

**ROLLINS COLLEGE
DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMICS**

**Rollins College Conference: RCC 100-24 The World Behind and Beyond the Iron Curtain:
Understanding the Economies of Central and Eastern Europe**

Teacher: Dr. Anca M. Voicu

Term: Fall 2007, M, W, F 9:00 – 9:50 AM CSS 121

Assessed: by two tests (20% each), a comprehensive final exam (30%), and course involvement (30%).

Teacher's Office: Room CSS 272

Office Hours: M, W 10:00-11:00 AM, T, R 1:00-2:00 PM, F 1:30-2:45 PM.

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course is about the Central-Eastern European countries' transition of the past 18 years, 1989-2007. It aims to provide an economic framework for understanding the past and the recent change.

How were the Soviet-type economies able to function at all when property rights were badly defined, neither workers nor managers had clear incentives, and planning decisions were made most of the times on the basis of incomplete and misleading information? This is just one of the many questions that we will be answering in this course.

While the focus of our analysis will be on the Central Eastern European countries (CEECs), attention will also be paid to the contemporary Chinese economy, emerging as it has from the Soviet model, but with the introduction of markets and sustained state control.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

- 1: to provide students with an understanding of the institutions of traditional Soviet-type economies and their consequences for economic performance during the period of communist rule in Eastern Europe and the USSR.
- 2: to introduce students to the Western literature about these economies, as well as the theory and the evidence contained in that literature.
- 3: once some background knowledge has been accumulated, to provide students with a good basic understanding of the issues raised by attempts (since 1989) to transform these planned economies into market type economies.
- 4: to help students develop a way of thinking about and understanding the Eastern European type economies and their integration process into the larger international economy.
- 5: to help students improve their communication skills, preparing and delivering oral presentations, participating in in-class discussions and being able to think critically and analyze their own and others' presentations.
- 6: last but not least, to offer students a glimpse into real peoples' lives in pre- and post-revolutionary Central and Eastern Europe.

In order to improve your communication skills *you must learn to listen as well as to speak*. Both good listening and speaking will be practiced throughout the semester. How will this be done?

Reading will be assigned at the end of each class meeting for the next. The teacher expects response to reading from each student in the form of written comments on the readings and/or related questions. *These should be word processed, double-spaced and spell checked*. You MUST do your homework thoroughly. You may work with other students to understand the material, but you MUST bring to class work completed and written solely by you in your own words. If you do not, the work is considered plagiarism, both for the student turning it in and the student from whom it is copied or closely paraphrased. Your work will be quickly assessed by the teacher (with a check, a check - or a zero) every class day in which a test is not given. A discussion will follow based on the reading you completed for the day class. To get the most out of the readings, *you should revise them the next day based on class discussion*. Not only will this provide you learning reinforcement, but you will have the material completed to prepare for the tests. Should you not complete a reading assignment and provide your written comments on the date due, it may be shown to the instructor *the next class period for at most a check*. *After that it will receive a zero*.

The teacher will provide mini lectures on topics that you may find more challenging/demanding. Make sure you take notes. You can test your listening abilities by chatting about the material discussed in class with your peers and also by comparing your class notes with those of your classmates. If there is anything that I can do to assist you with better notes taking please let me know. I suggest that before each class meeting you carefully review the notes containing the material discussed in class.

Your completed work and the in class discussion of your reading will be assessed as 15 percent of your course involvement.

COURSE MATERIALS¹

Marie Lavigne (1999) The Economics of Transition from Socialist Economy to Market Economy, 2nd Edition, Palgrave Macmillan Publishers.

ALSO VERY USEFUL (especially recommended as supplements to Lavigne)

Slavenka Drakulic (1993) How We Survived Communism and Even Laughed, Harper Collins Publishers, Inc., 1994.

Daniel Gros, Alfred Steinherr (2004) Economic Transition in Central and Eastern Europe: Planting the Seeds, Cambridge University Press.

Pekka Sutela (2004) The Russian Market Economy, Helsinki: Kikumora Publications.

Michael Artis, Anindya Banerjee, Massimiliano Marcellino (2007) The Central and Eastern European Countries and the European Union, Cambridge University Press.

I suggest that students acquire a notebook for class assignments and handouts distributed occasionally by the instructor.

¹ An extensive list of suggested readings for assignment completion is attached to this syllabus.

