

## RUS4501 - Russian Research Seminar

**Instructor:** Dr. Ingrid Kleespies

**Office Hours:** T, W 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 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 and E-Reserves.

## Course Requirements

**Attendance and Participation (10%).** Attendance (5%) is mandatory and is included in your participation grade. Participation (5%) 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>)

**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.

**Homework (20%).** 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.

**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 3 and a paper outline (1-2pp) is due November 16. We will make a trip to the library for a research workshop with the Slavic librarian on October 8 and will workshop paper topics in class on November 16. Papers are due in class and via turnitin.com by 10:40am on Dec.5.

### 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](http://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 coursework may be made up, pending discussion with instructor.

## **Resources Available for Students**

### Health and Wellness

- U Matter, We Care: [umatter@ufl.edu](mailto: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](mailto: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. 22	Introduction: Myths and Narratives, History and Identity	ARH: pp. xi-xiv, Chap.2 (pp.9-13); Pre-Reading ex.1-5; Listen to lecture on CD
Aug. 24	ARH: Татаро- Монгольское иго	<i>Orientalism</i> pp.1-28; <i>Inventing Eastern Europe</i> pp. 89-143
Aug. 27	“Orientalism:” Russia’s Orient/ Russia-as-Orient	<i>A Hero of Our Time</i> 1: “Preface,” “Bela”
Aug. 29	<i>A Hero of Our Time</i> and Orientalism	ARH: Chap.9 (pp.51-56); Pre- Reading ex. 1-5, Lecture on CD
Aug.31	ARH: Декабристы	<i>Hero</i> : “Maxim Maximych,” “Pechorin’s Journal,” “Taman.” “The Reading Process...;” pp.956-68
Sept. 3	<b>NO CLASS</b> (Labor Day)	<i>See above</i>
Sept. 5	<i>A Hero of Our Time</i> and Reader-Response Theory	ARH: Chap.7 (pp.41-44); Pre- Reading ex.1-5, Lecture on CD
Sept. 7	ARH: Екатерина II Формирование и развитие Российской империи	“The Decembrist in Daily Life,” pp. 95-149
Sept. 10	Self-Fashioning (жизнь-творчество)	“The Queen of Spades,” pp.227-260
Sept. 12	The Society Tale	ARH: Chap.8 (pp.45-49); Pre- Reading ex.1-5, Lecture on CD

Sept. 14	ARH: Александр I и победа над Наполеоном	"Art as Device," pp.1-14; Excerpts from <i>War and Peace</i>
Sept.17	Russian Formalism ( <i>War and Peace</i> excerpts)	From <i>Nationalism: Five Roads to Modernity</i> , pp.191-273
Sept. 19	Narratives of National Identity: <i>Ressentiment</i>	ARH: Chap.32 (pp.197-201); Pre-Reading ex.1-5, Lecture on CD
Sept. 21	ARH: История Российского кино 1896-2004	From <i>Natasha's Dance</i> , pp. 358-429; Blok's "Scythians"
Sept. 24	Narratives of National Identity: Greenfeld & Figes	"A Prisoner in the Caucasus" (Pushkin, Tolstoy)
Sept. 26	«Кавказский пленник»	Response to Film; "A Prisoner in the Caucasus"
Sept. 28	«Кавказский пленник»	Response to Film "A Prisoner in the Caucasus"
Oct. 1	Discussion: "Prisoner of the Mountains"	"Good Readers and Good Writers;" <i>Pnin</i> , pp.7-58; <b>Paper Topic Proposals due 10/3</b>
Oct. 3	Nabokov as Émigré Writer: <i>Pnin</i> 1 <b>*Topic Proposals due</b>	ARH: Chap.16 (pp.93-98); Pre-Reading ex.1-5, Lecture on CD;
Oct. 5	ARH: Русский авангард в литературе, живописи и музыке.	<i>Pnin</i> , pp.59-109; Prepare research questions
Oct. 8	<b>Research Workshop</b> Library West 211	<i>Pnin</i> , pp.59-109
Oct. 10	Nabokov as Formalist <i>Pnin</i> 2	<i>Pnin</i> , pp.109-191
Oct. 12	<b>NO CLASS</b>	<i>Pnin</i> , pp.109-191

Oct. 15	<i>Prin 3</i> , Conclusion	"The End of History"
Oct. 17	The End of History? Fukuyama and 1989	From <i>Broccoli and Other Tales of Food and Love</i> ; <i>NYT</i> Excerpts; "Locations of Culture"
Oct. 19	The Contemporary Russian/American Writer   Locations of Culture	_____
Oct. 22	Careers with Russian	Introduction to "Russian Ark"
Oct. 24	"Русский ковчег"	Response to Film
Oct. 26	"Русский ковчег"	Response to Film
Oct. 29	Discussion: "Русский ковчег"	Interview with Victoria Gamburg, Director, "Moscow's Sex and the City" [PBS/ Frontline]; Excerpt from <i>Women in Russia</i>
Oct. 31	Gender and the New Russian City	Barthes, <i>Mythologies</i> , selections, pp.11-99
Nov. 2	<b>NO CLASS</b> (Homecoming)	See above
Nov. 5	Cultural Mythologies	"Living in Common Places: The Communal Apartment," pp. 121-67 Living space websites;
Nov. 7	Scholarly Text as Memoir; Cultural Mythologies	ARH: Chap.23 (pp.139-45); Pre-Reading ex.1-5, Lecture on CD
Nov. 9	ARH: Советская культура (1917-1953)	"The Villas of the 'New Russians,'" pp.175-201; <b>Final Paper Outline due 11/16</b>
Nov. 12	<b>NO CLASS</b> (Veterans Day)	See above

Nov. 14	Mythologies: Architecture (kommunalka, post- perestroika, Khrushcheby)	Prepare for paper workshop <b>Final Paper Outline due 11/16</b>
Nov. 16	Final Paper Workshop <b>Final Paper Outline Due</b>	Prepare Presentation + Paper
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Nov. 19	Student Presentations	Prepare Presentation + Paper
Nov. 21	<b>NO CLASS</b> (Thanksgiving)	Prepare Presentation + Paper
Nov. 23	<b>NO CLASS</b> (Thanksgiving)	Prepare Presentation + Paper
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Nov. 26	Student Presentations	Prepare Presentation + Paper
Nov. 28	Student Presentations	Prepare Presentation + Paper
Nov. 30	Student Presentations	Prepare Final Paper
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Dec. 3	Writing Consultations	Prepare Final Paper
Dec. 5	<b>FINAL PAPER DUE</b>	