

Spring 2021

RUT 3600 (26006) The Twentieth Century Through Slavic Eyes Cross-listed with Honors:
RUT 3600H (31236)

General Education Course (H, N)

Time, Location: Mondays from 4:05 to 7:05 p.m. in CSE room E119 Instructor: Dr. Galina Rylkova (grylkova@ufl.edu)



COURSE DESCRIPTION: Eastern and Central Europe underwent social and political change in the 20th-21st centuries that by far exceeded the more gradual and progressive transitions that affected other “Western” cultures. This course gives students an opportunity to explore the major historical, social and cultural upheavals of the twentieth-twenty first centuries through the eyes of a large community of European Slavs. We will do this through the medium of literature, film and other contemporary art forms. The course will take its lead from the assumption that it is not so much events as perceptions of events that influence the thoughts and ideas of subsequent generations. The course will place special emphasis on how these perceptions changed in the course of the last century. Taught entirely in English; no knowledge of any other language required. **Taught in 100% face-to-face format.**

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

Students will gain knowledge of the major historical, social and cultural upheavals that spanned the last 120 years. Students will get a deeper understanding of the expressive potential of the varieties of literature and art forms in creating a lasting memory of this or that historical event.

Therefore, by the conclusion of the course it is expected that students will be able to:

1. Demonstrate knowledge of the content of specific literary/art works and scholarly and journalistic accounts.

2. Produce critical analysis of works of art/essays and polemical pieces against the background of the historical events that these imaginative/polemical works render.
3. Critically assess the role of literature and the arts in creating cultural memory. Draw the connections between various texts and works of art and their biographical, historical, and cultural contexts of authorship and reading/perception/interpretation.



GENERAL EDUCATION INFORMATION:

RUT 3600 counts for three (3) hours of the University of Florida's General Education Requirement in the **Humanities (H)** area by providing instruction in the key themes, principles and terminology of a humanities discipline. **Course with the Humanities (H) designation** reflect the following objectives: Humanities courses provide instruction in the history, key themes, principles, terminology, and theory or methodologies used within a humanities discipline or the humanities in general. Students will learn to identify and to analyze the key elements, biases and influences that shape thought. These courses emphasize clear and effective analysis and approach issues and problems from multiple perspectives.

RUT 3600 also counts for three (3) hours of the University of Florida's General Education Requirement in the **International (N)** area by addressing values, attitudes and norms of a non-US culture. **Course with the International (N) designation reflect the following objectives:**

International courses provide instruction in the values, attitudes and norms that constitute the contemporary cultures of countries outside the United States. These courses lead students to understand how geographic location and socioeconomic factors affect these cultures and the lives of citizens in other countries. Through analysis and evaluation of the students' own cultural norms and values in relation to those held by the citizens of other countries, they will develop a cross-cultural understanding of the rest of the contemporary world.

See: <http://gened.aa.ufl.edu/subject-area-objectives.aspx> (Links to an external site.)Links to an external site.

REQUIRED MATERIALS:

The following texts should be ordered online (amazon.com; order used copies to save money and rescue books from oblivion), or checked out from the library, etc. I will supply all other readings.

1. Jaroslav Hasek, *The Good Soldier Svejk*
2. Pasternak, Doctor Zhivago
3. Art Spiegelman, *Maus* (Part I ONLY)
4. Vladimir Nabokov, *Despair*
5. Garry Shteyngart, *The Russian Debutante's Handbook*

GRADE DISTRIBUTION:

1. Attendance & participation/in-class discussion (40%)
2. 2 take-home exams (25% each = 50%)
3. 2 factual online quizzes (5% each = 10%)

