist States

Read: Mark Kramer: *Stalin, Soviet Policy, and the Consolidation of a Communist Bloc in Eastern Europe (1945-1953)* – manuscript

<https://pdfs.semanticscholar.org/ab11/a98f1e2cb37654319b84d204d75237423cb7.pdf>

Documentary: *The Lost World of Communism* (2009) – BBC -Selected parts (YouTube or ask Instructor's copy)

Week 4: Soviet Control in Eastern Europe (2)

- Building a New Society – The Privileged Class (Peasants and Workers)
Work Ethic and Motivation

Read: Katherine Lebow: *Public works, private lives in Nowa Huta* (2001)
https://www.jstor.org/stable/20081786#metadata_info_tab_contents
TBA*

Movie: *Man of Marble* (1976) – directed by Andrzej Wajda - reflection*
UF Lib: DVD 990

Documentary: *Nova Huta – The Labyrinth of Memory* (2009) – directed by Marcin Kapron
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qpWPrtR5X74>

Week 5: Soviet Control in Eastern Europe (3)

- Socialist Economy – Nationalization-Collectivization-Shortage
Read: Ivan Berend T: *Economic History of Twentieth Century Europe* – Chapter 4
UF Lib: HC240 .B395 2006

Documentary: TBA

George Orwell-Animal farm (1999) – directed by John Stevenson
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cGzRf0Ow1qU&t=2279s>

Week 6: Soviet Control in Eastern Europe (4)

- Tensions, Rebellions and Revolutions in Eastern Europe after Stalin
Read: Csaba Bekes: *Cold War, Détente and the 1956 Hungarian Revolution* (2002)
<http://coldwar.hu/publications/detente.pdf>

Digital Archives: East German Uprising 1953- Wilson Center

<https://digitalarchive.wilsoncenter.org/collection/35/east-german-uprising/5>

1956 Polish and Hungarian Crisis – Wilson Center

<https://digitalarchive.wilsoncenter.org/collection/9/1956-polish-and-hungarian-crises>

Movie: *Children of Glory* (2006) – directed by Krisztina Goda - reflection* (ask Instructor's copy)

Documentary: *Freedom Fury* (2006) – directed by Colin Keith Grey (ask Instructor's copy)

Week 7: Decades of Consolidation/Normalization

Read: Stephen Fischer-Galati: *Eastern Europe in the Sixties*

<https://www.questia.com/read/9163718/eastern-europe-in-the-sixties>

George Schöpflin: *Normalization in Eastern Europe: the Reimposition of the Soviet System*

<https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/abs/10.1177/03058298820110020501?journalCode=mila>

Kieran Williams: *The Prague spring and its aftermath* (1997) - TBA

Documentary: *Prague Spring* (1999) – directed by Gina Kovacs and Christian Vinkeloe

UF Lib: DVD 7470

- **1st Reflection Paper - Submission**

Week 8: Life behind the Iron Curtain (1)

- Resistance by Individuals
Read: *A Brief History of the Berlin Crisis of 1961*
<https://www.archives.gov/files/research/foreign-policy/cold-war/1961-berlin->

[crisis/overview/berlin-wall-overview.pdf](#)

Movie: *The Tunnel* (2001) – directed by Ronald Suso Richter - reflection* (ask Instructor's copy)

Freedom Flight (2013) – directed by Peter Fazekas reflection* (ask Instructor's copy)

Documentary: *Walled In!* (2010) – DW

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OwQsTzGkbiY&t=5s>

Story of Bela Moka (selected clips) – ÉR TV (ask Instructor's copy)

Week 9: Life behind the Iron Curtain (2)

- Resistance by Youth – Power or Music

Read: M.Fidelis: *The Other Marxists: Making Sense of International Student Revolts in Poland in the Global Sixties* in: *Fear and Fascination: War, Enemies, and the Other in the Soviet Bloc through the 1950s*, *Zeitschrift für Ostmitteleuropa-Forschung* 62 (2013): 425-449

T.Ryback: *Rock around the Bloc: A History of Rock Music in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union* (chapter 4-5)

UF Fine Arts Library: ML3534.R9 1990

Movie: *Stilyagi* (2008) – directed by Valery Todorovsky – reflection*

Documentary: *Beats the Freedom* (2010) – directed by L. Gnoinski, W. Slota (YouTube or ask Instructor's copy)

How the Beatles Rocked the Kremlin (2009) – directed by L.Woodhead (YouTube or ask Instructor's copy)

