

**Charles University, Faculty of Arts
East and Central European Studies**

(Fall 2011/2012)

Czech Republic: Two decades of social change

Insert course number

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Class Days/Time: Mon + Wed 10-11,30
Classroom:

Course Description

The aim of the course is to overview the last two decades of social change in the Czech Republic. After a short introduction to the historical and social development (1918-1989) and basic comparison to other CEE countries, the course focuses on basic perspectives on social change (“shock therapy vs. gradualism”) and then deals with the changes in economic and social structure and political attitudes in general. To provide a deeper insight into the development, the transformation of housing and higher education system is presented in detail. The seminars consist of discussing short texts or relevant topics (covered in lectures), watching documentaries and presentations of students. Depending on the availability, relevant cultural events (i.e. exhibitions) are included as well.

Course Goals and Student Learning Objectives

- Understand basic concepts of social change
- Gain insight into specific topics
- Get information about key changes and available data describing transformation in CR

Required Readings

Short texts required for the seminars will be specified during the semester. Majority of articles will be taken from on-line sources.

Recommended Readings

J. Večerník, P. Matějů (eds.): Ten years of rebuilding capitalism: Czech society after 1989. Praha: Academia, 1999.

Assignments and Grading Policy

Grades based on letters A through F will be given. ECES does not provide courses with pass/fail grades.

Midterm Exam	25 %
Participation	10 %
Presentation	30 %
Final Exam	35 %

Note: Students are expected to give a presentation on a topic selected at the first seminar. The presentation should take app. 30 minutes.

Grades:

A = 90 %	C+ = 65 %
A- = 85 %	C = 60 %
B+ = 80 %	C- = 55 %
B = 75 %	D = 50 %
B- = 70 %	F = 49 %

Attendance

Regular and punctual class attendance is mandatory for all students. Absence of 180 minutes is allowed. Three or more absences (90 minutes each) lower the grade automatically (A to A-, A to B+ in case of 4 absences etc.)

Presentation Policy: Missing the presentation will result in an F (when applicable). If the student wants to switch the date, he/she must find someone to do it and both students must confirm the change in e-mails to the professor at least 10 days in advance. If the student is sick and has a medical note, then the professor must agree with the student on how the work will be made up for.

Final Test or Paper Policy: Completing the final test or paper is required. Failure to submit the final test or paper according to the deadline will result in a letter grade F for the entire course.

For further details, please see the Attendance Policy at the ECES website under “*Academic Policies and Procedures*” : <http://eces.ff.cuni.cz/>

Student Responsibility and Code of Conduct

Students are subject to the general standards and requirements of Charles University in regard to attendance, examinations, and conduct, as well as to the specific requirements of the program. The student is expected to assume the initiative in completing all requirements at the time specified.

List of topics (each topic is designed for two weeks, Course overview and Summary and exam = each one week):

1. **Course overview – basic timeline of the development in CR (one week)**
Key decisions in the era 1918-1945, society under communist regime in the CR, major political events following the Velvet Revolution
2. **Velvet Revolution – the paths of change**
Explanations, outcomes, main actors, sociological concepts of social change
3. **Central European Countries: united in post-communism? (+ midterm exam)**
Basic overview and comparison of CEE countries before 1989 and afterwards; Is there a common goal/path?
4. **Changes after 1989 as viewed by the people of CR**
Public opinion and the transformation, dynamics of people's values
5. **Privatisation and restitution: A case of housing reforms**
Housing in the communist era, major changes in the housing stock (tenure, responsibilities), key conflicts and actors, current situation and trends
6. **Czech higher education after 1989**
Structure of higher education institution in CR, Changes in the population's educational structure after 1989, key political decisions related to the sector, education and social inequalities
7. **Summary and Final exam (one week)**