

STV23XX – Between authoritarianism and democracy in the post-communist region

Involved in the course: Elisabeth Bakke (in charge), Miroslav Nemčok, Tamta Gelashvili, Maryna Povitkina, and Kacper Rękawek

Tentative list of lectures

Lecture 1. Introduction to the course, including

- briefly about case selection
- the communist point of departure
- different trajectories, different outcomes

Lecture 2. support for democracy, satisfaction with democracy, and political trust across the regime types and/or regions (Miroslav)

Lecture 3. the toolkit of democratic backsliding - and how to overcome it (Elisabeth)

- what is democratic backsliding in theory and practice
- institutional remedies
- the importance of opposition

Lecture 4. the international context: the European Union and Russia (Maryna)

Lecture 5. surviving democracies: Czech Republic and Slovakia (Elisabeth, Miroslav)

Lecture 6. backsliding democracies: Hungary and Poland (Miroslav, Kacper)

Lecture 7. lost in transition: Ukraine and Georgia (Maryna, Tamta)

Lecture 8. the linkage between business and politics: how oligarchs and grand corruption affect politics, democracy and quality of governance (Maryna, Kacper)

Lecture 9. varieties of nationalism and (right radical) populism in the region (Tamta, Kacper)

Lecture 10. Summary

To be decided: who does the first and the last lecture.

Topical seminars

- groups of students present the readings for the seminar (briefly), stating what they found surprising
- discussions based on the readings
- to be decided: who will be responsible for seminars. All are in principle interested in contributing. We have discussed working in teams, depending on topics covered.