Introduction to Russian, East European, and Eurasian Studies

Class meets TTH 12:30-2:00 pm in RLM 5.122
Dr. Tatjana Lichtenstein
Office Hours: Wed 1-3 pm in GAR 0.110
Email: lichtens@austin.utexas.edu

Teaching Assistant: Emily Hillhouse
Office Hours: Varies over the course of the semester
Email: ehillhouse@utexas.edu

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. This is a core course required for a degree in Russian, East European and Eurasian Studies.

Course Goals
• Introduce students to Russian, East European, and Eurasian Studies with a focus on the interdisciplinary nature of area studies.
• Introduce students to the research interests and course offerings of faculty from a range of disciplines at UT Austin.
• Introduce students to a wide range of topics and visual, audible, and textual resources for the study of Russia, Eastern Europe, and Eurasia.

Please Note:
The use of electronic equipment incl. laptops, net books, iPads, phones, MP3 players among others is not allowed during class.

Failure to adhere to the course policy regarding the use of electronic equipment will be penalized.

Course Materials
• Electronic readings will be made available for individual lectures through Blackboard (BB)
• Please Note: The readings are subject to change. You should expect some additional short readings to be added throughout the semester.

All materials listed on the syllabus (or added to BB later) are required.
Grading
Attendance and Participation  40%
Essay 1 (Drakulić due Sep 12)  15%
Essay 2 (Siberia due Oct 1)  10%
Essay 3 (Petrovna due Oct 17)  10%
Essay 4 (Kovaly due Dec 3)  15%
Short Writing Assignments (incl. event participation)  10%

Instructions for essays and other assignments are available on BB.

Course Policies

Use of Electronic Equipment
Please adhere to the policy stated on page 1 of this syllabus.

Preparing for Class
In this class, you will encounter different topics, disciplines, and lecture styles. The amount of time you have to spend to prepare for class will vary over the course of the semester. Make sure to consult the syllabus carefully and schedule enough time to do the readings, watch the films and videos, and listen to audio clips in preparation for class. Occasionally, I will ask you to complete short writing assignments as part of your preparation for class discussion. These assignments are due in class on the day we are discussing the material. No late submissions will be accepted.

Attendance and Participation
Lectures and class discussions are a significant part of this course. Therefore, attendance and participation are required. You are expected to have done the readings before you come to class. This will be essential for your ability to participate in discussion and complete short written assignments as part of your preparation.

Although this course is lecture-based, in reality, the discussion and debate of ideas is central to every meeting. All viewpoints and perspectives are welcome as long as they meet the following criteria: they are delivered in a respectful manner and they are informed by the course materials. In sessions devoted entirely to discussion of books or films, your participation grade depends on your having done the readings before class as well as your ability to engage with them and your fellow students.

You are expected to be on time for class. If you are consistently late or leave class early, this will affect your course grade. If you have any concerns about this, please contact me in the beginning of term.

If you are not comfortable speaking in class, think about other ways you might engage the material. For example, you can visit me during office hours to discuss readings and assignments.
Students with Disabilities
Any student with a documented disability who requires academic accommodations should contact Services for Students with Disabilities at 471-6259 (voice) or 1-866-329-3986 (Video Phone) as soon as possible to request an official letter outlining authorized accommodations. http://www.utexas.edu/diversity/ddce/ssd It is essential that you inform Services for Students with Disabilities and me in the beginning of term so we can make appropriate accommodations.

Academic Dishonesty
Academic dishonesty includes, but is not limited to, cheating on assignments or examinations; plagiarizing, which means misrepresenting as your own work any part of work done by another; submitting the same paper, or substantially similar papers, to meet requirements of more than one course without the approval and consent of all instructors concerned; depriving another student of necessary course materials; or interfering with another student’s work. Any act of academic dishonesty will result in an F for the course and referral to Student Judicial Services.

