Introduction to Russian, East European and Eurasian Studies
SLA 301 (also listed REE as 301) 45025

COURSE SYLLABUS

Class meetings: TTH 2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. PAR 208
Instructor: Bernadeta Kaminska
Office: Calhoun 2 (Basement)
Phone: 232-9133
E-mail: BernadetaKaminska@mail.utexas.edu
Office Hours: TTH 12:30 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Fr 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
or by appointment

Course Description:

Introduction to the former Soviet Union and Eastern Europe through each of the major
disciplines represented in the program: language, literature, anthropology, geography,
history, government, sociology, and economics. Core course required for a degree in
Russian, East European and Eurasian Studies. Meets with SLA 301 and GRG 309. May not
be used to fulfill the foreign language requirement for any Bachelor’s degree. Course
number may be repeated for credit when the topics vary.

Texts:


   and Meier

3. Brigid Pastulka, 2009, A Long Time Ago and Essentially True, Boston, New York,
   Houghton Mifflin Harcourt

   Life in the Sakha Republic, Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press.
Additional readings might be recommended for individual lectures.

Requirements and Grading:

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<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Attendance</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Participation in lectures</td>
<td>10%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Participation in book discussions</td>
<td>10%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Book quizzes</td>
<td>40% (each book 10%)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Essay on books</td>
<td>30%</td>
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Attendance/ Participation

This course meets twice a week. Attendance is very important. You may miss a total of 3 class meetings without occurring any penalty. Further absences will count against your participation grade. You will miss one point from your final grade points for every absence. Participation in lectures and book discussion will drop for any absences you have, excused or not. If you are not in class, you are not participating.

Please, be on time. The tests and quizzes will start and finish for all students at the same time. If you show up late, you have lost time – and I will not repeat instructions or oral questions that you have missed. You have to finish the test or quiz at the same time as other students.

Book Quizzes:

They will be announced. If you have to miss the class, please make appointment with me to make up the quiz ASAP.

Essay on book:

It is going to be a short essay based on the four books.

Prerequisite: None

Grades:

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<tr>
<th>Grade Range</th>
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<tr>
<td>100-93</td>
<td>A</td>
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<tr>
<td>92-90</td>
<td>A-</td>
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<tr>
<td>89-87</td>
<td>B+</td>
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<tr>
<td>86-83</td>
<td>B</td>
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<tr>
<td>82-80</td>
<td>B-</td>
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<tr>
<td>79-77</td>
<td>C+</td>
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76-73 C
72-70 C-
69-60 D
59 and less F

**Academic Dishonesty:**

Please, check Registrar Office Honor Code Chapter 11. Student Discipline and Conduct

“Academic dishonesty” or “scholastic dishonesty” includes, but is not limited to, cheating, plagiarism, collusion, falsifying academic records, misrepresenting facts, and any act designed to give unfair academic advantage to the student (such as, but not limited to, submission of essentially the same written assignment for two classes without the prior permission of the instructor), or the attempt to commit such an act.

**Students with Disabilities:**

Students with disabilities may request appropriate academic accommodations from the SSD.

**Religious Holidays:**

A student who misses classes or other required activities, including examinations, for the observance of a religious holy day should inform the instructor as far in advance of the absence as possible, so that arrangements can be made to complete an assignment within a reasonable time after the absence.

**A few reminders on courtesy:**

- No eating, drinking chewing gum in class
- No texting during class
- No use of laptops, iPods, or other electronic devices
- Don’t talk to other students if a student is asking a question, or I’m responding to this question, or if I’m addressing the whole class
- Put you cell phone into SILENT mode. If your phone goes off during a quiz, you will lose 5 points on that quiz.
- Be on time! Don’t interrupt.
COURSE CALENDAR (SUBJECT TO CHANGE):

Thursday, 8/25
Introduction to the course, Bernadeta Kaminska, CREEES and Slavic

Tuesday, 8/30
“Introduction to Eastern Europe and Eurasia”, Bella Bychko Jordan, CREEES and Geography

Thursday, 9/1
“The Confrontation between the Soviet and German Pavilions at the 1937 Paris International Expo”, Danilo Udovicki-Selb, CREEES and Architecture

Tuesday, 9/06
“Islam in the Balkans: The Bulgarian Case”, Mary Neuburger, CREEES and History

Thursday, 9/08
“Why Study Bosnian, Croatian, or Serbian (Three Languages for the Price of One), Larisa Zlatic, Slavic

Tuesday, 9/13
“Bosnian War”, Mary Neuburger, CREEES and History
Book discussion (Quiz), “They Would Never Hurt a Fly”

Thursday, 9/15
“Slavs in Western Imagination”, Tatiana Kuzmic, CREEES and Slavic

Tuesday, 9/20
“Love and Gender in the Balkans”, Ted Houston, Psychology

Thursday, 9/22
“Modern Jewish Politics in Eastern Europe”, Tatjana Lichtenstein, CREEES and History

Tuesday, 9/27
“Poland: A Search for National and Political Identity”, Gilbert Rappaport, CREEES and Slavic

Thursday, 9/29
“Nine Days that Change the World: Poland - A Peaceful Movement from Totalitarianism to Democracy”, Bernadeta Kaminska, CREEES and Slavic
Book discussion (Quiz), “A Long Time Ago and Essentially True”

Tuesday, 10/4
“Chopin: A Bridge Between National and Romantic Musical Styles”, Elliott Antokoletz, CREEES and Music
Thursday, 10/6
“The Internationalization of World Literature”, Sidney Monas, Professor Emeritus, CREEES and Slavic

Tuesday, 10/11
“Peter the Great and the Transformation of Russia”, Michael Pesenson, CREEES and Slavic

Thursday, 10/13
“Russian Youth Culture”, Tom Garza, CREEES and Slavic

Tuesday, 10/18
“Travel in Siberia and the Russian Far East”, Craig Campbell, CREEES and Anthropology

Thursday, 10/20
“Revolutionary Russia”, Charters Wynn, CREEES and History

Tuesday, 10/25
“Stalinist Russia, Charters Wynn, CREEES and History

Thursday, 10/27
“Vostok/Zapad: Russian Culture Between East and West “ (Literature, painting, film)
Elizabeth Richmond-Garza, CREEES and English

Tuesday, 11/1
“Collapse of the Soviet Union”, Robert Moser, CREEES and Government

Thursday, 11/3

Tuesday, 11/8
“The Politics of Post- Communist Russia”, Robert Moser, CREEES and Government

Thursday, 11/10
“A Visual History of Russia from Icons to Modernist Cinema”, Joan Neuberger, CREEES and History

Tuesday, 11/15
“Contemporary Russian Cinema”, Keith Livers, CREEES and Slavic

Thursday, 11/17
Book Discussion (Quiz), “Under the Cruel Star”, Bernadeta Kaminska
Tuesday, 11/22
“The Reception of Franz Kafka in Czechoslovakia during Cold War”, Veronika Tuckerova, Slavic

Thursday, 11/24
Thanksgiving – Happy Holidays

Tuesday, 11/29
“Dissidence as a Political Phenomenon and Political Philosophy”, Avi Tucker, CREEES
Recommended readings (chapters 4 and 5)

Thursday, 12/1
TBA
Evaluation