



THE NATIONAL UNIVERSITY
OF "OSTROH ACADEMY"



The Comparative Study of Democratization:
**Transition Politics in V4 countries
and Ukraine**

fall semester 2019-2020 academic year

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The National University of Ostroh Academy

Syllabus of the Course

“The Comparative Study of Democratization: Transition Politics in V4 countries and Ukraine”

Ostroh 2019

1. General Information:

| | |
|---|--|
| ECTS credits: | 3 (90 hours) |
| Lectures: | 36 hours |
| Seminars: | 16 hours |
| Self-learning (scientific project): | 3 hours |
| Consultation before final assessment: | 2 hours |
| Hours for lectures/seminars in a week: | 3 |
| Hours for self-learning in a week: | 3 |
| Study level: | MA |
| Semester: | 1 |
| Target groups/specializations: | Political Science; International Relations; Regional Studies; Journalism (as elective course); Culture Studies (as elective course) |
| Language(-s): | English, Ukrainian |
| Final Assessment | Exam |

2. Teachers (Coordinators):

Vitalii Lebediuk – PhD, Doc., Associate Professor of Department of Political Science, Dean of Faculty of Political Science and Informational Management

Dmytro Shevchuk – Doctor of Science, Associate Professor of Department of Culture Studies and Philosophy.

3. Guest Lecturers:

Peter Terem, PhDr, Professor of Faculty of Political Science and International Relations, Matej Bel University in Banska Bystrica (Slovakia)

Miloš Brunclík, Ph.D., Institute of Political Studies, Faculty of Social Sciences, Charles University (Czech Republic)

Tomasz Stepiński, Dr hab., Faculty of Social Sciences, The John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin (Poland)

4. Annotation:

The course is focused on comparative analysis of transition politics in V4 countries. The topics are selected in a way that allows students to obtain first the basic survey and comparative methodological basis about political systems, political institutions and processes in Visegrad group countries.

In the second part, course is organized as a set of seminars devoted to particular issues in contemporary European politics using selected country-studies as examples and background for in-class discussion. At the end of the course the students shall become familiar with comparative methods in the analysis of political systems, political institutions and processes that are typical for the developed V4 countries. First, students get basic introduction to the issue of system comparison of democratic states, including basic classification and typology of democratic systems (parliamentary, presidential, direct democracies). While special attention will be paid to political changes in the region after 1989, major social and economic developments will be discussed as well. Students will thus familiarize themselves with a complex set of issues that have influenced the current way of life in the studied countries (V4 countries and Ukraine). Finally, the position papers written in this course shall improve the abilities of students in the comparative-oriented research and writing. Student will also be able to assess the main challenges and to discuss key issues of contemporary European politics, for example: How were these countries influenced by EU accession? What difficulties did they meet on their road to democracy? What are the main trends in their current political, social and economic development? Answering such a wide range of questions requires usage of analytical tools of both political science and contemporary history approaches.

At the end of the course students should be able to assess the relevance of the concept of Central Europe. They should understand the internal political dynamics of CEE countries and explain its periodization. Generally, students will have an methodological tools to analyze the

main trends of economic, social and political development in CEE and compare the different pathways of development in the studied countries. The course is based on combination of lectures and seminars. Lectures will introduce basic notions, concepts and techniques of comparative politics research. Seminars will be based at class discussion concerning particular country case studies in comparative perspective.

5. Aim and Objectives:

The general course's **aim** is to reveal the main aspects of transition to establishing the democratic political system in V4 countries.

• The main objectives of the course are:

- 1) to give a wide perspective of transitional processes in Central and Eastern Europe;
- 2) to show and analyze the specific of democratic transition in particular V4 countries (Poland, Czech Republic, Slovakia and Hungary);
- 3) to show the effective strategies for social and political development for Ukraine by using the experience of V4 countries;
- 4) to describe the variety of political and social processes in CEE;
- 5) to build the preconditions for wide cooperation between V4 countries and Ukraine.

