

**The University of Texas at Austin  
Department of Slavic and Eurasian Studies**

**FALL 2011**

**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

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**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:**

- 1. Slavenka Draculic, 2005, They Would Never Hurt a Fly, Penguin**
- 2. Heda Kovaly, 1997, Under a Cruel Star: A Life in Prague, 1941-1968. New York: Holmes and Meier**
- 3. Brigid Pastulka, 2009, A Long Time Ago and Essentially True, Boston, New York, Houghton Mifflin Harcourt**
- 4. Bella Bychkova Jordan and Terry G Jordan-Bychkov, 2001, Siberian Village: Land and Life in the Sakha Republic, Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press.**

**Additional readings might be recommended for individual lectures.**

**Requirements and Grading:**

Attendance	10%
Participation in lectures	10%
Participation in book discussions	10%
Book quizzes	40% (each book 10%)
Essay on books	30%

**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:**

100-93	A
92-90	A-
89-87	B+
86-83	B
82-80	B-
79-77	C+

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 your 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 Bychkova 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 LongTime 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**

**Book discussion (Quiz), “*Siberian Village: Land and Life in the Sakha Republic*”,  
Bella Bychkova Jordan**

**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)

<http://www.upress.pitt.edu/BookDetails.aspx?bookId=35200>

**Thursday, 12/1**

TBA

Evaluation