

RUS4501 - Russian Research Seminar

Instructor: Dr. Ingrid Kleespies

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

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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 literary and cultural studies (in English), 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.

FACE MASKS ARE EXPECTED. In light of recent CDC recommendations, face coverings are expected in all UF facilities, even if you are vaccinated.

*In-Person Office Hours: **MASK REQUIRED** or Zoom: <https://ufl.zoom.us/j/4778777641>.

*Office hours may be subject to change due to scheduling conflicts, please check announcements each week for the updated weekly schedule.

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 (16%). 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 (14%). 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 are expected to complete the 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 4 and a paper outline (1-2pp) is due November 12. We will attend a virtual research workshop with a UF librarian on October 6 and will workshop paper topics in class on November 12. Papers are due in class and via turnitin.com by 11:45am on Dec.8.

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.

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 assignments may be made up with provision of appropriate documentation and/or for partial credit, 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. 23	Introduction: Myths and Narratives, History and Identity	<i>Orientalism</i> pp.1-28; [Optional: <i>Inventing Eastern Europe</i> pp. 89-143].
Aug. 25	“Orientalism:” Russia’s Orient/ Russia-as-Orient	ARH: pp. xi-xiv, Chap.2 (pp.9-13).
Aug. 27	ARH: Татаро- Монгольское иго	<i>A Hero of Our Time</i> 1: “Preface;” “Bela.”
Aug. 30	<i>A Hero of Our Time</i> and Orientalism	<i>Hero</i> 2: “Maxim Maximych;” “Pechorin’s Journal;” “Taman;” “The Uncanny Frontier of Russian Identity,” pp.65-79.
Sep.1	<i>A Hero of Our Time</i> ; Reader-Response Theory; “The Uncanny Frontier...”	ARH: Chap.9 (pp.51-56).
Sep. 3	ARH: Декабристы	“The Decembrist in Daily Life,” pp. 95-149.
Sep. 6	NO CLASS (Labor Day)	“The Decembrist in Daily Life,” pp. 95-149.
Sep. 8	Self-Fashioning (жизнь-творчество)	ARH: Chap.7 (pp.41-44).
Sep. 10	ARH: Екатерина II Формирование и развитие Российской империи	“The Queen of Spades,” pp.227-260.
Sep. 13	The Society Tale	“Art as Device,” pp.1-14; Excerpts from <i>War and Peace</i> .
Sep. 15	Russian Formalism	ARH: Chap.8 (pp.45-49).

Sep. 17	ARH: Александр I и победа над Наполеоном	From <i>Nationalism: Five Roads to Modernity</i> , pp.191-273.
Sept. 20	Narratives of National Identity: <i>Ressentiment</i>	From <i>Natasha's Dance</i> , pp. 358-429; Blok's "Scythians."
Sep. 22	Narratives of National Identity: Greenfeld vs. Figes	ARH: Chap.32 (pp.197-201).
Sep. 24	ARH: История Российского Кино, 1896-2004	"A Prisoner in the Caucasus," (Pushkin and Tolstoy versions).
Sep. 27	Film: «Кавказский пленник»	Response Paper #1: "A Prisoner in the Caucasus," due 10/1.
Sep. 29	Film: «Кавказский пленник»	Response Paper #1: "A Prisoner in the Caucasus," due 10/1.
Oct. 1	Discussion: "Prisoner of the Mountains"	"Good Readers and Good Writers;" <i>Pnin</i> , pp.7-58; Paper Topic Proposals due 10/4.
Oct. 4	Nabokov as Émigré Writer: <i>Pnin</i> 1 *Topic Proposals due	Prepare research questions.
Oct. 6	Research Workshop [with Helene Huet]	<i>Pnin</i> , pp.59-109.
Oct. 8	NO CLASS (Homecoming)	<i>Pnin</i> , pp.59-109.
Oct. 11	Nabokov as Formalist: <i>Pnin</i> 2	<i>Pnin</i> , pp.109-191.
Oct. 13	<i>Pnin</i> 3, Conclusion	_____

Oct. 15	Careers with Russian	Introduction to "Russian Ark"
Oct. 18	Film: "Русский ковчег"	Response Paper #2: "Russian Ark," due 10/22.
Oct. 20	Film: "Русский ковчег"	Response Paper #2: "Russian Ark," due 10/22.
Oct. 22	Discussion: "Русский ковчег"	Interview with Victoria Gamburg, Director, "Moscow's Sex and the City" [PBS/ Frontline]; Excerpt from <i>Women in Russia</i>
Oct. 25	Gender and the New Russian City	Fukuyama, "The End of History."
Oct. 27	The End of History? Fukuyama and 1989	ARH: Chap.16 (pp.93-98).
Oct. 29	ARH: Русский авангард в литературе, живописи и музыке.	From <i>Broccoli and Other Tales of Food and Love</i> ; NYT Excerpts; "Locations of Culture"
Nov.1	The Contemporary Russian/American Writer Locations of Culture	Barthes, <i>Mythologies</i> , selections, pp.11-99.
Nov. 3	Cultural Mythologies	ARH: Chap.23 (pp.139-45).
Nov. 5	ARH: Советская культура (1917-1953)	Boym, "Living in Common Places: The Communal Apartment," pp. 121-67; Utekhin, Kommunalka Virtual Museum.
Nov. 8	Scholarly Text as Memoir; Cultural Mythologies	"The Villas of the 'New Russians,'" pp.175-201; Final Paper Outline due 11/12.
Nov. 10	Mythologies: Architecture (kommunalka, post-perestroika, Khrushcheby)	Prepare for paper workshop; Final Paper Outline due 11/12.

Nov. 12 **Final Paper Workshop** Prepare Presentation + Paper.
 ***Final Paper Outline Due**

Nov. 15 **NO CLASS** Prepare Presentation + Paper.
 Writing Day/Consultations

Nov. 17 Student Presentations 1 Prepare Presentation + Paper.

Nov. 19 **NO CLASS** Prepare Presentation + Paper.
 (ASEEES Conference)

Nov. 22-26 **NO CLASS** Prepare Presentation + Paper.
 (Thanksgiving)

Nov. 29 Student Presentations 2 Prepare Presentation + Paper.

Dec. 1 Student Presentations 3 Prepare Presentation + Paper

Dec. 3 Student Presentations 4 Prepare Final Paper.

Dec. 6 **NO CLASS:** Prepare Final Paper.
 Writing Day/Consultations

Dec. 8 **FINAL PAPER DUE**