**V4 countries and their role in Europe and around the globe**

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**Brief description**

The Visegrad cooperation’s origins are falling back to the 14th century. However, the V4 countries (Hungary, Poland, Slovakia and the Czech Republic) have founded Central Europe’s first intergovernmental organization in the beginnings of the 90s. Although the four EU member-states do have common interests, we are witnessing divergence in their cooperation as well.

The course seeks to describe the concept of Central Europe and the character of the ‘semi-periphery’ and analyzes the V4 actions in the intra- and international and the European ambient as well. During the semester, students are going to analyze the origins of the cooperation, the V4 and its members’ activity in the European and the global framework as well.

**Course requirements**

1. attendance
2. reading and homework assignments;
3. participation in class discussion
4. student presentation (1 for each student) – scheduled at any class of the semester
5. A 5-page essay about a chosen topic of the semester
6. in-class exam at the end of the semester

**Weekly schedule**

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| **week** | **topics** | **additional readings** |
|  | Introduction: basic concepts: concept of Central Europe, core - semi-periphery - periphery, V4, Visegrád | Timothy Garton Ash (2006): Does Central Europe exist? in Andrzej Jagodziński (ed.) (2006): The Visegrad Group – A Central European Constellation, Bratislava: International Visegrad Fund, 2006 <http://www.visegradgroup.eu/the-visegrad-book/visegradbook>  Timothy Garton Ash (2006): The puzzle of Central Europe? in Andrzej Jagodziński (ed.) (2006): The Visegrad Group – A Central European Constellation, Bratislava: International Visegrad Fund, 2006 <http://www.visegradgroup.eu/the-visegrad-book/visegradbook> |
|  | Why together?: reasons to join; Polish, Czech, Hungarian and Slovakian motivations; external pressure | Andrzej Jagodziński (ed.) (2006): The Visegrad Group – A Central European Constellation, Bratislava: International Visegrad Fund, 2006 <http://www.visegradgroup.eu/the-visegrad-book/visegradbook>  Oľga Gyárfášová, Grigorij Mesežnikov (2016): 25 Years of the V4 as Seen by the Public, Institute for Public Affairs, Bratislava 2016, <http://www.visegradgroup.eu/documents/other-articles/key-findings25-years-of-160601-1> |
|  | Intra-V4 relations, foreign policy traditions | Kořan, Michal (2010) ‘The Visegrad Cooperation, Poland, Slovakia and Austria in the Czech Foreign Policy’, in Michal Kořan, ed., Czech Foreign Policy in 2007–2009: Analysis, 115–48, Prague: Institute of International Relations. <http://www.dokumenty-iir.cz/CZP/2017%20%282015%20EN%29/Kapitola%206%20V4%20a%20Rakousko.pdf> |
|  | V4 in the EU; joint actions, shared interest | Béla Greskovits (2010): Central Europe in Kenneth Dyson, Angelos Sepos (2010): Which Europe? The Politics of Differentiated Integration, Palgrave Macmillan, London, 2010, ISBN 978-1-349-36358-2 ISBN 978-0-230-28952-9 (eBook) DOI 10.1057/9780230289529 pp.142-155 |
|  | Polish EU policy; interests, attitudes and EU policy | Christian Schweiger (2014) Poland, Variable Geometry and the Enlarged European Union, Europe-Asia Studies, 66:3, 394-420, DOI: 10.1080/09668136.2013.869898 |
|  | Czech EU policy; interests, attitudes and EU policy | Petr Kaniok & Robert Majer (2016) Small Countries in the EU: The CzechRepublic Case, Journal of Contemporary Central and Eastern Europe, 24:1, 17-35 |
|  | Slovakian EU policy; interests, attitudes and EU policy | Darina Malová & Branislav Dolný (2016): Economy and Democracy in Slovakia during the Crisis: From a Laggard to the EU Core, Problems of Post-Communism, DOI: 10.1080/10758216.2016.1200952 |
|  | Hungarian EU policy; interests, attitudes and EU policy | Beáta Huszka (2017) Eurosceptic yet pro-enlargement: the paradoxes of Hungary’s EU policy, Southeast European and Black Sea Studies, 17:4, 591-609, DOI: 10.1080/14683857.2017.1367462  Brigid Fowler (2004) Hungary: Unpicking the Permissive Consensus , West European Politics, 27:4, 624-651, DOI: 10.1080/0140238042000249894 |
|  | V4 in the world; geopolitical situation, global actions | Tamás Magyarics (2015): An Unsentimental Look at the Geopolitics of Central Europe, Part 1, Hungarian Review, Volume VI., No. 2., 17 March 2015  Tamás Magyarics (2015): An Unsentimental Look at the Geopolitics of Central Europe, Part 2, Volume VI., No. 3., 14 May 2015 |
|  | V4 and Russia; energy dependency, political ties | Maria Raquel Freire (2012): Russia at the Borders of Central Europe: Changing Dynamics in Foreign Policy Relations in Zlatko Šabič, Petr Drulák(eds.) (2012): Regional and International Relations of Central Europe, Palgrave Macmillan, London, 2012, ISBN 978-1-349-34805-3 ISBN 978-1-137-28345-0 (eBook), DOI 10.1057/9781137283450 pp. 125-144  Deák András. EU-Russia policies and the Visegrad Group. Foreign Policy Review. 2005, vol. 3, no. 1–2, pp. 142–167. |
|  | V4 and the US; atlantic relations, political, economic and defense cooperation | Csizmazia, Gábor Central and Eastern Europe in U.S. Foreign and Security Policy In: Maciej, Marszalek; Waldemar, Kitler (szerk.) Współczesne Wyzwania dla Podmiotow Euroatlantyckiego Środowiska Bezpieczenstwa Varsó, Lengyelország : Akademia Obrony Narodowej, (2015) pp. 44-71. ,  Gábor Csizmazia (2017): Decisive Change or Determined Continuity? The Trump Administration’s Foreign and Security Policy Viewed from Central and Eastern Europe in Academic and Applied Research in Military and Public Management Science Volume 16 Issue 3 2017 ISSN 2498-5392 <https://www.uni-nke.hu/document/uni-nke-hu/AARMS_2017_03.pdf>  Remarks By Vice President Biden On America Central Europe And A Partnership for the 21st Century <https://obamawhitehouse.archives.gov/the-press-office/remarks-vice-president-biden-america-central-europe-and-a-partnership-21st-century> |
|  | V4 and China; the new economic superpower | Tamas Matura (2019): China–CEE Trade, Investment and Politics, Europe-Asia Studies, DOI: 10.1080/09668136.2019.1571166  Ewa Cieślik (2019) Towards more (un)balanced trade. Production linkages between China and the Visegrad countries: country-level and sector-level analysis, European Planning Studies, 27:8, 1523-1541, DOI: 10.1080/09654313.2019.1589424 |
| In-class written exam at the end of the semester. | | |

**Text book**

Zlatko Šabič, Petr Drulák(eds.) (2012): Regional and International Relations of Central Europe, Palgrave Macmillan, London, 2012, ISBN 978-1-349-34805-3 ISBN 978-1-137-28345-0 (eBook), DOI 10.1057/9781137283450 pp. 125-144

Andrew Cottey (1995): East-Central Europe after the Cold War Poland, the Czech Republic, Slovakia and Hungary in Search of Security, Palgrave Macmillan, London, ISBN 0-333-63929-4

**Assessment**

Grading criteria

* attendance (15%)
* reading and homework assignments (20%)
* participation in class discussion (10%)
* student presentation (10%)
* 5-page long essay (20%)
* in-class written exam (25%)