• **At the end of the course, the students are expected to:**

- 1) understand the specific of V4 countries' transformation process and democratization, to relate it with Ukrainian case;
- 2) to have knowledge in the main aspects of politics, government, and the Constitution and analyze how these aspects influence the political, cultural, economic and social development of V4 countries and Ukraine;
- 3) compare the different political systems;
- 4) understand the positive experience of V4 countries' transition and evaluate the possibility to use it in Ukrainian case;
- 5) describe the main vectors of international policy of V4 countries and show the results of its for Ukraine.
- 6) explain the important issues in sphere of European security
- 7) get skills of critical thinking, analyzing the issues, ability to be active in group communication and discussion, writing the scientific paper.

8) develop skills concerning an effective activity in sphere of public policy, a communication with authorities, and using the success experience of political institutions' modernization.

9) develop competencies in English language.

6. Detailed Program:

Topic 1: Socio-cultural aspects of transition in V4 countries (**Host Teacher**)

Topic 2: Political transition and the state of democracy in Ukraine: between hopes and disillusion (**Host Teacher**)

Topic 3: Elections, the electoral process and participation in V4 countries and Ukraine (**Host Teacher**)

Topic 4: Passive and Active Leverages of EU: the cases of V4 countries (**Host Teacher**)

Topic 5: Transition to democracy in Czechoslovakia/Czech Republic and its consequences (**Guest Lecturer from Czech Republic**)

Topic 6: Constitutional making in the Czech Republic and constitutional amendments (**Guest Lecturer from Czech Republic**)

Topic 7: Patterns of partisan politics in the Czech Republic – traditional parties versus new partisan challenges (**Guest Lecturer from Czech Republic**)

Topic 8: Current problems and challenges of the Czech political system. Topic 9: The specific of transition in Hungary (**Host Teacher**)

Topic 10: Slovakia as a New Country in Central Europe. (**Guest Lecturer from Slovakia**)

Topic 11: The Transformation Processes in Central Europe – Slovakia (**Guest Lecturer from Slovakia**)

Topic 12: The State Idea and Foreign Policy of the Slovak Republic (**Guest Lecturer from Slovakia**)

Topic 13: Process of institution building in Poland (**Guest Lecturer from Poland**)

Topic 14: “Shock” and “Therapy” as parts of transformation in Poland (**Guest Lecturer from Poland**)

Topic 15: The Polish Eastern policy: conditions – concepts – realization (**Guest Lecturer from Poland**)

Topic 16: Ukrainian Euromaidan: receptions in V4 countries (**Host Teacher**)

Topic 17: V4 countries' security issues and Ukrainian-Russian Crisis (**Host Teacher**)

Topic 18: Civic education and promoting the democratic values in V4 countries: lessons for Ukraine (**Host Teacher**)

Structure of the Course:

| Topic | Hours | | | | Assessment |
|---|----------|----------|---------------|-------|--|
| | Lectures | Seminars | Self-Learning | Total | |
| Module 1 | | | | | |
| 1. Socio-cultural aspects of transition in V4 countries | 2 | - | 2 | 4 | Interim Assessment (Scientific Project Essay) |
| 2. Political transition and the state of democracy in Ukraine: between hopes and disillusion | 2 | 2 | 2 | 6 | |
| 3. Elections, the electoral process and participation in V4 countries and Ukraine | 2 | 2 | 2 | 6 | |
| 4. Passive and Active Leverages of EU: the cases of V4 countries | 2 | - | 2 | 4 | |
| 5. Transition to democracy in Czechoslovakia/Czech Republic and its consequences | 2 | - | 2 | 4 | |
| 6. Constitutional making in the Czech Republic and constitutional amendments | 2 | - | 2 | 4 | |
| 7. Patterns of partisan politics in the Czech Republic – traditional parties versus new partisan challenges | 2 | - | 2 | 4 | |
| 8. Current problems and challenges of the Czech political system | 2 | 2 | 2 | 6 | |
| 9. The specific of transition in Hungary ² | | 2 | 2 | 6 | |

