

RUS4501 - Russian Research Seminar

Instructor: Dr. Ingrid Kleespies

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Office Hours: T, W 1:00-2:00pm & by appointment

Office: 328 Pugh Hall



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 they provide 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. *Invitation of a Friend*. Vladimir Nabokov. New York; Vintage International, 1989.
4. All additional required texts are located on **E-Reserves**: <https://ares.uflib.ufl.edu/>

Course Requirements and Grading Policy

Attendance and Participation (30%). Attendance (10%) is mandatory and is included in your participation grade. Participation (20%) 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 (25%). 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 (15%). 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 (30%). 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 14. We will make a trip to the library for a research workshop with the Slavic librarian in October and will workshop paper topics in class on November 14. Papers are due in class and via turnitin.com on Dec.7.

Plagiarism will not be tolerated. Any example of academic dishonesty will be subject to university rules and regulations: www.registrar.ufl.edu/catalog/policies/students.html.

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

Disability Policy: Students requesting classroom accommodation must register with the Dean of Students Office and provide appropriate documentation. www.dso.ufl.edu/drc.

Grading Scale

| A | A- | B+ | B | B- | C+ | C | C- | D+ | D | D- | E |
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| 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.

Honor Code: www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/honorcodes/honorcode.php.

Counseling and Wellness Center: www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc

COURSE SCHEDULE

| <u>Date</u> | <u>In Class</u> | <u>Reading Assignment for Next Class</u> |
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| Aug. 22 | Introduction: Myths and Narratives, History and Identity | <i>Orientalism</i> pp.1-28; <i>Inventing Eastern Europe</i> pp. 89-143 |
| Aug. 24 | “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 |
| Aug. 26 | ARH: Татаро- Монгольское иго | <i>A Hero of Our Time:</i> “Preface,” “Bela” |
| Aug. 29 | <i>A Hero of Our Time</i> and Orientalism | <i>Hero</i> : “Maxim Maximych,” “Pechorin’s Journal,” “Taman.” “The Reading Process...,” pp.956-68; |
| Aug. 31 | <i>A Hero of Our Time</i> and Reader-Response Theory | ARH: Chap.9 (pp.51-56); Pre- Reading ex. 1-5, Lecture on CD |
| Sept. 2 | ARH: Декабристы | “The Decembrist in Daily Life,” pp. 95-149 |
| Sept. 5 | NO CLASS (Labor Day) | “The Decembrist in Daily Life,” pp. 95-149 |
| Sept. 7 | Self-Fashioning (жизнь- творчество) | ARH: Chap.7 (pp.41-44); Pre- Reading ex.1-5, Lecture on CD |
| Sept. 9 | ARH: Екатерина II Формирование и развитие Российской империи | “The Queen of Spades” pp.227-260 |
| Sept. 12 | The Society Tale | "Art as Device," pp.1-14; Excerpts from <i>War and Peace</i> |
| Sept. 14 | Russian Formalism (<i>War and Peace</i> excerpts) | ARH: Chap.8 (pp.45-49); Pre- Reading ex.1-5, Lecture on CD |

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| Sept. 16 | ARH: Александр I и победа над Наполеоном | From <i>Nationalism: Five Roads to Modernity</i> , pp.191-273 |
| Sept. 19 | Narratives of National Identity: <i>Ressentiment</i> | From <i>Natasha's Dance</i> , pp. 358-429; Blok's "Scythians" |
| Sept. 21 | Narratives of National Identity: Greenfeld and Figs | ARH: Chap.32 (pp.197-201); Pre-Reading ex.1-5, Lecture on CD |
| Sept. 23 | ARH: История русского кино 1896-2004 | "A Prisoner in the Caucasus" (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" |
| Sept. 30 | Discussion: "Prisoner of the Mountains" | "Good Readers and Good Writers;" <i>Pnin</i> , pp.7-58 |
| Oct. 3 | Nabokov as Émigré Writer: <i>Pnin</i> | <i>Pnin</i> , pp.59-109 Paper topic proposals due 10/5 |
| Oct. 5 | Nabokov as Formalist: <i>Pnin</i> *Topic Proposals due | ARH: Chap.16 (pp.93-98); Pre-Reading ex.1-5, Lecture on CD; |
| Oct. 7 | ARH: Русский авангард в литературе, живописи и музыке. | <i>Pnin</i> , pp.109-191; Prepare research questions |
| Oct. 9 | Research Workshop Library West 211 | <i>Pnin</i> , pp.109-191 |
| Oct. 11 | <i>Pnin</i> , Conclusion | "The End of History" |

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| Oct. 14 | NO CLASS (Homecoming) | "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. 21 | Careers with Russian | Introduction to "Russian Ark" |
| Oct. 24 | "Русский ковчег" | Response to Film |
| Oct. 26 | "Русский ковчег" | Response to Film |
| Oct. 28 | 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 | Cultural Mythologies | ARH: Chap.23 (pp.139-45); Pre-Reading ex.1-5, Lecture on CD |
| Nov. 4 | ARH: Советская ультура (1917-1953) | "Living in Common Places: The Communal Apartment," pp. 121-67 |
| Nov. 7 | Scholarly Text as Memoir; Cultural Mythologies | Living space websites; "The Villas of the 'New Russians,'" pp.175-201 |
| Nov. 9 | Mythologies: Architecture (kommunalka, post- Perestroika, Khrushcheby) | Prepare for paper workshop Final Paper Outline due 11/14 |

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| Nov. 11 | NO CLASS (Veterans' Day) | Prepare for paper workshop Final Paper Outline due 11/14 |
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| Nov. 14 | Paper Workshop Final Paper Outline Due | Prepare Presentation + Paper Ex.1-5, Lecture on CD |
| Nov. 16 | Student Presentations | Prepare Presentation + Paper |
| Nov. 18 | NO CLASS Research + Writing Day | Prepare Presentation + Paper |
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| Nov. 21 | Student Presentations | Prepare Presentation + Paper |
| Nov. 23 | NO CLASS (Thanksgiving) | Prepare Presentation + Paper |
| Nov. 25 | NO CLASS (Thanksgiving) | Prepare Presentation + Paper |
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| Nov. 28 | Student Presentations | Prepare Presentation + Paper |
| Nov. 30 | Student Presentations | Prepare Presentation + Paper |
| Dec. 2 | Student Presentations | Prepare Final Paper |
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| Dec. 5 | Writing Consultations | Prepare Final Paper |
| Dec. 7 | FINAL PAPER DUE | |