CLASS CONDUCT

Students have the right to expect the teacher to come to class well prepared and they should do the same. Students are expected to bring their textbooks to each class since we shall discuss the readings and reference the text together in case there are areas of confusion in the application of concepts explained in the text.

Students have the right to expect the teacher to be in class during the entire class meeting, well prepared and ready to engage in class discussion with them and they should do the same. It is both disruptive for the class and detrimental to learning the material, if students enter/exit the room during the class meeting. *Neither the students nor the professor are expected to eat during the class meetings.* Before class the students should take care of personal business so they can focus on the course during its entire duration. *Cell phones must be turned off.* In case you must leave class early, for a legitimate and verifiable reason (e.g. college sponsored activity), just let me know at the beginning of our class meeting.

MORE ON COURSE INVOLVEMENT....

From your past experience you may know that the learning process requires constant reading and preparation for the day class. The study of transition economies is no exception to the rule of learning. This is due to the fact that future topics build on past materials. It is therefore suggested that students read and prepare the assigned material for the date due, and also participate in class discussion. Consistent before-class preparation and in-class participation constitute important parts of this course. While class attendance is important, it is however, not sufficient for in-class discussion to take place. Students should be aware of the fact that material discussed in class will constitute the majority of the material covered in the exam. *Extra credit will be awarded for constant preparation and in-class participation. If your total grade is within 3% of the next higher grade you will earn that higher grade based on your performance (including exam, preparation and in-class participation) during the semester.*

Students need to be aware that absences and lateness will affect course grades. If you are absent more than 3 times, expect your grade to be lowered.

Successful completion of the activities of the course such as out-of-class assignments, in-class assignments, Fox-Friday activities and good attendance will earn you 15% for course involvement.

This class meets four time periods a week. The Monday, Wednesday, and Friday 9:00 classes will address the issues involved with Central and Eastern European economics. The Friday 2:30 class will normally deal with curricular and co-curricular concerns and interests you have and will most of the times involve the peer mentors and facilitators other than the teacher. It is not mandatory for the Friday 2:30 class to always meet at that time. Fox Friday activities and their scheduled time will be announced at least a week before they are scheduled. Students are invited to come to my office to discuss class material, curricular and extracurricular concerns.

IMPORTANT NOTE: Make sure you do not forget to schedule your plane flight or arrange your transportation now for Fall Break (Oct. 13-16) and Thanksgiving (Nov. 21 -25) if these are needed so that there is no possibility of conflict with your classes.

EXAMS

Exam questions will be based on our in-class discussion of the topics and will test your understanding of the material rather than your ability to memorize it. **The final exam is cumulative and must be taken at the time scheduled by the Registrar.** *No form of academic dishonesty will be tolerated.* The Rollins College Catalog (1998, p. 32) defines **academic dishonesty** "...as representing another's work as one's own, active complicity in such falsification, or violation of test conditions." These activities are considered grave academic offenses that have as a consequence the failure of the exam or the course as the instructor considers appropriate. **Plagiarism** will be reported to the Dean of Students and will earn the offending student an F for the course. It may also result in the offending student's dismissal from the college.

Tests and Exam Evaluation:

First Test 20%

Second test 20%

Comprehensive Final Exam 30%

Course Involvement (As explained above) 30%

Tests and Final Exam Grading

Percentage	Letter Grade
90-100%	A
80-90%	B
70-80%	C
60-70%	D
Below 60	F

There will be no make-up tests. If you are not in class the day of the test, your grade for the test is zero unless you can prove you have a *legitimate* (such as: illness, emergencies, scheduled College-sponsored activities or job-related obligations) and *verifiable* reason. If you have a legitimate excuse for missing the test, you must notify me as soon as possible. The weight of the missed test will be added to the weight of the final exam for your final grade to be determined.

SYLLABUS REVISIONS

This syllabus may be changed at the discretion of the instructor should circumstances make such change needed. The instructor or his representative will announce any changes beforehand in class.

