Content

Course Code	Course Name	Semester	Theory	Practice	Lab	Credit	ECTS
SP370	Central and Eastern Europe in European and Global Context	6	3	3	0	3	6

Prerequisites	
Admission Requirements	

Language of Instruction	English
Course Type	Elective
Course Level	Bachelor Degree
Objective	This course explores the political, economic, social, and cultural dynamics of Central and Eastern European Countries (CEECs) within the broader context of European integration and globalization. Through an interdisciplinary approach, students will reach an understanding of the historical development of CEECs, the legacy of communism, post-Soviet politics, the political transition of CEECs, contemporary challenges, and prospects of CEECs in the context of their interactions with the key international actors including the European Union (EU), United States (US), Russia and China. The course is interdisciplinary: it draws on history, international relations, identity politics, political economy and geopolitics.
Content	Introduction to Central and Eastern Europe, Imperialism and Historical Legacy, Political Systems in Central and Eastern Europe, Post-Communist Transition, Return to Europe: The EU's “Big Bang” Expansion, Economic Integration, Regional Cooperations, Current Issues in Central and Eastern Europe

References	Hroch, Miroslav. "Nationalism and national movements: comparing the past and the present of Central and Eastern Europe." Nations and Nationalism 2, no. 1 (1996): 35-44. Fagan, Adam, and Petr Kopecky, eds. The Routledge Handbook of East European Politics. Abingdon: Routledge, 2018. White, S., Batt, J., and Lewis, P. G. (eds.) (2013) Developments in Central and East European Politics 5, Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan Rothschild, J., and Wingfield, N. M. (1999) Return to Diversity: A Political History of East Central Europe Since World War II, Oxford: Oxford University Press Kornai, Janos. The socialist system: The political economy of communism. Princeton University Press, 1992. Fowkes, Ben. The post-communist era: change and continuity in Eastern Europe. Springer, 1999. Sachs, Jeffrey. "The economic transformation of Eastern Europe: The case of Poland." Economics of Planning 25 Papadimitriou, Dimitris, Dorina Baltag, and Neculai-Cristian Surubaru, eds. The European Union and Central and Eastern Europe: Assessing Performance. Routledge, 2018. Schimmelfennig, Frank, and Ulrich Sedelmeier. "The Europeanization of Eastern Europe: the external incentives model revisited." Journal of European public policy 27, no. 6 (2020): 814-833. Papadimitriou, Dimitris, Dorina Baltag, and Neculai-Cristian Surubaru, eds. The European Union and Central and Eastern Europe: Assessing Performance. Routledge, 2018. Schimmelfennig, Frank, and Ulrich Sedelmeier. "The Europeanization of Eastern Europe: the external incentives model revisited." Journal of European public policy 27, no. 6 (2020): 814-833. Pridham, Geoffrey. "Patterns of Europeanization and transnational party co-operation: Party development in Central and Eastern Europe." In Party Development and Democratic Change in Post-Communist Europe, pp. 179-198. Routledge, 2024. Jancošekovà, Viktória. "Regional cooperation in Central and Eastern Europe and its implications for the EU." European view 16, no. 2 (2017): 231-238. Braun, Mats. "Postfunctionalism, identity and the Visegrad group." JCMS: Journal of Common Market Studies 58, no. 4 (2020): 925-940. Schmidt, Andrea. "Friends forever? The role of the Visegrad Group and European integration." Politics in Central Europe 12, no. 3 (2016): 113-140. Soloveva, Polina. "The Evolution of the US Policy in Central and Eastern Europe Within NATO." PhD diss., National Research University Higher School of Economics, 2021. Ostrowski, Wojciech. "The twenty years' crisis of European energy security: Central and Eastern Europe and the US." Geopolitics 27, no. 3 (2022): 875-897. Schüller, Margot. "The European Union's response to the Belt and Road Initiative." In The Belt and Road Initiative in Asia, Africa, and Europe, pp. 142-155. Routledge, 2022. Kizeková, Alica. "China's engagements with Central and Eastern Europe: costs and benefits in the era of the Belt and Road Initiative." In Research Handbook on the Belt and Road Initiative, pp. 323-331. Edward Elgar Publishing, 2021. Conley, Heather A., James Mina, Ruslan Stefanov, and Martin Vladimirov. The Kremlin Playbook: Understanding Russian Influence in Central and Eastern Europe. Rowman & Littlefield, 2016. Nizhnikau, Ryhor, and Arkady Moshes. "The war in Ukraine, the EU's geopolitical awakening and implications for the "contested neighbourhood"." Policy Studies (2024): 1-18.Lorenz, Astrid, and Lisa H. Anders. Illiberal trends and anti-EU politics in East Central Europe. Springer Nature, 2021. Enyedi, Zsolt. "Right-wing authoritarian innovations in Central and Eastern Europe." East European Politics 36, no. 3 (2020): 363-377. Anna Vachudova, Milada. "Ethnopopulism and democratic backsliding in Central Europe." East European Politics 36, no. 3 (2020): 318-340. Santana, Andrés, Piotr Zagórski, and José Rama. "At odds with Europe: explaining populist radical right voting in Central and Eastern Europe." East European Politics 36, no. 2 (2020): 288-309 Varga, Mihai, and Aron Buzogány. "The foreign policy of populists in power: Contesting liberalism in Poland and Hungary." Geopolitics 26, no. 5 (2021): 1442-1463. Krastev, Ivan. "The refugee crisis and the return of the east-west divide in Europe." Slavic Review 76, no. 2 (2017): 291-296. Koß, Michael, and Astrid Séville. "Politicized transnationalism: The Visegrád countries in the refugee crisis." Politics and Governance 8, no. 1 (2020): 95-106. Drazanová, Lenka, and Andrew Geddes. "Attitudes towards Ukrainian refugees and governmental responses in 8 European countries." EU Responses to the Large-Scale Refugee Displacement 135 (2023). Minkenberg, Michael. "The European radical right and xenophobia in West and East: Trends, patterns and challenges." Right-wing extremism in Europe: Country analyses, counter-strategies and labor-market oriented exit strategies (2013): 9-33.

Theory Topics

Week	Weekly Contents
1	Introduction to Central and Eastern Europe
2	Imperialism and Nationalism
3	Historical Legacies of the CEECs
4	Political Systems in the CEECs
5	Post-Communist Transition of the CEECs
6	The Return to Europe: Big Bang Enlargement of the EU
7	Economic Integration of the CEECs
8	Regional Cooperation among the CEECs
9	Central Eastern Europe in Global Affairs I.
10	Central Eastern Europe in Global Affairs II.
11	Contemporary Challenges in the CEECs
12	Contemporary Challenges in the CEECs II
13	Social and Cultural Transformations
14	General Reflections on the Politics of the CEEC