

POLITICS OF EASTERN EUROPE

GOV324J (38550) – EUS348 (36620) – REE355(43890)

SPRING 2021

MEETINGS

TUESDAY & THURSDAY 8:00-9:30AM
ZOOM MEETING ID: 974 4974 0200

INSTRUCTOR

Prof. Amy Liu (she/her/hers)

GRADUATE TA

[Redacted]

BEST WAYS TO REACH US



Email: amy.liu@austin.utexas.edu

Office Hours: Monday & Tuesday 3:30-5:00PM

Email: [redacted]

Office Hours: [redacted]

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Eastern Europe is home to a diverse population. In the past 100 years, the map for Eastern Europe has been redrawn more than a dozen times – often with great consequences for ethnic politics. We will study this region through this lens:

1. Ethnicities of Eastern Europe through a historical analysis of three “wars”.
2. Domestic Institutions: How democratic institutions accommodated ethnic minorities.
3. International Institutions: The impact of the European Union and its policy of open-borders.
4. Domestic Institutions (again): How the European Union facilitated rise of right-wing parties.
5. Implications for minority accommodation in post-Soviet republics.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

After completing this course, you should be able to

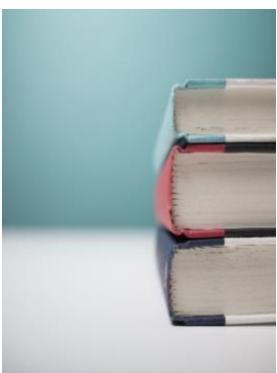
01 Explain politics in Eastern Europe – as a region and in a particular city.

02 Conduct basic text analysis on a Facebook-scraped corpus.

REQUIRED READINGS

There are **no** assigned books for this course.

All **required** materials will be posted on Canvas.



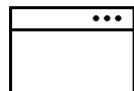
REQUIRED TECH



Computer



WiFi



Web Browser

Headphones



Drive



DETAILED COURSE INFORMATION ON CANVAS

COURSE FORMAT

This course meets twice a week – [online](#) and [synchronously](#). Transcripts from class lectures will be posted on Canvas. The first class of every month will be dedicated to a current event in the region.

COURSE POLICIES

COVID + EVERYTHING ELSE

My primary course policy this semester is to be flexible, so let me and [redacted] know if you need help. Our hope is that our class will give you something to be excited about, and our goal is to help you succeed this semester.

LIFE TOKENS

Life happens – especially right now. Use up to 2 life tokens for a no-questions-asked deadline extension for up to 1 week or assignment resubmission.

PS: Let me know when you are using a life token. An email saying “Dr. Liu, I’m using a life token on X” will suffice.

DUe DATES

Assignment due dates are designed to help you progress through the course while engaging in deep learning. Late work without a Life Token will be penalized one letter grade per 24 hours.

FEEDBACK

Typical response time for non-urgent emails: 24 - 48 hours.
Typical grading return: 1 week after submission.

PS: [Redacted] and I reserve the right to not respond 12 hours before an assignment is due.

ACCESSIBILITY

If you need any accessibility-based accommodations, please let me know so we can make appropriate arrangements.

ZOOM + NETIQUETTE

Please arrive on time, restrict distractions, and arrange to have your camera on if possible.

Use appropriate language for a classroom setting.

When emailing me, please address me with either “Prof.” or “Dr.”

PRONOUN USE

I will gladly honor your request to address you by a name that is different from what appears on the official roster, and by the gender you use. Please advise me as soon as possible.

TITLE IX REPORTING

[Redacted] and I are Responsible Employees. We will report any Title IX related incidents that are disclosed in writing, discussion, or one-on-one.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

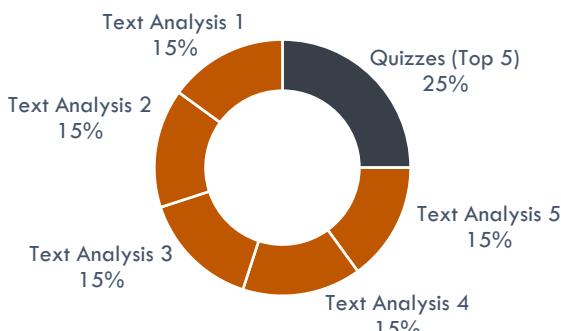
You are expected to abide by the Honor Code. Violations are subject to academic disciplinary action.

ASSIGNMENTS & GRADING

CANVAS QUIZZES

TOTAL: 6

There are six total quizzes. The first will be a syllabus quiz. The other five will correspond to the end of each section. These five quizzes will cover lecture material, reading assignments, and current events (if discussed in class). **I will drop the lowest quiz grade.**



TEXT ANALYSIS ASSIGNMENT

TOTAL: 5

You will be assigned an East European mayor for the semester. For the first assignment, you will familiarize yourself with the mayor’s political profile and their city’s history. For the remaining four assignments, you will scrape their Facebook timeline and answer prompts – one per calendar quarter – using the scraped text.

	GRADE		GRADE
>93%	A	73-76%	C
90-92%	A-	70-72%	C-
87-89%	B+	67-69%	D+
83-86%	B	63-66%	D
80-82%	B-	60-62%	D-
77-79%	C+	<60%	F

COURSE SCHEDULE

JANUARY 19 (TUE)
Introductions

JANUARY 21 (THUR)
Eastern versus Central Europe

Ethnic Map of Eastern Europe: The Legacy of Three “Wars”

JANUARY 26 (TUE)
Ethnicities of Eastern Europe

Due: Canvas Quiz 1 (Syllabus).
For Class: Hobsbawm.

JANUARY 28 (THUR)
Text Analysis Workshop
For Class: Zimmer.

