

POLS 4451: Politics and Government in Post-Communist Europe

3 Credit Hours

Prerequisite: POLS 1101

This course explains the collapse of communist rule in the former Soviet Union and in Eastern Europe. It introduces the contemporary political institutions and processes of Russia, Ukraine, Belarus, Poland, Hungary, the Czech Republic and other key countries of the region. The course uses a comparative approach and develops country profiles to assess the varied degrees of success in achieving stable multiparty democracy. It examines the widely divergent strategies for meeting the severe economic, environmental, social and political challenges confronting these countries during this difficult and volatile transitional era.

POLS 4452: Politics of East Asia

3 Credit Hours

Prerequisite: POLS 1101

Due primarily to the rise of China, East Asia is rapidly becoming the region with the most influence on the world. This course introduces students to the political institutions and processes of China, Japan, and South Korea. Additional consideration is given to Hong Kong, Taiwan, Mongolia, and North Korea. We further examine the interrelations of these states through their political economy, security, and foreign policy.

POLS 4453: Latin America: Democracy and Development

3 Credit Hours

Prerequisite: POLS 1101

Examines contemporary socio-political and economic characteristics as well as political institutions needed to understand the countries of Latin America. Two important themes (democracy building and development) will form the central focus of this course. Driving forces which facilitate and/or hinder the Latin American quest for political stability and economic development will also be examined. These include political parties, labor and peasant movements, economic elites, religious organizations and the military. The role and influence of the United States on Latin American politics will also be examined.