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 Kuznic, 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)


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


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


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, CREEES and English)


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

**HW:** [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Persian_language](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, CREEES 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, CREEES 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%