Radio Revolution (2009) – <https://www.journeyman.tv/film/4349>

Week 10: Life behind the Iron Curtain (3)

- Organized oppositions in Poland (KOR and Solidarity) and in Czechoslovakia (Charta 77) - Underground

Read: H. Gordon Skilling: *Background to the Study of Opposition in Communist Eastern Europe*

D. Pollack-J. Weiglsh: *Dissident and Opposition in Communist Eastern Europe* (chapter 11)

UF Lib: JN96.A91 D57 2004

G Johnston: *What was the Samizdat?*

Movie: *Man of Iron* (1981) - directed by Andrzej Wajda – reflection*

UF Library: Video 1997 (or ask Instructor's copy)

Blind Chance (1987) – directed by Krzysztof Kieslowski – reflection*

UF Library: DVD 970 (or ask Instructor's copy)

Documentary: *Polish Transformation* (2011) – Social Film Institute – (YouTube or ask Instructor's copy)

K.O.R (2009) – directed by Johanna Grudzinska (ask Instructor's copy)

- **2nd Reflection Paper - Submission**

Week 11: Everyday life (1) – Urban planning in Communist countries

- Housing Blocks and Apartments

Read: Sandor Horvath: *Everyday life in the first Hungarian Socialist City* in: *Labor in Postwar Central Eastern Europe* (2005) pp. 24-46

<https://www.cambridge.org/core/journals/international-labor-and-working-class-history/issue/8FF672B036E157E3E4B8A02F658670D3>

David Crowley and Susan E. Reid: *Socialist Spaces: Sites of Everyday Life in the Eastern Bloc* (2002) (selected pages) TBA

Documentary: *Budapest Retro* (1999) – directed by Gabor Zsigmond Papp – Selected clips – Budapest Apartment (ask Instructor’s copy)

Week 12: Everyday life (2) – Consumerism – The Consumer Society

- Shopping and Advertisements
Read: David Crowley and Susan E. Reid: *Pleasures in Socialism, Leisure and Luxury in the Eastern Bloc* (2012) (*selected pages*) TBA
https://www.google.com/books/edition/Pleasures_in_Socialism/F1GGMgccTtUC?hl=en&gbpv=1&printsec=frontcover
David Crowley and Susan E. Reid: *Style and socialism: modernity and material culture in post-war Eastern Europe* (2000) (*selected pages*)
UF Lib. N585.E852 S79x 2000

Documentary: *Budapest Retro* (1999) – directed by Gabor Zsigmond Papp – Selected clips – Cars of Pest (ask Instructor’s copy)

Trabant: *The Cool couple from the Cold War* (2007) – directed by T. Goffin (ask Instructor’s copy)

Week 13: Everyday life (3) - Central Eastern European Women

- Women Emancipation
Read: Zsofia Eszter Toth: *Shifting Identities* in: *Labor in Postwar Central Eastern Europe* (2005) pp. 75-92
<https://www.cambridge.org/core/journals/international-labor-and-working-class-history/issue/8FF672B036E157E3E4B8A02F658670D3>
Padriac Kenney: *The gender of resistance in Communist Poland* in: *The American Historical Review* (1999) pp. 399-425
https://www.jstor.org/stable/2650371?seq=1#metadata_info_tab_contents
Documentary: *Budapest Retro* (2003) – directed by Gabor Zsigmond Papp – Selected clips – Women of Pest (ask Instructor’s copy)

• **3rd Reflection Paper – Submission**

• **Course Reflection Paper Presentation Group 1**

Week 14: Everyday life (4) – Sport and Training

- Athletes in the Bloc
Read: Petr Roubal: *Mass Gymnastic Performances under Communism: The Case of Czechoslovak Spartakiads* in: *The Sovietization of Eastern Europe* (2008) pp 171-180.
Documentary: *Doping for Gold* (2008) – PBS (YouTube or ask Instructor’s copy)
<https://www.pbs.org/wnet/secrets/the-state-sponsored-doping-program/52/>
The Lost World of Communism (2009) – BBC -Selected parts (YouTube or ask Instructor’s copy)

• **Course Reflection Paper Presentation Group 2**

Week 15: Everyday life (5) - Media and Entertainment

- Newspapers-News-Television – Censorship

Ben Lewis - *Hammer and Tickle: A History of Communism Told Through Communist Jokes*
- Christie Davis (selected pages) *Their Relation to Society* (selected pages)
- **Ben Lewis - *Hammer and Tickle: A History of Communism Told Through Communist Jokes***
(selected pages)

