

Course code (filled in by the Office for Education)	
Course title	<b>Democratic Transitions in Central and Eastern Europe</b>
Module title	Public Governance and Political Science
Level of the course	BA
Institute/Department responsible for course	Institute of State Theory and Governance
Course director	Dr. Fanni Tanács-Mandák
Name of the Lecturer(s)	Dr. Zsuzsanna Peres Dr. Fanni Tanács - Mandák
Number of the ECTS credits	5 credits
Teaching methodology	lectures, student presentations, interactive tasks, simulations (30 hours/semester)
Language of instruction	English
Prerequisite(s) for the course	fluency in English
Semester	Both
Course description	The aim is to give a multidisciplinary overview of the democratic transitions in 1989-1991 (especially in Hungary, Romania and Poland), describing the historical and political background of the changes and presenting the main and most important features of the new institutional and legal orders. The course starts from the 1980's, explaining the role of the main events of 1989-1990 and gives an assessment of the new democratic orders' functioning in the 1990's, providing the participants an overview of the most important state organs and their functioning before and after the political transition of 1990.
Learning outcomes and course competences	Completing the course students will understand the most important features of the democratic transitions in the region, will have a basic knowledge about the legal, political and institutional orders of the selected countries and the ability to understand the latest developments.
Weekly content of course	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Historical background of the changes I.</li> <li>2. Historical background of the changes II.</li> <li>3. Political background of the changes</li> <li>4. The forms of democratic changes and its consequences</li> <li>5. The role of the Constitutional Courts</li> <li>6. From the historical constitution towards the latest constitutional developments</li> <li>7. The legal and institutional orders before the transition I.</li> <li>8. The legal and institutional orders before the transition II.</li> <li>9. The new legal and institutional orders I.</li> <li>10. The new legal and institutional orders II.</li> <li>11. The phenomena of presidentialism</li> <li>12. Presidentialism in the region</li> <li>13. Presidentialism and good governance</li> <li>14. Simulation I.: round table talks</li> <li>15. Simulation II.: round table talks</li> </ol>
Compulsory and recommended reading materials	<p><b>Compulsory reading materials:</b> John Elster (ed): The Round Table Talks and the Breakdown of Communism. Chicago, Chicago University Press, 1996. David Stark, László Bruszt (eds): Postsocialist Pathways. Cambridge, Cambridge University Press, 1998. Gergely András (ed): The Hungarian state. Thousand years in Europe. Budapest. Korona.</p> <p><b>Supplementary reading materials:</b> András Körösenyi: Government and Politics in Hungary. Budapest, Osiris, 1999. Alen Renwick: Why Hungary and Poland differed in 1989: the role of medium-term frames in explaining the outcomes of democratic transition. In: Democratization, vol. 13, issue 1, 2006. 36-57.</p>
Assessment methods and criteria	Regular and active class participation is required, final oral exam (five scale rating)

Grading	Class participation, student presentation, simulation, final oral exam
Office hours/contact details	Dr. Fanni Tanács - Mandák Wednesday 3.00 pm-4.00. pm Dr. Zsuzsanna Peres Tuesday 1.00 pm. - 3. pm.