1. Attendance & Participation (40%)

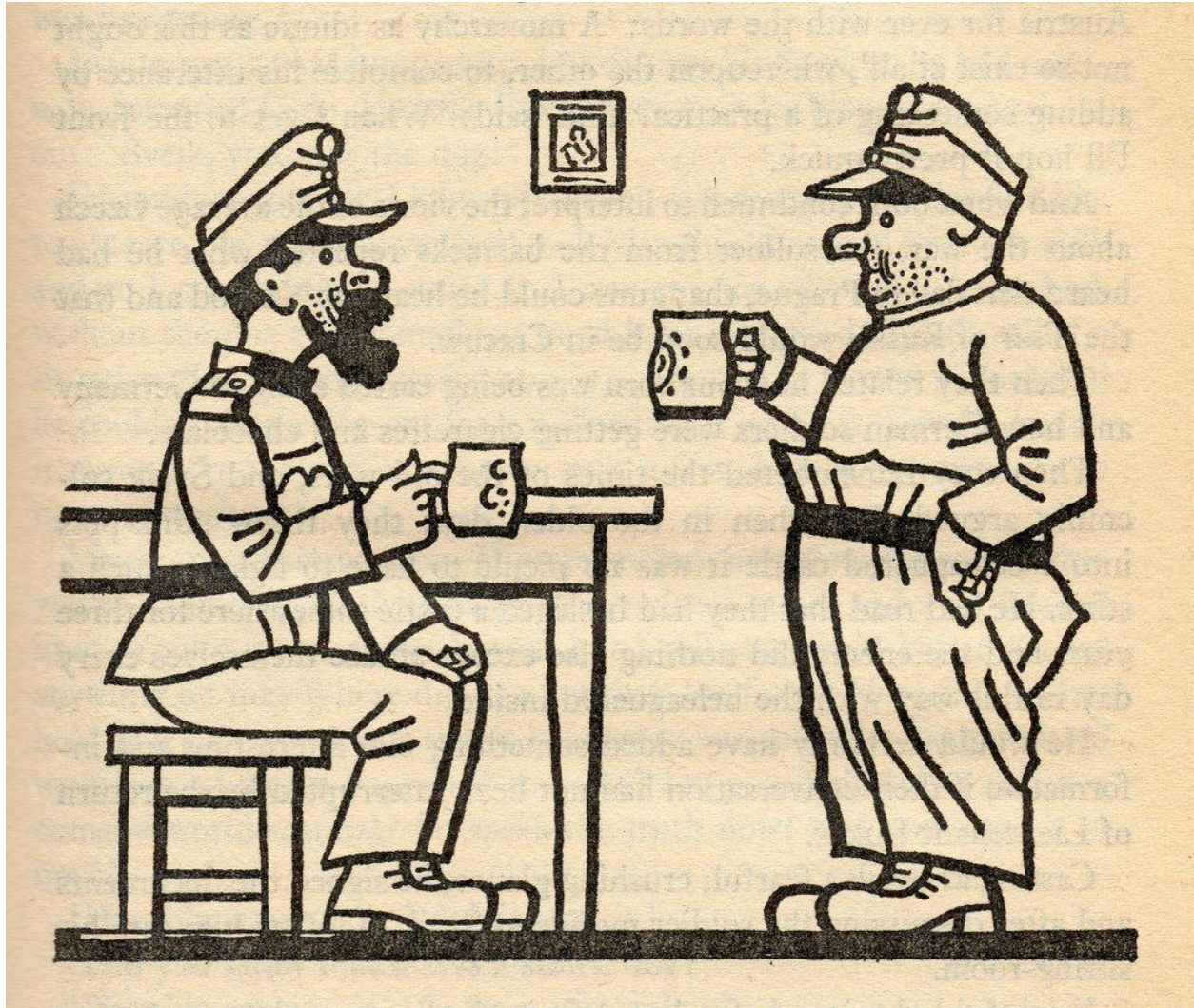
Attendance: Attendance is mandatory and will be assessed by class roll-call or sign-up sheet. Students are allowed **one unexcused absence**. Students will lose 1% from their final grade for every unexcused absence. A **Monday class** counts as **three** absences. Absences will be excused in accordance with UF policy. Acceptable reasons include illness, religious holidays, military obligation, and the twelve-day rule (<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>). Should you miss a class for any reason, you are responsible for informing yourself as to what was covered in class.

Participation:

Students are expected to read and review the assigned readings/viewings/listening before class. In addition, I will also send you some prompts or discussion questions that you should keep in mind while reading the assigned portions of the text/s. Discussion questions will be posted on the e-learning Canvas website. **There will be mandatory discussion assignments, quizzes, and occasional creative assignments that will also contribute to this portion of the final grade.**

2 Take-home exams (30% each—together 60% of the total grade)

See syllabus for the exact dates. The exams will be written at home, which will help you to check your factual knowledge and understanding of the assigned texts. The exams will be comprised of identification, textual analysis, and short essay questions based on readings, lectures and classroom discussion.



CLASSROOM POLICIES:

- **Makeup Policy:** Except in the case of certified illness or other UF accepted excuse (<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>), there will be no make-up option for missed or late assignments/exams. Where possible, make-ups should be arranged by email or in person prior to the expected absence. In case of illness, students should contact the instructor on his or her return to classes.
- **Unexcused Absence Policy:** Student will lose **1%** from their final grade for each unexcused absence.
- **Late Policy:** A class roll will be available for students to sign at the front of the class before class begins. If a student is late, he or she will have to sign the "late roll sheet"

after class. Such lateness distracts other students and the instructor and will affect the student's final participation grade. Students will lose **0.5%** from their final grade each time they arrive late.

- **Cell phone policy: Students must turn cell phones to silent before coming to class.** Each time a student's cell phone rings or each time that a student texts during class, 1% will be deducted from that student's final grade (i.e. the student will be marked as absent).
- **Laptop policy:** Students may use laptops to take notes or read electronic textbooks. Wi-fi must be disabled in class. Students who use the Internet will be marked as absent and 1% will be deducted from the student's final grade (i.e. the student will be marked as absent).

