The goal of the course is to discuss different approaches to the study of developmental pathways in Eastern and Central Europe in a broad historical perspective. Students participating in the seminars will get an overview on the various approaches to explaining divergence in political, social and economic developments between the Eastern and Western parts of Europe, and within the region. The course wants to establish a dialogue between three types of scholarships: one dealing with the pre-regime change developmental pathways in the region, another dealing with factors that could account for persistent post-communist and post-enlargement developmental divergence and a third one that deals with issues of backwardness and core-periphery relations in transnational and global perspective.

The course starts with the discussion of broad historical perspectives on East-West divergence in Europe. The second bloc deals with the various great transformations in the region: the remaking of states, polities and economies. The third bloc is devoted to the discussion of the transnationalization of states and economies in the region. Finally, the forth bloc deals with hybrid regimes and problems of democratic backsliding in the region.

EVALUATION

1. Participation: 10%
2. Position papers 15% (brief, up to 1-1.5 pages long critical summaries of the key point(s) of the mandatory readings for each week with questions/comments that you would like to see discussed during the class
3. Leading a discussion in one session 25%
4. Each student will guide the discussion on at least one seminar either on his or her own or – depending on the class size – together with another student. The student has to introduce the theme of the seminar based on positioning the mandatory reading(s) of the week in the broader literature and by asking questions for discussion for group work and commenting, and if possible, summarizing the discussion.
5. Research paper 50% 3000 words

- Mandatory readings: *

I. **Broad historical perspectives on East-West divergence(s) in Europe**
**Week 1. The three historical regions of Europe**


**Week 2 The Politics of Backwardness**


**II. Great Transformations in Eastern and Central Europe**

**Week 3 The Triple Transition**


**Week 4 Dominating Policy Paradigms**


**Week 5 Transforming states**


**Week 6 Transforming economies**


**III. Transnationalizing Economies**

**Week 7 European Integration of CEE Economies**


Laszlo Bruszt and Visnja Vukov (2017) “Making states for the Single Market European integration and the reshaping of economic states in the Southern and Eastern peripheries of Europe” *West European Politics*

**Week 8 Dependent Market Economies**

*Nölke, A. & Vliegenthart, A. "Enlarging the Varieties of Capitalism: The Emergence of Dependent Market Economies in East Central Europe." *World Politics*, vol. 61 no. 4, 2009, pp. 670-702*


**Week 9 Dependent Development in the Eastern Peripheries of Europe**


**IV. Hybrid Regimes and Democratic Backsliding**

**Week 10 Hybrid Regimes**

* Florian Bieber (2018) Patterns of competitive authoritarianism in the Western Balkans, East European Politics, 34:3, 337-354,


Lucan Way and Steven Levitsky, (2010) Competitive authoritarianism: hybrid regimes after the Cold War, Cambridge University Press, 2010, Ch. 2 (theory), Ch. 3 (theory applied to Eastern Europe) and Ch. 6 (theory applied to former Soviet Union).


Week 11 Democratic backsliding


Week 12 Summary – General Discussion