



College of Europe
Collège d'Europe



Natolin

ECTS CARD

STUDY PROGRAMME

European Interdisciplinary Studies, Natolin campus (Advanced Academic Master)

YEAR

2023-2024

COURSE TITLE

Mass Mobilization in Eastern Europe, its Neighbourhood & Beyond

SEMESTER

2

COURSE PROFESSOR(S)

ONUCH Olga

ACADEMIC ASSISTANT(S)

BOURGOIS Kilian

COURSE TYPE

Specialist Course

MAJOR(S)

EUN

ECTS CREDITS

4

TEACHING HOURS

20

INDIVIDUAL & GROUP STUDY TIME

80

TUTORIAL(S)

COEFFICIENT

1

LANGUAGE(S)

EN

COURSE OBJECTIVE

TBD

COURSE LEARNING OUTCOMES

The course has several central aims.

1. First, the course aims to provide students with an advanced theoretical knowledge of the established social science literature on protest and activist mobilization.
 - a. Theoretically, the goal is to expose students to the particular tension between structural and agency-based explanations behind the motivation and mobilization to join-in extra institutional political behaviour.
2. Second, the course aims to allow students to engage with a recently developing literature, debating the role of social networks versus social media (and other ICTs) in the mass-mobilization process.
 - a. Empirically and theoretically, this will help students challenge colloquial but prominent notions of #revolutions or telegram revolutions.
3. Third, the course aims to help students develop a deeper empirical understanding of contemporary cases mass-protest in the region but in comparative perspective.
 - a. By comparing processes and patterns of mobilization in EaP countries to those of east European countries in the EU (Poland) and in its neighbourhood (Russia) students will be able to challenge myths of regionalism, legacies, and path dependency.
4. Fourth, the course will ask students to reflect on the perceived recent rise in mass-mobilization by placing recent experiences into historical perspective.
 - a. By providing a historically informed overview, students will be able to empirically understand inter-generational continuity, critical junctures, as well as, the evolution of civic engagement in democratizing and autocratic contexts.
5. Lastly, the course will ask students to consider the normative expectations behind mass mobilization.
 - a. By debating the idea whether moments of mass mobilization are tied to pro-democracy processes and/or are motivated by liberal democratic values and

geopolitical orientations of ordinary citizens who participate in them - students will be pushed to consider the implications of such events for EU policy makers and the EaP specifically.

RECOMMENDED PREPARATION

Lecture/seminars

TEACHING METHOD(S)

Lecture/Seminar delivered in person on campus, and individual study.

ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA

Assessment:

Open Book Exam 2 hours 50%

Essay 3000 words 20%

Seminar Presentation 20%

Seminar Participation 10%

The College of Europe reserves the right to change the delivery and assessment of the course in case of circumstances beyond the reasonable control of the College (force majeure). Any communication from the campus administration in this regard takes precedence over the information provided in the ECTS card.

Retake examinations, that is, exams passed in the second examination session, will have the same format as those taken during the first exam session. When a student takes an examination during the second session, the final mark for the course is based solely on the result of the retake examination. No other element of evaluation which would have been taken into consideration in the calculation of the final mark during the first examination session will be considered in the second session.

COURSE CONTENTS

The course consists of 10 two-hour seminar sessions.

In the first half of the course students will critically engage with the different theoretical perspectives employed in the study of mass-protest. The seminar lectures will draw on examples from specific cases in eastern Europe.

In the second half of the course, employing the theoretical knowledge gained in previous sessions, students will lead the discussion with short presentations as we conduct a deep dive into contemporary empirical cases of mass-protest in comparative perspective.

PLEASE SEE SYLABUS FOR FULL WEEK TO WEEK INFO

COURSE MATERIALS (readings and other learning resources/tools)

Please refer to the course outline for the full reading list.

Lecture note slides will be made available on the intranet.