FEBRUARY 02 (TUE)
#February #EEuropeIRT
Due: Text Analysis 1 (Mayor & Town).
For Class: TBD.

FEBRUARY 04 (THUR)
World War 1
For Class: MacMillan.

FEBRUARY 09 (TUE)
Interwar Period
Due: Text Analysis 2 (Quarter 1).
For Class: Kopstein and Wittenberg.

FEBRUARY 11 (THUR)
World War 2
For Class: Rothschild and Wingfield.

FEBRUARY 16 (TUE)
Rise of Communism
For Class: Marx and Engels.

FEBRUARY 18 (THUR)
Berlin Wall
For Class: The Economist.

FEBRUARY 23 (TUE)
Fall of Communism
Due: Text Analysis 3 (Quarter 2).
For Class: Garton Ash.

Domestic Institutions: Accommodating Minorities

FEBRUARY 25 (THUR)
The Hungarian Diaspora
For Class: Csata and Marácz.

MARCH 02 (TUE)
#March #EEuropeIRT
Due: Canvas Quiz 2 (Ethnic Map of Eastern Europe).
For Class: TBD.

MARCH 04 (THUR)
The Romas
For Class: Csata, Hlatky, and Liu.

MARCH 09 (TUE)
Czechoslovakia: The Velvet Divorce
For Class: Hilde.

MARCH 11 (THUR)
The Yugoslav Civil Wars
Due: Text Analysis 4 (Quarter 3).
For Class: Bunce and Wolchik.

MARCH 16 (TUE) & MARCH 18 (THUR)
No Class: Spring Break!

International Institutions: European Union & Open Borders

MARCH 23 (TUE)
From Eastern Europe into Western Europe
Due: Canvas Quiz 3 (Accommodating Minorities).
For Class: Fassman and Münz.

MARCH 25 (THUR)
Through Eastern Europe to Western Europe
For Class: Hoel.

MARCH 30 (TUE)
Into Eastern Europe from the East
Due: Text Analysis 5 (Quarter 4)
For Class: Liu.

APRIL 01 (THUR)
#April #EEuropeIRT
For Class: TBD.

COURSE SCHEDULE CONTINUED

Domestic Institutions: Backlash from the Right

APRIL 06 (TUE)

Hungary: Fragmentation of Left, Rise of Right

Due: Canvas Quiz 4 (International Institutions)
For Class: Bozóki.

APRIL 08 (THUR)

Slovakia: Rise, Fall, Rise, and Fall of Right

For Class: Hlavac.

APRIL 13 (TUE)

Czechia: The Rise Technocratic Populism

For Class: Bustikova and Guasti.

APRIL 15 (THUR)

Balkans: Tug-of-war with Right

For Class: Stojic.

APRIL 20 (TUE)

Romania: Centrist Dominance – until Covid19

Before class: Tufis.

Implications for Minorities: Post-Soviet Republics & General

APRIL 22 (THUR)

Implications: The Baltics

Due: Canvas Quiz 5 (Backlash from Right)
For Class: Hogan-Brun et al.

APRIL 27 (TUE)

Implications: Ukraine

For Class: Bunce and Wolchik.

APRIL 29 (THUR)

Implications: Republic of Georgia

For Class: Bunce and Wolchik.

MAY 04 (TUE)

#May #EEuropeIRT

For Class: TBD.

MAY 06 (THUR)

Democracy & Ethnic Diversity

For Class: Liu.

After Class: Canvas Quiz 6 (Implications for Minorities)

IMPORTANT DUE DATES

CANVAS QUIZ 1

Due: January 26 @ 8:00AM (Canvas)
Materials Covered: Syllabus.

TEXT ANALYSIS 1

Due: February 02 @ 8:00AM (Canvas)
Answer prompts about your assigned mayor and their city.

TEXT ANALYSIS 2

Due: February 09 @ 8:00AM (Canvas)
Answer prompts using content from your assigned mayor's Facebook feed (Jan 1 – Mar 31, 2020). Submit scraped Facebook feed.

TEXT ANALYSIS 3

Due: February 23 @ 8:00AM (Canvas)
Answer prompts using content from your assigned mayor's Facebook feed (Apr 1 – Jun 30, 2020). Submit scraped Facebook feed.

CANVAS QUIZ 2

Due: March 02 @ 8:00AM (Canvas)
Materials Covered: Lectures, readings, and current events under "Ethnic Maps of Eastern Europe: The Legacy of Three 'Wars'."

TEXT ANALYSIS 4

Due: March 11 @ 8:00AM (Canvas)
Answer prompts using content from your assigned mayor's Facebook feed (Jul 1 – Sep 30, 2020). Submit scraped Facebook feed.

CANVAS QUIZ 3

Due: March 23 @ 8:00AM (Canvas)
Materials Covered: Lectures, readings, and current events under "Domestic Institutions: Accommodating Minorities."

TEXT ANALYSIS 5

Due: March 30 @ 8:00AM (Canvas)
Answer prompts using content from your assigned mayor's Facebook feed (Oct 1 – Dec 31, 2020). Submit scraped Facebook feed.

CANVAS QUIZ 4

Due: April 6 @ 8:00AM (Canvas)
Materials Covered: Lectures, readings, and current events under "International Institutions: European Union and Open Borders."

CANVAS QUIZ 5

Due: April 22 @ 8:00AM (Canvas)
Materials Covered: Lectures and readings under "Domestic Institutions: Backlash from the Right."

CANVAS QUIZ 6

Due: May 14 @ 9:00AM (Canvas)
Materials Covered: Lectures, readings, and current events under "Implications for Minorities: Post-Soviet Republics and General."