Submission of Essays and Short Assignments
• All written assignments can only be submitted in hard copy to me or to the TA.
• No email attachment of any written assignment will be accepted.
• Short writing assignments cannot be submitted late. They are due in class.
• Essays are due on the dates listed on the syllabus. The penalty for late submissions is 3% per calendar day.

Schedule of Lectures

Week 1
Th Aug 29 Introduction to the class

Week 2 Getting to know the region – and War in the Balkans
Tu Sep 3 Getting to Know Russia, Eastern Europe, and Eurasia Student Group Presentations (handout with maps and questions)

TIP: Begin reading They Would Never Hurt a Fly.

Week 3 Yugoslav Wars and their Aftermath
Tu Sep 10 In-class film: “We Were All Neighbors” and discussion.
Th Sep 12 Discussion of Drakulic, They Would Never Hurt a Fly.

*Essay no. 1 on They Would Never Hurt a Fly due in class
Week 4  Romani History and Culture

Tu Sep 17  “The History of Roma in Europe,” Ian Hancock, CREEES and Linguistics.

Readings:  1) “Romanies,” in Encyclopedia of Europe, 1789-2004 (on BB)


Readings (on BB):
Students with last names beginning with A through G will read and be prepared to discuss reading no. 1. Students with last names beginning with H through Z will read and be prepared to discuss reading no. 2.

*A short writing assignment for each reading will be posted online. It must be submitted in class in order to count towards your final grade.

Reading no. 1:

Reading no. 2:

All students to log in and listen to music and video examples online at www.oup.com/us/romaniroutes. (guidelines on BB).

TIP: Begin reading Siberian Village

Week 5  Chechnya and Poland

Tu Sep 24  “Chechnya and Youth Culture,” Thomas Garza, CREEES and Slavic.
Readings: TBA


Preparation: Watch short film about Polish history (on-line link through BB)
Week 6  Travels in Siberia

*Essay no. 2 on Siberian Village due in class.


Week 7  Siberia (continued) and Russian Revolutions
Readings: TBA

TIP: Begin reading Sofia Petrovna

Th Oct 10  “Revolutionary Russia,” Charters Wynn, CREEES and History.

Week 8  Stalinist Russia
Tu Oct 15  “Stalinist Russia,” Charters Wynn, CREEES and History.

Th Oct 17  Discussion of Sofia Petrovna.

*Essay no. 3 on Sofia Petrovna due in class.

Week 9  Visual History
Tu Oct 22  TBA


Week 10  Geographies and Business


Readings: Rachel Wellhausen, “Expropriation, Nationality, and Diplomacy” (on BB).
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week 11</th>
<th>The Collapse of Communism</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tu Nov 5</td>
<td>“Gorbachov and the Collapse of Communism,” Robert Moser, CREEES and Government.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Th Nov 7</td>
<td>“Vaclav Havel and the End of Communism,” Mark Hopkins, CREEES and Slavic.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week 12</th>
<th>Post-Communist Russia – and the Holocaust in Eastern Europe</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tu Nov 12</td>
<td>“Politics in Post-Communist Russia,” Robert Moser, CREEES and Government.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week 13</th>
<th>US-Russia Relations and Contemporary Russian Film</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Th Nov 21</td>
<td>“Nationalism in Post-Soviet Cinema: Balabanov's the Brother II,” Keith Livers, CREEES and Slavic.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Preparation: Watch “The Brother/Brat” (Russia, 1997, 96 min). It is available on Netflix, at fine video stores and on reserve at the Fine Arts Library (ask at the Circulation Desk). |

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week 14</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tu Nov 26</td>
<td>“The Holocaust in Eastern Europe,” Tatjana Lichtenstein, CREEES and History.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Th Nov 28</td>
<td>Thanksgiving – No Class</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week 15</th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tu Dec 3</td>
<td>Discussion of Kovaly, Under a Cruel Star</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Essay no. 4 on Under a Cruel Star due in class.*

| Th Dec 5 | Final Class Discussion. |