

RUS4501 Russian Research Seminar



Instructor: Dr. Ingrid Kleespies

Office Hours: M 2-3pm; T 1-3pm

**Office hours subject to change due to scheduling conflicts; please check announcements.*

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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 Russian/Soviet cultural institutions and patterns, including narratives of Russian identity, imperialism, and distinctive lifeways like the *kommunalka* (Soviet-era communal apartment). 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 significant focus of the course consists of students' independent research papers and presentations. Over the course of the semester we will also complete selected readings/discussion in Russian on topics of Russian history and we will devote one class meeting to a consideration of various career paths for which a specialization in Russian studies is useful.

Required 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 (10%). Attendance is mandatory and is included in your participation grade. Participation 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 have to miss class, please contact me and/or other students for missed in-class assignments. Unexcused absence cannot be made up. An excused absence is one for which appropriate documentation is provided, e.g. a doctor's note. If you miss more than 4 classes, please drop this course. (<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>)

Homework (18%). 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; in English) 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. When not presenting, students are required to ask one question per day of presentations (this counts as one homework assignment, 2 pts.)

Research paper (42%). Each student is required to write an independent research paper of 10-12pp. on a subject related to Russian Studies. One-paragraph topic proposals (2 pts.) are due October 3 and a 1-2 page paper outline (2 pts.) is due November 14. We will attend a virtual research workshop with a UF librarian on October 5 and will workshop paper topics in class on November 14. Papers are due in class and via turnitin.com by 11:45am on Dec.7.

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.

Illness: If you are sick, stay home. Please call your primary care provider if you are ill and need immediate care or the UF Student Health Care Center at 352-392-1161 to be evaluated.

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

WEEK 1: AUG.24-26

<u>Date</u>	<u>In Class</u>	<u>Reading Assignment for Next Class</u>
Aug.24	Introduction Myths and Narratives, History and Identity	ARH: pp.xi-xiv, Chap.2 (pp.9-13) (<i>Advanced Russian through History</i>)
Aug. 26	ARH: Татаро- Монгольское иго	<i>Orientalism</i> pp.1-28; [Optional: <i>Inventing Eastern Europe</i> , 89-143]

WEEK 2: AUG.29-SEP.2

Aug. 29	“Orientalism:” Russia’s Orient/ Russia-as-Orient	<i>A Hero of Our Time</i> 1: “Preface;” “Bela.”
Aug.31	<i>A Hero of Our Time</i> 1 and Orientalism	<i>Hero</i> 2: “Maxim Maximych;” “Pechorin’s Journal;” “Taman;” “The Uncanny Frontier of Russian Identity,” pp.65-79.
Sep. 2	<i>A Hero of Our Time</i> 2; Reader Response Theory; “The Uncanny Frontier...”	“The Decembrist in Daily Life,” pp.95-149

WEEK 3: SEP.5-9

Sep. 5	NO CLASS (Labor Day)	“The Decembrist in Daily Life,” pp.95-149
Sep.7	“The Decembrist in Daily Life;” Self-Fashioning	ARH: Chap.9 (pp.51-56).
Sep.9	ARH: Декабристы	Shklovsky, “Art as Device,” pp.1-14; Excerpts from <i>War and Peace</i>

WEEK 4: SEP.12-16

Sep.12	Russian Formalism	“The Queen of Spades,” pp.227-260
Sep. 14	The Society Tale	ARH: Chap.7 (pp.41-44).

Sep. 16 ARH: Екатерина II
Формирование
и развитие
российской империи From *Nationalism: Five Roads to
Modernity*, pp.191-273.

WEEK 5: SEP.19-23

Sep. 19 Narratives of National
Identity: *Ressentiment* From *Natasha's Dance*, pp. 358-429;
Blok's "Scythians."

Sep. 21 Narratives of National
Identity: Greenfeld vs. Figes ARH: Chap.8 (pp.45-49).

