Introduction to Russian, East European and Eurasian Studies REE 301 (SLA 301)

T/Th 2-3:30 Parlin 206

Coordinator: Professor Michael Pesenson

Course Syllabus FALL 2010

Introduction to the former Soviet Union and Eastern Europe through each of the major disciplines represented in the program: language, literature, music, anthropology, geography, history, government, sociology, and economics.

Thursday, 8/26 – Introduction to the course – goals, objectives, expectations (Pesenson)

Tuesday, 8/31 – "Introduction to Eastern Europe and Eurasia" (Bella Jordan – CREEES and Geography)

HW: Bernard Lewis, "I'm Right, You're Wrong, Go To Hell: Religions and the Meeting of Civilization," *Atlantic Monthly*, 5/03 (Available online) Begin reading Slavenka Drakulic, *Café Europa: Life after Communism* (available at UT bookstore)

Thursday, 9/2 – "The Eastern Question: Still no Solution" (John Kolsti – Emeritus Professor, Slavic)

HW: Finish reading Drakulic, Café Europa

Tuesday, 9/7 – Discussion of Slavenka Drakulic: *Café Europa* (Tatiana Kuzmic, Slavic)

HW: TBA

Thursday, 9/9 – Presentation on Balkan and Romani Music (Sonia Seeman – CREEES and Music)

HW: No assigned readings

Tuesday, 9/14 – "Romani Reality/Gypsy Myth" (Ian Hancock, CREEES/Linguistics) **HW:** David Biale, "A Journey Between Worlds: East European Jewish Culture from the Partitions of Poland to the Holocaust" (on Blackboard)

Haim Bialik, "The City of Slaughter" (on Blackboard)

Thursday, 9/16 – "Modern Jewish Politics in Eastern Europe" (Tatjana Lichtenstein, CREEES and History)

HW: Kristen Ghodsee, "Religious Freedoms versus Gender Equality: Faith-Based Organizations, Muslim Minorities and Islamic Headscarves in Modern Bulgaria," *Social Politics*, (Vol. 14, No. 4, 2007)

Tuesday, 9/21 – "Islam and the Balkans: The Case of Bulgaria" (Mary Neuburger, CREEES and History)

HW: Begin reading Heda Kovaly, *Under a Cruel Star: A Life in Prague, 1941-1968.* New York: Holmes and Meier, 1997 (available at the UT Bookstore)

First Paper Due! (Based on Drakulic book and surrounding topics on the Balkans)

Thursday, 9/23 – "The Polish Question: Lines in the Sand in European Politics and Culture" (Gilbert Rappaport, Slavic)

HW: Finish reading Kovaly, *Under a Cruel Star*

Tuesday, 9/28 – Discussion of *Under a Cruel Star* (Mary Neuburger, CREEES and History)

Thursday, 9/30 – Lecture on Czech History TBA (Lichtenstein, CREEES and History)

HW: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vienna (see particularly the section on population)

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History of Vienna

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Austrian Empire

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Austria-Hungary (see particularly the "Ethnic Relations" part)

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List of Viennese

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:Habsburg_Map_1547b.jpg

Tuesday, 10/5 – "Vienna as the Source of the 21st Century" (Katherine Arens, CREEES and German)

HW: Excerpts from V. Nabokov, Lolita

Thursday, 10/7 – "Nabokov as Russian Novelist" (Sidney Monas, Emeritus Professor, Slavic)

HW: Lermontov, *The Demon*; Selections from B. Akunin, *Turkish Gambit* (on Blackboard)

Tuesday, 10/12 – "East/West? Placing Russia in Global Cultures" (Elizabeth Richmond-Garza, CREES and English)

HW: Jann Pasler, "Music and Spectacle in *Petrushka* and *The Rite of Spring"*; Richard Taruskin, "From Subject to Style: Stravinsky and the Painters," in Jann Pasler, ed., *Confronting Stravinsky, Man, Musician, and Modernist* (Berkeley and Los Angeles: University of California Press, 1986). (on Blackboard)

Thursday, 10/14 - "The 19th-Century Neo-nationalist Movement in Russia and Stravinsky's Move Toward Modernism in His Early Ballets." (Eliott Antokoletz, CREES and Music)

HW: http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Persian language

Tuesday, 10/19 – "Persian from Bokhara and Shiraz to Bethesda and Orange County." (Michael Hillmann, CREES and Middle Eastern Studies)

Second Paper due! (On Kovaly book and related topics on Central Europe)

Thursday, 10/21 – "Kyrgyzstan: Water and Energy and what they mean to the country." (Daene McKinney, CREES and Engineering)

HW: Begin reading Jordan and Jordan, *Life in a Siberian Village* (available at the UT Bookstore)

Tuesday, 10/26 – Lecture on Siberian Anthropology TBA (Craig Campbell, CREES and Anthropology)

HW: Finish reading Jordan and Jordan, Life in a Siberian Village

Thursday, 10/28 – "Siberia: Myths and Realities of the Coldest and Richest Region of the World" (Bella Jordan, CREEES and Geography)

HW: Orlando Figes, *Natasha's Dance*, Chapters 1 and 2 (available at UT bookstore)

Tuesday, 11/2 – "Petersburg vs. Moscow in Russian Literature and Culture." (Michael Pesenson, Slavic)

HW: TBA

Thursday, 11/4 – "From Reform to Revolution: Russia at the Turn of the Twentieth Century." (Joan Neuberger, CREES and History)

HW: Karen Fiss, "In Hitler's Salon: The German Pavilion at the 1937 Paris Exposition Internationale" (on Blackboard)

Tuesday, 11/9 - "SMACKDOWN! Hitler vs. Stalin at the Paris World Expo 1937." (Danilo Udovicki, CREES and Architecture)

HW: TBA

Thursday, 11/11 – "Chechnya and Russian Youth" (Thomas J. Garza, Slavic) **HW**: TBA

Tuesday, 11/16 – "Stalinist Russia" (Charters Wynn, CREEES and History) **HW**: TBA

Thursday, 11/18 – East European Politics or East European Armies (Zoltan Barany, CREES and Government

HW: TBA

Tuesday, 11/23 – "Post Soviet Film" (Keith Livers, Slavic)

HW: TBA

Third Paper due! (On Jordan book or Figes' book and related topics on Russia)

Thursday, 11/25 - THANKSGIVING

Tuesday, 11/30 – "The Rise and Fall of the Berlin Wall" (David Crew, CREEES and History)

HW: TBA

Thursday, 12/2 – Lecture on Russian politics TBA (Robert Moser, CREEES and Government)

Final Examination date/time/room TBA

CLASS REQUIREMENTS:

- 1. Regular attendance in class. More than 3 unauthorized absences over the course of the semester will lower your attendance/participation grade.
- 2. Keeping up with the readings. Make sure to have read all assigned readings before the start of class.
- 3. Completing all assignments in a timely manner. Deadline extension for assignments will only be given in cases of medical emergency with prior authorization.

GRADE DISTRIBUTION:

- 1. Attendance and Participation in Class 10%
- 2. Three 5- page papers on Drakulic, Kovaly, and Jordan books 60%
- 3. Final Examination 30%