

COURSE OUTLINE

Title: Recent Political History of Central-Eastern Europe

COURSE AVAILABLE AS OF ACADEMIC YEAR 2020-2021

Hours: 60 (2 semesters)

Instructor: dr hab. Piotr Oseka (Institute of Political Studies Polish Academy of Sciences)

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Course objectives and content

The aim of the course is to provide students with a general overview of the basic issues and threads in post-war history of the states of the Soviet zone of influence. This will be done with an emphasis on both social and political phenomena that shaped and ensued from the communist political culture. Specifically, the course will focus on how the new political elites, loyal to Moscow, emerged and what strategies they employed to take over the power. The different ways of legitimisation used by the regimes will be discussed as well. The course will examine the totalitarian concept against the background of the region history and will consider to what extent it matches the actual developments in individual countries. In this respect emphasis will be put on analysing the phenomenon of state terror – its subsequent phases (Stalinism, post-Stalinism), differences and similarities across countries of the region. This will be followed by an analysis of social processes triggered by the rapid system change in the second half 1940s, confronting reality with ideological blueprints. The last section of the course will deal the history of the dissident movements in communist countries, especially pointing to their common features and the role they played (or did not play) in 1989.

Course requirements and assessment

To be added

Educational outcomes

To be added

Detailed programme

To be added

Readings

To be added