

NEW CLASS!

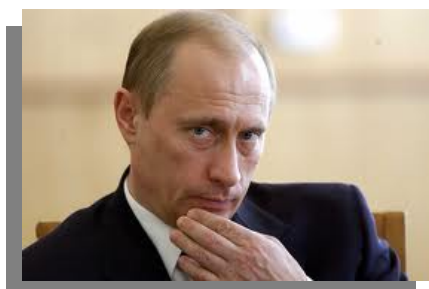
REES 410/510: Post-Cold War Eastern Europe

Fall 2012 (CRN 18065/18066) Instructor: Keith Eddins eddinska@uoregon.edu

Mondays and Wednesdays: 5:30 p.m. to 6:50 p.m.

As the Cold War concluded, hopes were high that Russia, the new states of the former Soviet Union, and the ex-Warsaw Pact countries would rapidly democratize, embrace free market economics, and rejoin 'mainstream' Europe. While some of these expectations have been realized -- particularly in Central and Eastern Europe -- many more have gone unfulfilled. Moreover, the average citizen's transition to political pluralism and capitalism has not been as smooth and seamless as most anticipated.

This new course offering will explore developments in these countries since 1989, as they have pursued both their own unique national interests and exhibiting certain common regional traits. The course will also consider how each state has experience varying degrees of 'democracy fatigue' over the past decade, manifested in societal corruption and organized crime, nationalism, racism (particularly against the Roma), restrictions on media freedoms, the emergence of monopolies and oligarchs, and even yearnings -- among some -- for the 'stability' communism once provided.



Vladimir Putin, President of Russia



Vaclav Havel, 1st President, Czech Republic (died 2011)

We will also explore how institutions such as NATO and the European Union used the leverage of potential membership to secure rapid political and economic reform, but failed to establish any real safeguards to prevent backsliding once membership was achieved. Moreover, despite high expectations that association with these institutions would improve daily life for everyone, 'joining the European club' has not necessarily proved the panacea that either governments or the citizenry expected.

A retired American diplomat who served in the region and specialized on these issues is teaching the course. In addition to drawing on academic and journalistic sources, he will assign readings from U.S. diplomatic telegrams found in the so-called WikiLeaks archives.

