

RUS4501 - Russian Research Seminar

Instructor: Dr. Ingrid Kleespies

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Office Hours: T, W 2-3pm & by appointment

Office: 328 Pugh Hall

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://ufl.zoom.us/j/4778777641>



Course Description

This is a multi-part course that is designed to introduce Russian majors and minors to some of the more significant trends and ideas in Russian literary, cultural, and historical studies. Students will develop their ability to understand and produce critical scholarly argument in a variety of formats, including class discussion, formal presentation, and a written research project. The main portion of the course will be devoted to readings and discussion in English in literary and cultural studies, with particular emphasis on the notion of Russian identity as between east and west. We will consider several key Soviet/Russian cultural institutions and patterns, such as the *kommunalka*, nostalgia for the Communist past, and gender issues. We will also examine some examples of contemporary Russian-American fiction for the window it provides into the Russian experience of the post-Soviet world. A second portion of the course will be devoted to selected readings/discussion in Russian on topics of Russian history. The final section of the course will consist of student research presentations. One class meeting will be devoted to a consideration of various career paths for which a specialization in Russian studies is useful.

Texts

1. *Advanced Russian through History*. Benjamin Rifkin, Olga Kagan, and Anna Yatsenko, eds. New Haven; Yale UP, 2007.
2. *A Hero of Our Time*. Mikhail Lermontov. Trans. Natasha Randall. Penguin Classics, 2009.
3. *Pnin*. Vladimir Nabokov. New York; Vintage International, 1989.

4. All additional required texts are located on Canvas.

Course Requirements

Attendance and Participation (14%). Attendance (5%) is mandatory and is included in your participation grade. Participation (9%) in this class is a significant part of your grade. Please come to class having completed the assigned reading and prepared to take part in discussion. Failure to participate at least once per class meeting will be noted and will affect your grade. If you miss more than 4 classes, please drop this course. (<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>)

Homework (16%). Our readings in *Advanced Russian through History* will be accompanied by short Russian language exercises that are designed to increase your reading, speaking, and writing skills. You will be expected to complete the pre-reading exercises and reading before class, to participate in small group and pair work in class, and to complete the post-reading exercises after class, due the following Friday. In addition to the textbook exercises, two short response papers (1-2pp) will be assigned to accompany the in-class film screenings.

Presentation (30%). You will be expected to give a formal 10-15 minute presentation on the subject of your original research. In addition to teaching the class about something we do not know, your presentation is an excellent opportunity for you to receive feedback on your project. Presentations will be peer reviewed.

Research paper (40%). Each student is required to write an independent research paper of 10-12pp. on a subject related to Russian language, literature, and/or culture. Topic proposals are due October 5 and a paper outline (1-2pp) is due November 18. We will attend a virtual research workshop with a UF librarian on October 12 and will workshop paper topics in class on November 18. Papers are due in class and via turnitin.com by 11:45am on Dec.9.

Grading Scale

A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D	D-	E
94-100	90-93	87-89	84-86	80-83	77-79	74-76	70-73	67-69	64-66	60-63	0-59

*A C- will not be a qualifying grade for major, minor, Gen Ed, Gordon Rule or Basic College Distribution Credit. **Grading Policy:** www.registrar.ufl.edu/catalog/policies/regulationgrades.html.

Course Policies

Class Demeanor: Students are expected to arrive to class on time and behave in a manner that is respectful to the instructor and to fellow students. Please avoid the use of cell phones and restrict eating to outside of the classroom. Opinions held by other students should be respected in discussion, and conversations that do not contribute to the discussion should be held at minimum, if at all.

Attending a Zoom class:

Do not share your Zoom classroom link or password with others.

-Be sure to arrive/zoom in on time or a few minutes early if possible. Attendance will be taken at the start of each class session, and tardiness will be marked.

-Your webcam must remain on throughout the class hour. If you have a reason to keep your webcam off, please communicate that reason with me or through the Dean of Students Office. *Our class sessions will **NOT** be audio-visually recorded.*

Webcam and Audio Policies:

- Set up and mount the webcam video at the level of your eyes to show your full face.
- Test the audio of your webcam.
- During class session, set yourself on mute unless you want to speak or you are called upon.
- If you want to speak, you can raise your hand (click the “raise hand” button at the center bottom of your screen) and wait to be called upon.
- When you are assigned to a breakout room, enable your webcam and microphone so that your partners may hear and see who they are working with.

