**newtonclive97@gmail.com**

**Description**

This course introduces students to the following topics, among others: theoretical conceptions of democracy, the formation of the state, democratic transitions and democratic consolidation, democracy and growth, electoral representation and political accountability, the relationship between democracy and redistribution, welfare and democracy, and colonialism/globalism and democracy.

The course will focus on exploring the twin problems of economic development and political liberalization. Why do countries differ in their level of economic development? Why is democracy absent in a broad sway of the world? Does democracy matter? Can democratic governments shape the economy according to their political preferences or electoral commitments? Or are they constrained by any 'exogenous' forces?

While other courses at SSEES also examine similar topics, what sets this course apart is the use of rigorous quantitative techniques and theoretical economics tools to evaluate the origin and consequences of political institutions. Political institutions will be studied using an economics approach. The module's aim to teach students critical thinking based on interpreting and using quantitative analyses. To this end, the students will develop their skills in interpreting regression analyses and in evaluating how theoretical predictions can be tested econometrically. Finally, the module will also seek to develop and improve students' writing skills.

**Topic: Economic development and Political Liberalization In central and Eastern Europe**

1.0 Introduction

1.1 Background

While political liberalization is known to be characterized by expansion of human rights and freedoms, economic liberalization is associated with minimization of regulations and controls in an economy. A typical case of an economically liberalized country is one that has free market, reduced trade barriers, among others. as noted by Yang (2011), political and economic liberalization impact on county’s growth volatility. Economic liberalization results to a remarkable decrease in a country’s growth volatility. In socialist economy, it is interesting to focus on the relationship between political liberalization and economic development. In particular, when seeking to answer questions such as: why is democracy lacking in abroad sway of the world? Why do countries have disparities in economic development? And can democratic governments frame economy to be in line with electoral commitments and political preferences? Economies of Central and Eastern Europe (CEE) are good examples of pro-socialist and present a worthwhile case for analysis (Dombi, 2013). Thus, the study focuses on the relationship between economic development and political liberalization in CEE economies, including Czech Republic, Romania, Bulgaria, Hungary, Estonia, Lithuania, Slovakia, Poland, Latvia, and Slovenia.

1.2 Model

2.0 Results

3.0 Discussions

4.0 Conclusion

**Core readings**

Goldman, M.F., 2004. Developments in Central and East European Politics 3. Ed. Stephen White, Judy Batt, and Paul G. Lewis. Durham: Duke University Press, 2003. xx, 320 pp. Notes. Bibliography. Figures. Tables. Map. $69.95, hard bound. $23.95, paper. *Slavic Review*, *63*(3), pp.622-623.

Hallet, M., 1997. National and regional development in Central and Eastern Europe: implications for EU structural assistance. Economic Papers No. 120, March 1997.

International Monetary Fund, 2016, May. Regional Economic Issues in Central, Eastern, and Southeastern Europe How to Get Back on the Fast Track. IMF org. <https://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/reo/2016/eur/eng/pdf/rei0516.pdf>

Shoup, P., 1983. FINAL REPORT TO NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR SOVIET AND EAST EUROPEAN RESEARC H.

Dombi, Á., 2013. Economic growth and development in Central and Eastern Europe after the transformation. *Public Finance Quarterly*, *58*(4), p.452.

Smith, J., 2020, Sept. POL13: The Politics of Britain and Europe Paper guide 2020-2021.

Bernhard, M. and Jasiewicz, K., 2015. Whither Eastern Europe? Changing approaches and perspectives on the region in political science.

Andrèn, M., 2020. Introduction: Thinking Beyond Europe’s Cultural Borders. *European Review*, *28*(3), pp.358-364.

Andrèn, M., 2020. Entanglements: Cultural Borders in Visions of European Unification. *European Review*, *28*(3), pp.416-424.

Niedźwiedź, J., 2019. Multiscripturality in the Grand Duchy of Lithuania: New Research Approaches. *East European Politics and Societies*, *33*(1), pp.3-16.

Yang, B., 2011. Political democratization, economic liberalization, and growth volatility. *Journal of Comparative Economics*, *39*(2), pp.245-259.