

THE ECONOMY OF CENTRAL EUROPE: FROM TRANSITION TO EU MEMBERSHIP

COURSE TUTOR

Joanna Orzechowska-Wa lawska, Ph.D. is a sociologist and economist. She earned her degree in economics from the Cracow University of Economics (MA in 2005) and received her PhD in social sciences from Jagiellonian University (2012). She has won various scholarships and participated in many international exchange programmes (Charles University in Prague (2002), Corvinus University in Budapest (2002), University of Navarra in Pamplona (2004) and Georgetown University in Washington (2005)). From 2006 onwards she has been teaching economics at the Institute of European Studies, Jagiellonian University. Her scientific interests lie at the intersection of economics and sociology. In her research she focuses on the problems of the social consequences of economic changes, especially the influence of economic factors on the formation and development of social movements in Europe.

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DESCRIPTION

The course is designed to introduce students to the economic environment of Central Europe, and give them a general overview of the economic changes that have occurred in Poland, Czech Republic and Hungary over the last decades.

The course starts with a short introduction to the notion of the centrally-planned economy. Students learn to understand the historical dynamics of transition (from centrally-planned to a free-market economy) as well as its geographical variety.

The second part of the course is devoted to the analysis of the post-transition period. It examines the challenges that Central European countries faced on their path to the EU membership. Special attention is given to the analysis of strategies that were chosen and major economic and institutional changes that were introduced before and after their accession to the EU.

The third and the final part of the course deals with the current economic situation of Central European countries and their position in the European Union. Special attention is given to the analysis of their current business environment, the opportunities deriving from the processes of privatisation and liberalisation, and the characteristics of their business culture.

TYPE OF COURSE

Focus course for CEE Studies, CEE Studies: Research Track, Europeanization and Governance in CEE specialisation

Additional course for EU Studies specialisation

YEAR OF STUDIES:

1 or 2

NUMBER OF ECTS POINTS

4.5

PREREQUISITES (IF APPLICABLE)

There are no specific prerequisites. A knowledge of basic macroeconomics and international economic relations would be an advantage, but is not required.

INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES

On successful completion of the course, the student:

EK1:

has ordered, extended knowledge about the theory of European integration and knows how to apply theoretical models to analyse the process of European integration, including sub-regional integration (K_W09+)

EK2:

has basic knowledge about the framework and functioning of common EU policies and their influence on the role and positioning of the European Union in the system of international relations (K_W12+)

EK3:

has extended familiarity with terminology pertaining to economics and the rules governing the

<p>functioning of the common market (K_W13+++)</p> <p>EK4:</p> <p>has extended information in the field of international economic relations as well as the integration of European markets (K_W14+++)</p> <p>EK5:</p> <p>can apply the theories from different areas of European Studies to analyze processes and draw accurate conclusions on causes and effects of researched phenomena (K_U07+)</p> <p>EK6:</p> <p>has the ability to reconstruct and interpret the integration processes in Europe, including both globalization and developments of policies in national, regional and local frameworks (K_U11++)</p> <p>EK7:</p> <p>is aware of the level of his or her own knowledge and skills, understands the need for long-life learning in terms of professional and personal development, can determine the directions of his or her own professional and personal development (K_K01+)</p> <p>EK8:</p> <p>can precisely determine his or her own goals, giving them different priorities (K_K03+)</p>
<p>COURSE COMMUNICATION</p> <p>Via e-mail and e-learning platform</p>
<p>NOTICES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS</p> <p>Via USOS and students' notice board</p>

COURSE ORGANIZATION

<p>AUTUMN SEMESTER</p> <p>TIME AND PLACE</p> <p>will be posted by CES in the online calendar</p>
<p>COURSE TYPE (SEMINAR/LECTURE/WORKSHOP, ETC)</p> <p>Seminar</p>
<p>CONTACT HOURS</p> <p>30 contact hours</p>
<p>BALANCE OF ECTS CREDIT</p> <p>30 h participation in seminars</p> <p>20 h individual work to prepare for in-class discussions (including required readings for seminars)</p> <p>22,5 h research and preparation of projects</p> <p>40 h preparation for the final exam</p>
<p>DIDACTIC METHODS USED</p> <p>Seminar discussion with some lecture elements.</p> <p>The seminars consist of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> (1) presentation of major concepts, theories and an analytical framework (2) text analysis (for each seminar students are asked to read a text assigned by the tutor and comment on it during classes) (3) analysis of the statistical data provided by the tutor and the students (4) in-class open discussion <p>Students are also encouraged to use the e-learning platform as a mode of communication with the course coordinator.</p>

MODE AND CRITERIA OF ASSESSMENT OF LEARNING OUTCOMES

The achievement of the learning outcomes will be assessed in the following way:

Knowledge:

EK1 (K_W09), EK2 (K_W12), EK3 (K_W13), EK4 (K_W14) – participation in in-class discussions, project and the final exam

Skills:

EK5 (K_U07), EK6 (K_U11) – participation in in-class discussions and project

Social skills:

EK7 (K_K01), EK8 (K_K03) – analysis of the progress made by students during their participation in the course, assessed on the basis of students' activity during all classes

ASSESSMENT

Students are expected to actively participate in the classes.

Attendance is mandatory. Missing more than 50% of the classes will result in failure of the course and the need to retake it the following year.

The final grade is based on:

(1) group project – 40% of the final mark (i.e. oral presentation of the project results – 10%, written project report – 30%)

(2) final exam (test and open questions) – 60% of the final mark

In order to pass the course, the student must obtain a passing grade from both assignments.

MAIN TOPICS

1. Socialism and the Market Economy: the Past and Present of Central European Economies
 - 1.1. The essentials of the Market Economy
 - 1.2. Socialism and the "Shortage Economy"
2. Economics of transition: transition theories and economic data. The transition in Poland, Czech Republic (Czechoslovakia) and Hungary
3. Economic integration in Europe in light of the Central European transformation
 - 3.1. The Economics of European Integration
 - 3.2. Costs and Benefits of the EU Membership
4. CE Countries and EU Enlargement: *Ex ante* and *Ex post* analysis
5. Euro zone: opportunity or threat for CE Countries?
 - 5.1. The economics of Monetary Integration
 - 5.2. European Monetary Union and CE Countries
6. Central Europe today
 - 6.1. Doing business in Central Europe: social, economic and political challenges and opportunities of CE business environment
 - 6.1.1. The structure of CE Economies
 - 6.1.2. The place of Small and Medium Enterprises in CE Economies
 - 6.1.3. Corruption in Poland and other Central European Countries
 - 6.2. Understanding business culture in CE