- Dress appropriately for class. Even though you may be alone at home your professor and classmates can see you.
- Find a quiet indoor space with stable internet connection to attend class. The study space does not need to be a separate room; a chair and desk/table set for school work in a quiet corner should be sufficient. The space should be conducive to work, including pair/group work. Make sure you are uninterrupted by other household members, including pets.
- Your professor and classmates can also see what is behind you, so be aware of your surroundings. Make sure the background is not distracting or something you would not want your classmates to see. You may use a virtual background if your device supports this feature. Be sure to avoid using backgrounds that may contain offensive images and language.
- Follow the same rules of respectful interaction as you would in a face-to-face course. This is especially important in a remote situation, where multiple voices attempting to speak at once result in no one being heard.
- Alert your instructor as soon as possible if you experience technical difficulties. A “chat” can be sent at any moment during a Zoom session if, for example, you find that your webcam or microphone are not functioning properly.
- Refrain from eating during the class hour, as you would in a face-to-face course.

For any technical difficulties, please contact the UF Computing Help Desk (352-392-4357). <https://elearning.ufl.edu/media/elearningufl.edu/zoom/How-to-Join-a-Meeting.pdf>.

**On Canvas, please see the Netiquette Guide for Online Courses for remote learning course policies for Fall 2020.*

University Honesty Policy: Plagiarism will not be tolerated. UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge which states, “We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the

Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: "On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment." The Honor Code (<https://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conducthonor-code/>) specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. Furthermore, you are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor.

Accommodations: Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office. The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the Instructor when requesting accommodation. For more information see <https://drc.dso.ufl.edu/>.

Missed coursework may be made up, pending discussion with instructor.

Resources Available for Students

Health and Wellness

- U Matter, We Care: umatter@ufl.edu; 392-1575
- Counseling & Wellness Ctr.: <http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc/Default.aspx> 392-1575
- Sexual Assault Recovery Services (SARS): Student Health Care Center; 392-1161
- University Police Dept.: <http://www.police.ufl.edu/>; 392-1111 (911 for emergencies)

Academic Resources

- E-learning technical support: Learningsupport@ufl.edu; <https://lss.at.ufl.edu/help.shtml>; 352-392-4357 (opt. 2)
- Career Resource Center: Reitz Union; <http://www.crc.ufl.edu/>; 392-1601
- Library Support: <http://cms.uflib.ufl.edu/ask>
- Teaching Center: Broward Hall; 392-2010 or 392-6420
- Writing Studio: 302 Tigert Hall; <http://writing.ufl.edu/writing-studio/>; 846-1138

COURSE SCHEDULE

<u>Date</u>	<u>In Class</u>	<u>Reading Assignment for Next Class</u>
Aug. 31	Introduction: Myths and Narratives, History and Identity	<i>Orientalism</i> pp.1-28; <i>Inventing Eastern Europe</i> pp. 89-143
Sep. 2	“Orientalism:” Russia’s Orient/ Russia-as-Orient	ARH: pp. xi-xiv, Chap.2 (pp.9-13); Pre-Reading ex.1-5; Listen to lecture on CD
Sep. 4	ARH: Татаро- Монгольское иго	<i>A Hero of Our Time</i> 1: “Preface,” “Bela”
Sep. 7	NO CLASS (Labor Day)	<i>A Hero of Our Time</i> 1: “Preface,” “Bela”
Sep. 9	<i>A Hero of Our Time</i> and Orientalism	ARH: Chap.9 (pp.51-56); Pre- Reading ex. 1-5, Lecture on CD
Sep.11	ARH: Декабристы	<i>Hero</i> : “Maxim Maximych,” “Pechorin’s Journal,” “Taman;” “The Uncanny Frontier of Russian Identity,” pp.65-79
Sep. 14	<i>A Hero of Our Time</i> ; Reader-Response Theory; “The Uncanny Frontier...”	“The Decembrist in Daily Life,” pp. 95-149
Sep. 16	Self-Fashioning (жизнь-творчество)	ARH: Chap.7 (pp.41-44); Pre- Reading ex.1-5, Lecture on CD
Sep. 18	ARH: Екатерина II Формирование и развитие Российской империи	“The Queen of Spades,” pp.227-260
Sep. 21	The Society Tale	“Art as Device,” pp.1-14; Excerpts from <i>War and Peace</i>
Sep. 23	Russian Formalism	ARH: Chap.8 (pp.45-49); Pre-

