

## **Political Aspects of EU Widening**

Theme/Topic:	Theoretical, political and economic aspects of transition in Eastern Europe
Expert:	Prof. Francois Bafoil, CERI Paris
Character:	optional
ECTS-Credits:	3 Credit-points
Teaching methods:	lecture, seminar and discussion at the presence workshop
Assessment methods:	final exam at the end of the term, assignments, active participation in workshop and forum discussion
Language:	English

### Objective and course content:

The purpose of this course is to explain the different political, economic and social changes between 1989 and 2004 in Eastern Europe after the collapse of communism. This process is called 'Transition'. In order to explain these changes this course applies two theories: neo-institutionalism and Europeanisation. They serve as a tool in order to structure the transition period and to interpret and understand it. This course does not take into account foreign policies considering that foreign policies of the Eastern countries were concentrated on one single object: integration.

This course is divided into four parts. Part one gives a historical overview of the events before and after 1989. Thereafter the theoretical framework will be developed and evaluated. Part three applies the historical and theoretical framework on the political transition in Eastern European countries. The last section focuses on economic transition.

### Bibliographical advice and links:

- <http://europa.eu.int/comm/enlargement>

Site of the European Commission on the enlargement process, gives an overview on current situation and processes of transformation in the CEE countries.

- (<http://www.mehr-europa.de> 'more Europe' is an information site in German by the European COM and European Parliament on the Eastern Enlargement)

- <http://www.iep-berlin.de/index.php?id=82>, the successor of the Enlargement /agenda 2000 watch issued by the Institute for European Politics in Berlin.