Sep. 23 ARH: Александр I
и победа над
Наполеоном "A Prisoner in the Caucasus:"
Pushkin and Tolstoy versions

WEEK 6: SEP.26-30

Sep. 26 Film: «Кавказский
пленник» Response Paper #1: "A Prisoner
in the Caucasus," due 9/30.

Sep. 28 Film: «Кавказский
пленник» Response Paper #1: "A Prisoner
in the Caucasus," due 9/30.

Sep.30 Discussion: "Prisoner
of the Mountains" "Good Readers and Good
Writers;" *Pnin*, pp.7-58;
Paper Topic Proposals due 10/3

WEEK 7: OCT.3-7

Oct. 3 Nabokov as Émigré
Writer: *Pnin* 1 Prepare research questions.
*Topic Proposals due

Oct. 5 **Research Workshop**
[Library West] *Pnin*, pp.59-109.

Oct. 7 **NO CLASS**
(Homecoming) *Pnin*, pp.59-109

WEEK 8: OCT.10-14

Oct. 10	Nabokov as Formalist: <i>Pnin 2</i>	<i>Pnin</i> , pp.109-191.
Oct. 12	<i>Pnin 3</i> , Conclusion	ARH: Ch. 32 (pp.197-201).
Oct. 15	ARH: История Российского Кино, 1896-2004	Introduction to "Russian Ark"

WEEK 9: OCT.17-21

Oct. 17	Film: "Русский ковчег"	Response Paper #2: "Russian Ark," due 10/21.
Oct. 19	Film: "Русский ковчег"	Response Paper #2: "Russian Ark," due 10/21.
Oct. 21	Discussion: "Русский ковчег"	-----

WEEK 10: OCT.24-28

Oct. 24	Careers with Russian	Fukuyama, "The End of History."
Oct. 26	The End of History? Fukuyama and 1989	ARH: Chap.16 (pp.93-98).
Oct. 29	ARH: Русский авангард в литературе, живописи и музыке	Selected short stories: Vapnyar, Shteyngart, Iossel

WEEK 11: OCT.31-NOV.4

Oct. 31	The Contemporary Russian- American Writer Locations of Culture	Barthes, <i>Mythologies</i> , selections, pp..11-99
Nov. 2	Cultural Mythologies	Boym, "Living in Common Places: the Communal Apartment,"121-67; Utekhin, <i>Kommunalka</i> Virtual Museum

Nov. 4	Scholarly Text as Memoir; Cultural Mythologies	“The Villas of the New Russians” Final Paper Outline due 11/14
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WEEK 12: NOV.7-11

Nov. 7	Mythologies: Architecture (kommunalka, post-perestroika, Khrushcheby)	Prepare for paper workshop; Final Paper Outline due 11/14.
Nov. 9	NO CLASS (ASEEES Conference)	Prepare for paper workshop; Final Paper Outline due 11/14.
Nov. 11	NO CLASS (Veterans' Day)	Prepare for paper workshop; Final Paper Outline due 11/14.

WEEK 13: NOV.14-18

Nov. 14	Final Paper Workshop *Final Paper Outline Due	Prepare Presentation + Paper.
Nov. 16	Student Presentations 1	Prepare Presentation + Paper.
Nov. 18	Student Presentations 2	Prepare Presentation + Paper.

WEEK 14: NOV.21-25

Nov. 21	NO CLASS Writing Day/Consultations	Prepare Presentation + Paper.
Nov. 23	NO CLASS (Thanksgiving)	Prepare Presentation + Paper.
Nov. 21	NO CLASS (Thanksgiving)	Prepare Presentation + Paper.

WEEK 15: NOV.28-DEC.2

Nov. 28	Student Presentations 3	Prepare Presentation + Paper.
Nov. 30	Student Presentations 4	Prepare Presentation + Paper
Dec. 2	Student Presentations 5	Prepare Final Paper.

WEEK 16: DEC.6-8

Dec. 5 **NO CLASS:** Prepare Final Paper.
 Writing Day/Consultations

Dec. 7 **FINAL PAPER DUE**