The course is designed to show an extensive field research performed during the last ten years, integrating scientific interests in sociology, economics and political science. It does not focus on a given theoretical approach, instead, it takes various fields of analysis and demonstrates a necessary conceptualisation for an effective field study. Students engaging themselves in the course readings and discussions will have an opportunity to see how the empirical studies may affect previously dominating stereotypes, existing not only in a common sense perspective, but often guiding some scientific investigations. The bulk of required readings deals with a profound systemic change that became a challenge not only to the transforming societies, but also to researchers themselves, creating thus, as one of the author put it, ‘Lessons for the Social Sciences’.

The course has a format of seminar which is an active participation in the discussions based on selected readings. Students will also prepare oral presentations including both summary and critics of a given paper. The topic of final essay (of about 3000 words) be discussed with the instructor. The course follows the “Economy and Society I”.

Its major objective is to provide students with an overview of existing approaches at the field of sociological and political studies related to the economic performance, and discuss at the class meetings their assumptions, theoretical framework, and results in confrontation with the field studies; their strong point, as well as their shortcomings.

It is expected that at the end of the course students will be able to critically assess the empirical studies that combine economic, sociological and political science perspective. Students are also expected to be able to set a theoretical framework for an empirical research in a given field.

Topics and Readings:

1. Economic Development and Democracy

Readings:
+ B. Greskovits, The Political Impact of the Transformational Recession, mimeo, 1996

2. Populism and Compensation

Readings:
+ B. Greskovits: The Political Economy of Protest and Patience: East Europe and Latin American Transformations Compared, CEU Press, forthcoming,
  Chapter 6: Re-thinking Populism Under Post-Communism,
  Chapter 8: Compensation as Government Tactics.
  Chapter 10: Conclusions: Crisis-Proof, Poor Democracies.

3. The School: ‘Variety of Capitalism’ in Contemporary Political Thought
4. Reshaping the State

Readings:
- M. Line, Redefining the Relation between the State and Economy: Privatization and Depolitization in Russian Regions, CERGE, International PhD Workshop, September 1996

5. Special Cases of State Involvement - Misleading Comparisons

Readings:
+ B. Hancke: Revising the French Model: Coordination and restructuring in French industry in the 1980s, WZB, 2000.

6. Corruption

Readings:
- A. Doing, S. Riley, Corruptions and Anti-Corruption Strategies, in Corruption and Integrity Improvement, UNDP/OECD
- D. Kaufmann, Revisiting Anti-Corruption Strategies, in Corruption and Integrity Improvement, UNDP/OECD
- J. Wedel, Private and Public: Misleading Categories, manuscript.

7. Elites in Economic Performance and the Role of Civil Society
Readings:
- M. H. Khan, The Role of Civil Society and Patron-Client Networks, in Corruption and Integrity Improvement, UNDP/OECD

8. Civil Society: Theory and ‘Inventory’

Readings:
+ Daria Łucka, Communitarian Concept of Civil Society, Polish Sociological Review, No 4, 2002: 377-396


Readings:
- T. Bossert and C Włodarczyk, Unpredictable Politics: Policy Process of Health Reform in Poland, mimeo, January 2000

10. Sensitive Issues – Education and Information

Readings:
11. Path-Dependence Approach and Its Limits

Readings:
+ D. Moss, ‘Path Dependence’: Career and Application, paper prepared for IFiS seminar, April 1997

12. ‘Europeanisation’ and European Governance

Readings:
  -Introduction pp. 1-12
  -Part I pp. 13-42