Graduate Seminar in Russian, East European, and Eurasian Civilizations and Cultures

Instructor: Dr. Bella Bychkova Jordan  belka@austin.utexas.edu

Office hours: Wednesday 1:45-2:45 in Burdine 470

Course Description
This course, required for the M.A. in Russian, East European, and Eurasian Studies, is a team-taught seminar designed to prepare graduate students for advanced interdisciplinary study and research in the field. The seminar provides a topical overview of disciplinary studies of the region and of faculty and research resources at the University. Various invited faculty members associated with the Center for Russian, East European, and Eurasian Studies will rotate through over the course of the semester in conducting seminars on their areas of research and expertise.

Required readings:
Readings for the course will be provided by the instructor throughout the semester. Graduate students will also work on compilation of annotated bibliography pertinent to their research project.

Course Requirements
The course will structured as follows:
Part I: graduate students will design a research project, which will require a prospectus, annotated bibliography, oral presentation, and final paper of at least 3000 words.
Part II: The invited faculty member will use the first half of the session to lecture on the assigned topic, followed by questions and discussion based on both the lecture itself and assigned readings on the topic. It is imperative that participants attend all sessions and carefully prepare any pre-seminar assignments.
Part III: Graduate students will work in teams of two on the archival-library research based on the historical materials and data at Lyndon Johnson Library at UT at Austin.

**Grading**

1) 20% of the course grade will be based on active class participation during the seminar meetings;
2) 30% will be earned by completing 3 assignments:
   a) a book review – 10%
   b) a draft of the research project, including annotated bibliography – 10%
   c) a team research project in LBJ library – 10%
3) 20% will be based on the oral presentation of the final research project;
4) 30% - final written paper and bibliography.

**SCHEDULE:**

Aug 28 Introduction to the course: goals and contents  
   Dr. Mary Neuburger, Director of CREEES and Chair of DSES

Sep 4 Dr. Keith Livers on Conspiracy theories (Slavic and Eurasian Studies)

Sep 11 Workshop on the CREEES project “Voices of Siberia”  
   (Dr. Mary Neuburger, Dr. Craig Campbell, Jason Roberts, PHD candidate, Daniel Rusnik, project participant)

Sep 18 Workshop with CREEES and DSES senior graduate students/  
   Library tour at PCL  
   Book reviews are due

Sep 25 Dr. Mary Neuburger on grant writing and scholarship applications
Oct 2  Dr. Zoltan Barany on his current research (Government department)

Oct 9  LBJ project/ class meets at the library

Oct 16 Dr. Robert Moser (Government department)
Draft prospectus is due outlining major points of research project, including skeleton annotated bibliography and methodology statement

Oct 23 Dr. Charters Wynn (History) on Stalinist Russia
Dr. Jeremy Suri (History) on Cold War Politics

Oct 30 Dr. Rachel Wellhausen on politics in Ukraine and Moldova (Political sciences)

Nov 6  Dr. David Eaton on the water management issues in Central and Eastern Europe (Government)
Dr. Adam Rabinowitz on archeology of Crimea (Classics department)

Nov 13 Dr. Gil Rapoport presents his research and methodology (Slavic and Eurasian Studies)

Nov 20 Dr. Christopher Long on architecture of Central Europe

Nov 27 No class! Thanksgiving Day

Dec 4 Final oral presentations / Students’ final papers are due.
This syllabus is subject to change!