Syllabus

Winter 2012

POLSCI 497.005 Undergraduate Seminar in Comparative and Foreign Government

The Political Economy of Transition in Europe

Instructor: Igor Guardiancich, EUI Postdoctoral Fellow

The purpose of the course is to foster in-depth analytical understanding of the transition – its successes, failures and dilemmas – from central planning to a market economy and from totalitarianism to democracy; and of further developments in Central, Eastern and Southeastern Europe: Europeanization and EU enlargement, the financial crisis as well as the inception of various socioeconomic policies (to be defined). The emphasis of the course is on the roles of the market and the state in economic and political activity, and social developments. The object of the course is double: to provide insights of the political economy of the region and to provide tangible examples of public policy developments (especially in social policy).

Pre-requisites:
Students taking the course are required to have completed a course in either Comparative or International Politics; and additional courses on European Union politics or economy.

Evaluation:
Students are required to complete the readings, attend class sessions and participate actively – 15%. They are required to present in class a topic of their choice – 35%. Furthermore, they have to write a research (academic or policy) paper on one of the topics covered throughout the course. The term paper is due at the end of the semester.

Reading:
The following will be required readings for each session.

Session 1: Introduction to the Political Economy of Transition in Europe

Part I: From Socialism to Democracy, from Central Planning to a Market Economy

Session 2: The Rise and Fall of Socialism in Central and Eastern Europe


Session 3: The Old System and the Inevitability of Its Collapse


Session 4: Stabilization, Liberalization and Privatization


Part II: The Political Economy of Transformation

Session 5: The Backlash of Losers or Winners Take All?

Session 6: Institutions and Polarization: Why Certain Countries Are More Successful than Others?

Part III: Europe and Transnational Actors

Session 7: Europeanization and the Fifth Enlargement

Session 8: The Quest for the Economic and Monetary Union

Session 9: Beyond the EU Borders: The Neighborhood Policy towards the East

Session 10: The Role of Transnational Actors
Part IV: Capitalism, Social Welfare and the Impact of the Crisis

Session 11: Varieties of Capitalism in Central and Eastern Europe

Session 12: Rebuilding a Welfare State in Central and Eastern Europe

Session 13: The Impact of the Financial Crisis