(*War and Peace* excerpts) Reading ex.1-5, Lecture on CD

Sep. 25	ARH: Александр I и победа над Наполеоном	From <i>Nationalism: Five Roads to Modernity</i> , pp.191-273
Sept. 28	Narratives of National Identity: <i>Ressentiment</i>	From <i>Natasha's Dance</i> , pp. 358-429; Blok's "Scythians"
Sep. 30	Narratives of National Identity: Greenfeld & Figes	ARH: Chap.32 (pp.197-201); Pre-Reading ex.1-5, Lecture on CD
Oct. 2	ARH: История Российского кино 1896-2004	"A Prisoner in the Caucasus" (Pushkin, Tolstoy); Paper Topic Proposals due 10/5
Oct. 5	«Кавказский пленник» *Topic Proposals due	Response to Film; "A Prisoner in the Caucasus"
Oct. 7	«Кавказский пленник»	Response to Film "A Prisoner in the Caucasus"
Oct. 9	Discussion: "Prisoner of the Mountains"	"Good Readers and Good Writers;" <i>Pnin</i> , pp.7-58; Prepare research questions
Oct. 12	Research Workshop [with Helene Huet]	"Good Readers and Good Writers;" <i>Pnin</i> , pp.7-58;
Oct. 14	Nabokov as Émigré Writer: <i>Pnin</i> 1	ARH: Chap.16 (pp.93-98); Pre-Reading ex.1-5, Lecture on CD
Oct. 16	ARH: Русский авангард в литературе, живописи и музыке.	<i>Pnin</i> , pp.59-109
Oct. 19	Nabokov as Formalist: <i>Pnin</i> 2	<i>Pnin</i> , pp.109-191

Oct. 21	<i>Prin 3, Conclusion</i>	_____
Oct. 23	Careers with Russian	Introduction to "Russian Ark"
Oct. 26	"Русский ковчег"	Response to Film
Oct. 28	"Русский ковчег"	Response to Film
Oct. 30	Discussion: "Русский ковчег"	Interview with Victoria Gamburg, Director, "Moscow's Sex and the City" [PBS/ Frontline]; Excerpt from <i>Women in Russia</i>
Nov.2	Gender and the New Russian City	"The End of History"
Nov. 4	The End of History? Fukuyama and 1989	From <i>Broccoli and Other Tales of Food and Love</i> ; NYT Excerpts; "Locations of Culture"
Nov.6	The Contemporary Russian/American Writer Locations of Culture	Barthes, <i>Mythologies</i> , selections, pp.11-99
Nov. 9	Cultural Mythologies	"Living in Common Places: The Communal Apartment," pp. 121-67; Living space websites
Nov. 11	NO CLASS (Veterans' Day)	See above
Nov. 13	Scholarly Text as Memoir; Cultural Mythologies	"The Villas of the 'New Russians,'" pp.175-201; Final Paper Outline due 11/18
Nov. 16	Mythologies: Architecture (kommunalka, post-perestroika, Khrushcheby)	Prepare for paper workshop Final Paper Outline due 11/18
Nov. 18	Final Paper Workshop *Final Paper Outline Due	Prepare Presentation + Paper

Nov. 20	Student Presentations	Prepare Presentation + Paper
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Nov. 23	Student Presentations	Prepare Presentation + Paper
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Nov. 25	NO CLASS (Thanksgiving)	Prepare Presentation + Paper
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Nov. 27	NO CLASS (Thanksgiving)	Prepare Presentation + Paper
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Nov. 30	Student Presentations	Prepare Presentation + Paper
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Dec. 2	Student Presentations	Prepare Presentation + Paper
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Dec. 4	Student Presentations	Prepare Final Paper
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Dec. 7	Writing Day/Consultations	Prepare Final Paper
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Dec. 9	FINAL PAPER DUE	
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