Read: *Flirting with Television in Socialism. Proletarian Morality and the Lust for Abundance* in:
Remembering Utopia. (pp. 227-258)

<http://www.iisg.nl/publications/rossum.pdf>

Christie Davis : *Humour and Protest: Jokes under Communism* (selected pages)

<https://www.jstor.org/stable/26405495>

Christie Davis - *Jokes and Their Relation to Society* (selected pages) in: *International Review of Social History* 52 (2007) pp. 291-305

Ben Lewis - *Hammer and Tickle: A History of Communism Told Through Communist Jokes*
(selected pages)

- Humor behind the Curtain
Documentary:
Hammer and Tickle (2006) – directed by Ben Lewis (YouTube or ask Instructor's copy)
The Lost World of Communism (2009) – BBC -Selected parts (YouTube or ask Instructor's copy)

• **Course Reflection Paper Presentation Group 3**

Week 16: Collapse of Communism

- Review – Control-Resistance-Everyday life
- Final exam – information will be posted on Canvas

Movie and Book List for Reflection Paper

Movies

- **The Unbearable lightness of being*** (1988) Set in Czechoslovakia in the 1960's, the story revolves around a young doctor who has a way with women and an aversion to politics. He suddenly finds himself caught up in his country's political turmoil and in a crisis of commitment with the women in his life. **ca. 172 min.**

Library West DVD 3051

- **Zert-The Joke*** (1968) Set in Stalinist Czechoslovakia during the 1950s, this tragicomedy revolves around the consequences of a single joke: a young man, is expelled from university and the Communist party and sentenced to six years hard labor for an irreverent postcard he sends to a lady friend. This leaves him cynical, bitter, and out for revenge. **80 min.**

Library West DVD 1900

- **Cosy Dens (1999)** – Two families, Sebkovi and Krausovi, are celebrating Christmas (1967), but not everyone is in a good mood. Teenage kids think their fathers are totally stupid, fathers are sure their children are nothing more than rebels, hating anything they say. **116 mins**
no Library West copy (yet) ***

- **To Kill a Priest (1990)** Gripping drama drawn from the life of Solidarity chaplain Father Jerzy Popieluszko. Based on true events, "To Kill a Priest" follows the charismatic Father Alec and the secret police officer Stefan, two men who see each other as threats to the well-being of the country they love. **118 min.**

Library West VHS 3123

- **Blinde Chance (1987)** A compelling drama about the difficulty of reconciling political ideals with personal happiness.. This unforgettable film follows Witek, a medical student with an uncertain future in Communist Poland; Kieslowski dramatizes Witek's journey as a series of different possibilities, suggesting that chance rules our lives as much as choice does. **114 min.**

Library West DVD 970

- **Legend of Rita (2001)** This political thriller, set in the final years of the Cold War, recounts the struggles of a young West German woman member of a terrorist group (based on the real Baader-Meinhof gang). When the group disbands, she goes into hiding with an invented identity in East Germany. She struggles with the realities of a Communist state while keeping the distant ideal of socialism. **104 mins. - Library West DVD 2041**

- **Prefab People (1982)** A relentlessly realistic portrait of a young working-class couple suffering the everyday stresses of marriage. Beginning with a terrible argument between husband and wife, we examine the minute details of these two peoples lives in order to see what brought them to this moment. **102 mins**

Library West DVD 3078

- **Time Stands Still (1982)** – Two sons of a freedom fighter grow up in Budapest, from the 1956 uprising to the changing 1960s. **103 mins.**
no Library West copy (yet) ***

Books

Czechoslovakia:

- **Milan Kundera:** The unbearable lightness of being (314 pages)
- **Milan Kundera:** The Joke (267 pages)
- **Artur London:** The Confession (391 pages)
- **Jiri Mucha:** Living and partly living (223 pages)
- **Ludvik Vaculik:** A cup of coffee with my interrogator (127 pages)
- **Bohumil Hrabal:** Too loud a solitude (98 pages)

Romania:

- **Herta Muller:** The Land of Green Plums (242 pages)
- **Paul Goma:** My childhood at the gate of unrest (266 pages)
- **Norman Manea:** The black envelope (329 pages)

Poland:

- **Czeslaw Milosz:** The Captive Mind (251 pages)
- **Tadeusz Konwicki:** A Minor Apocalypse (231 pages)

Hungary:

- **Gyorgy Konrad:** The Case Worker (173 pages)
- **Gyorgy Konrad:** The Loser (315 pages)
- **Gyorgy Konrad:** The City Builder (184 pages)