| Module 2 | | | | | |
|--|----|----|----|----|---------------------------|
| 10. Slovakia as a New Country in Central Europe | 2 | 2 | 2 | 6 | Final Assessment: Exam |
| 11. The Transformation Processes in Central Europe – Slovakia | 2 | - | 2 | 4 | |
| 12. The State Idea and Foreign Policy of the Slovak Republic | 2 | - | 2 | 4 | |
| 13. Process of institution building in Poland | 2 | - | 2 | 4 | |
| 14. “Shock” and “Therapy” as parts of transformation in Poland | 2 | 2 | 2 | 6 | |
| 15. The Polish Eastern policy: conditions – concepts – realization | 2 | - | 2 | 4 | |
| 16. Ukrainian Euromaidan: receptions in V4 countries | 2 | - | 2 | 4 | |
| 17. V4 countries' security issues and Ukrainian-Russian Crisis | 2 | 2 | 2 | 6 | |
| 18. Civic education and promoting the democratic values in V4 countries: lessons for Ukraine | 2 | 2 | 2 | 6 | |
| Consultations before final Assessment: 2 hours | - | - | 2 | 2 | |
| Total: | 36 | 16 | 38 | 90 | |

7. Seminars:

| Nr | Topic | Hours |
|----|--|-------|
| 1 | Seminar 1. Political transition and the state of democracy in Ukraine: between hopes and disillusion | 2 |
| 2 | Seminar 2. Elections, the electoral process and participation in V4 countries and Ukraine | 2 |
| 3 | Seminar 3. Current problems and challenges of the Czech political system | 2 |
| 4 | Seminar 4. The specific of transition in Hungary | 2 |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 5 | Seminar 5. Slovakia as a New Country in Central Europe | 2 |
| 6 | Seminar 6. “Shock” and “Therapy” as parts of transformation in Poland | 2 |
| 7 | Seminar 7. V4 countries’ security issues and Ukrainian-Russian Crisis | 2 |
| 8 | Seminar 8. Civic education and promoting the democratic values in V4 countries: lessons for Ukraine | 2 |

8. Self-Learning Component

Self-Learning component includes: reading the literature to the course; to write analytical and interpretive essays.

The task involves to write a longer essays (5-7 pages, A4, Font 14, Times New Roman, 1,5”, all margins are 2 cm.) on the topic dedicated the case of transition process in one of V4 countries. It requires more in-depth research and using the comparative method to compare the situation in V4 country with Ukrainian case. The papers will be drafted and revised.

In date of essay passing, student should come to class with two copies, one for class partner and one to be handed in to the teacher. Then student will get two reviews of essay – one from class partner and other one from teacher. Also student should review the essay of somebody from the class.

9. Principles of Assessment:

Students are required to attend every lectures and seminars. More than five unexcused absences will cause fail the course. Excused absences (illness, emergencies, unavoidable conflicts) are different, obviously, but you must notify teachers about them as soon as possible.

Criteria for the evaluation of students:

- 1) students visiting lectures and practical exercises;
- 2) active participation in the seminars;
- 3) the ability to analyze and organize the material;

- 4) the study of basic and additional literature sources;
- 5) essay writing;
- 6) conscientious preparation and thorough answer in the exam;

Assessment Breakdown: visiting (lectures and seminars) – 10%; seminars (activity in discussions) – 40%; essay – 20%; final exam – 30%

Scales of Assessment:

| Total score | Assessment ECTS | Rating on national system |
|-------------|-----------------|--|
| 91 – 100 | A | Excellent |
| 83-89 | B | Good |
| 76-82 | C | |
| 68-75 | D | Satisfactorily |
| 61-67 | E | |
| 21-60 | FX | Unsatisfactorily (with possibility of retaking the exam) |
| 0-20F | | Unsatisfactorily (with necessity to new enrollment to the course) |

Finally, students are required to evaluate the course at the end of the semester. Students should also feel welcome to share comments, concerns or suggestions about the course with the teachers at any time

10. Consultations and Teaching Guide:

Students can consult with teachers:

- Every Wednesday 14.00-15.00, the Department of Political Science and National security at The National University of Ostroh Academy
 - Online via e-mail:
vitalii.lebediuk@oa.edu.ua ; dmytro.shevchuk@oa.edu.ua
- Students can find the Teaching Guide and Materials on:

- Web-site of the Course;
- Page of course in Moodle of The National University of Ostroh Academy <http://moodle.oa.edu.ua/>

11. Literature:

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