Tentative Course Schedule

Week	Date	Topic	Reading
1	8/22, 23, 24	Introduction, Advising Discuss Fall Schedules, Discussion of Summer Reading	Course Overview [Deng] <u>They Poured Fire on Us From the Sky: The True Story of Three Lost Boys from Sudan</u> , Benson Deng, Alephonsion Deng, Benjamin Ajak, with Judy A. Bernstein; Public Affairs, 2005.
PART I EASTERN EUROPE UNDER COMMUNISM			
2	8/27, 29, 31	The Bases of the Socialist Economic System, "How We Survived Communism" extract from a book by Slavenka Drakulic	Course Outline, Ch. 1 (Lavigne), Slavenka Drakulic "How we survived communism and even laughed" pp.179- 1990 and discussion
3	9/3 9/5, 7	Labor Day History	No Class Ch. 2 (Lavigne)
4	9/10, 12, 14	The Reforms: Experiences and Failures	Ch. 3(Lavigne)
5	9/17, 19, 21	The Performance	Ch. 4 (Lavigne)
6	9/24, 26, 28	International Economic Relations, Review	Ch. 5 (Lavigne), Chapters 1-5 (Lavigne)
7	10/1 10/ 3, 5	First Test "Goodbye Lenin"	Chapters 1-5 (Lavigne) Movie Screening in Class
8	10/8, 10 10/12	No Classes* Movie Discussion	
9	October 13- 16, 2007	Fall Break	No classes
PART II CENTRAL EASTERN EUROPEAN TRANSITION			
	10/17, 19	The Economics of Transition	Selected sections from Chs. 6, 7, 8, 9 (Lavigne)
10	10/22, 24, 26	The Economics of Transition	Selected sections from Chs. 6, 7, 8, 9 (Lavigne)
11	10/29, 31 & 11/2	"Economies in Transition", Review	Documentary from the movie series "Inside the Global Economy", Chapters 6-9
12	11/5	Second Test	Chapters 6-9
PART III THE NEW EUROPE: EUROPEAN UNION ENLARGEMENT			
	11/7, 9	From Transition to Integration	Ch. 9 (Gros and Steiner)
13	11/12, 14, 16	From Transition to Integration: Joining the EU: The theory	Chs. 10 and 11(Gros and Steiner)
14	11/19	From Transition to Integration: Joining the EU	Ch. 11 cont. (Gros and Steiner)
November 21-25, 2007 Thanksgiving Recess No Classes			
15	11/26, 28, 30	New Member States: Economic Outlook and Forecasts	Extract from Michael Artis & All: "The Central and Eastern European Countries and the European Union"
16	12/3, 5, 7	Final Review: What did we learn?	All Chapters, Journal Articles
Final Exam: Tuesday December 11, 2007 8:00 – 10:00 AM All Chapters			

*Note that on October 8 and 10 there will be no class. The professor will be out of town for professional conference participation (IAES, Savannah, Georgia October 7-10, 2007).

THE ACADEMIC HONOR CODE

Membership in the student body of Rollins College carries with it an obligation, and requires a commitment, to act with honor in all things. Because academic integrity is fundamental to the pursuit of knowledge and truth and is the heart of the academic life of Rollins College, it is the responsibility of all members of the College community to practice it and to report apparent violations.

The following pledge is a binding commitment by the students of Rollins College:

The development of the virtues of Honor and Integrity are integral to a Rollins College education and to membership in the Rollins College community. Therefore, I, a student of Rollins College, pledge to show my commitment to these virtues by abstaining from any lying, cheating, or plagiarism in my academic endeavors and by behaving responsibly, respectfully and honorably in my social life and in my relationships with others.

This pledge is reinforced every time a student submits work for academic credit as his/her own. Students shall add to all papers, quizzes, tests, lab reports, etc., the following handwritten abbreviated pledge followed by their signature:

“On my honor, I have not given, nor received, nor witnessed any unauthorized assistance on this work.”

Material submitted electronically should contain the pledge; submission implies signing the pledge.

STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Rollins College is committed to equal access and does not discriminate unlawfully against persons with disabilities in its policies, procedures, programs or employment processes. The College recognizes its obligations under the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 to provide an environment that does not discriminate against persons with disabilities.

If you are a person with a disability and anticipate needing any type of academic accommodation in order to participate in this class, please make appropriate arrangements with Lisa Marsh, CRC, Disability Services Coordinator, located in the Thomas P. Johnson Student Resource Center, (407) 646-2354, e-mail lmash@rollins.edu.

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Fall 2007**

ROOM: CSS 121 M, W, F: 9:00 AM-9:50 AM

I have read and understood the syllabus for RCC 100-24.

I understand and accept the conditions of participating in this class.

Student Name

Signature and Date