Grading Scale (& GPA equivalent):

A A- B+ B B- C+ C C- D+ D D- E

100-93 92-90 89-87 86-83 82-80 79-77 76-73 72-70 69-67 63-66 62-60 59- (4.0) (3.67)
(3.33) (3.0) (2.67) (2.33) (2.0) (1.67) (1.33) (1.0) (0.67) (0)

Note: There is no rounding up in this course. If you earn 92.99, your grade is A-

Note: A grade of C- is not a qualifying grade for major, minor, Gen Ed, or College Basic distribution credit. For further information on UF's Grading Policy, see:
<http://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>

<http://www.isis.ufl.edu/minusgrades.html>

Academic Honesty: Students are required to be honest in their coursework and must properly cite all sources that they have consulted for their projects. Any act of academic dishonesty will be reported to the Dean of Students, and may result in failure of the assignment in question and/or the course. For University of Florida's honor code, see <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/honorcodes/honorcode.php>

Accommodations for Students with Disabilities 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. Contact the Disability Resources Center (<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/>) for information about available resources for students with disabilities.

Counseling and Mental Health Resources: Students facing difficulties completing the course or who are in need of counseling or urgent help should call the on-campus Counseling and Wellness Center (352 392-1575; <http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc/>).

Online Course Evaluation: Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course based on 10 criteria. These evaluations are conducted online at

<https://evaluations.ufl.edu>. Evaluations are typically open during the last two or three weeks of the semester (or days, in the case of the summer), but students will be given specific times when they are open. Summary results of these assessments are available to students at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu>.

CLASS SCHEDULE

Students should note that the schedule is a guideline and may change.

“Wars, Uprisings and Revolutions”

January 11: Introduction

Maps of Europe: Looking at maps of Europe.pptx

Film: “White,” Director Krzysztof Kieslowski (1994)

White is the second of Polish director Krzysztof Kieslowski's "three colors" trilogy *Blue*, *White*, and *Red*--the three colors of the French flag, symbolizing liberty, equality, and fraternity. Down-and-out Polish immigrant Karol Karol is desperate to get out of France. He is obsessed with his

French soon-to-be ex-wife, his French bank account is frozen, and he's fed up with the inequality of it all. The story evolves into a wickedly funny anti-romance, an inverse Romeo and Juliet.

Discussion

January 18: Martin Luther King's day (please, use this extra time to read *The Good*

Soldier Svejk !)

January 25: Jaroslav Hasek, *The Good Soldier Svejk* (BOOK), Introduction, maps, chapters 1-8 (pp. 1-78); pay particular attention to Josef Lada's illustrations; part II, chapters 1-2, pp. 219-310.

Film: “Forest Gump” (clips)

February 1:

Isaiah Berlin, “The Pursuit of the Ideal” (a PDF file)

Pasternak, *Doctor Zhivago* (BOOK)

February 8:

Pasternak, *Doctor Zhivago* (BOOK)

Quiz 1, due Monday, February 15, 11.59 p.m.

February 15:

Pasternak, *Doctor Zhivago* (BOOK)

February 22:

Pasternak, *Doctor Zhivago* (BOOK)

Take-home exam due Sunday, February 28, 11.59 p.m., via Canvas.

March 1:

Diana Johnstone, "Lost in the Balkans" (a PDF file), from *Circle in the Darkness. Memoir of a World Watcher* (2020)

Film screening: "Pretty Village, Pretty Flame," Director Srdjan Dragojevic (1996) Discussion

"Men and Women in Extreme Conditions"

March 8:

Varlaam Shalamov, "Typhoid Quarantine" (a PDF file)

Film screening: Andrzej Munk, "Passenger" Discussion

March 15:

Art Spiegelman, *MAUS I: A Survivor's Tale: My Father Bleeds History* (BOOK)

"Exile and Emigration"

March 22: Sophocles, *Oedipus Rex* (a PDF file) Film screening: Igor Stravinsky, "Oedipus Rex", opera Discussion

March 29:

Vladimir Nabokov, *Despair* (BOOK)

April 5:

Vladimir Nabokov, *Despair* (BOOK) Marina Abramovic (video clips)

Quiz 2, due Monday, April 12, 11.59 p.m.

April 12:

Garry Shteyngart, *The Russian Debutante's Handbook* (BOOK)

Alexander Genis, Pyotr Vail, *Russian Cuisine in Exile* (a PDF file)

April 19:

Garry Shteyngart, *The Russian Debutante's Handbook* (BOOK)

Alexander Genis, Pyotr Vail, *Russian Cuisine in Exile* (a PDF file)

Take-home exam due Sunday, April 25, 11.59 p.m., via Canvas.