

**Introduction to Russian, East European and Eurasian Studies
REE 301 (SLA 301)**

T/Th 2-3:30

Parlin 208

Coordinator: Professor Michael Pesenson

TA: Alexis Schrubbe

Course Syllabus FALL 2012

Introduction to the former Soviet Union and Eastern Europe through some of the major disciplines represented in the program: language, literature, anthropology, geography, history, government, and sociology.



Thursday, 8/30 – Introduction to the course – goals, objectives, expectations
(Pesenson)

HW: TBA

Begin reading Slavenka Drakulic, *They Would Never Hurt a Fly: War Criminals on Trial in the Hague* (available at UT bookstore)

Tuesday, 9/4 – Introduction to Eastern European, Russian and Eurasian Study Areas
(Dr. Bella Jordan – CREEES and Geography)

HW: Continue reading Drakulic, *They Would Never Hurt a Fly*

“Veils, Shalvari, and Matters of Dress: Unravelling the Fabric of Women's Lives in Communist Bulgaria,” in *Style and Socialism*, pp. 169–87 (On Blackboard)

Thursday, 9/6 – Islam and the Balkans – The Case of Bulgaria (Dr. Mary Neuburger, CREEES and History)

HW: Finish reading Drakulic

Tuesday, 9/11 – Bosnian War: Discussion of Drakulic book (Dr. Mary Neuburger, CREEES and History)

HW: TBA

Thursday, 9/13 – Slavs in the Western Imagination (Tatiana Kuzmic – CREEES and Slavic)

HW: Chapters 5 and 6 from Tucker, *Philosophy and Politics of Czech Dissidence* (U Pitt Press, 2001)

Tuesday, 9/18 – Dissidence in Eastern Europe (Dr. Avi Tucker, The UT Energy Institute and CREEES)

HW: TBA

Begin reading Stasiuk's *Fado* available at UT Bookstore

Thursday, 9/20 – History of the Roma in Europe (Dr. Ian Hancock, CREEES and Linguistics)

HW: TBA

Continue reading Stasiuk's *Fado* available at UT Bookstore

First Paper Due! (Based on Drakulic book and surrounding topics on the Balkans)

Tuesday, 9/25 – Poland in Search of its Identity (Dr. Gilbert Rappaport, CREEES and Slavic)

HW: Finish reading *Fado* and TBA

Thursday, 9/27 – The Fall of Communism in Poland (Bernadeta Kaminska, CREEES and Slavic)

HW: TBA

Tuesday, 10/2 – Magic and Power in Prague (Jason Roberts, CREEES and Germanic Studies)

HW: TBA

Thursday, 10/4 – Vaclav Havel and the End of Communism in Czechoslovakia (Mark Hopkins, CREEES and Slavic)

HW: TBA

Tuesday, 10/9 – Franz Kafka and the Legacy of Multilingual Prague (Dr. Veronika Tuckerova, CREEES and Slavic)

HW: Selections from Paul Bushkovitch's *Peter the Great* (on Blackboard)

Second Paper Due! (Based on Stasiuk's book and surrounding topics on transition in Eastern Europe)

Thursday, 10/11 – Peter the Great and the Transformation of Russia (Dr. Michael Pesenson, CREEES and Slavic)

HW: TBA

Tuesday, 10/16 – Nineteenth Century Russia: Reform and Terror (Dr. Marina Potopyak, CREEES and Slavic)

HW: Anderson, "Is Siberian Reindeer Herding in Crisis?" (On Blackboard)

Thursday, 10/18 – Travels in Siberia (Dr. Craig Campbell, CREEES and Anthropology)

HW: Selections from Jordan and Jordan, *Life in a Siberian Village*

Tuesday, 10/23 – Discussion of Siberian village life (Dr. Bella Jordan, CREEES and Geography)

HW: TBA

Begin Reading, Grossman, *Everything Flows* (Available at UT Bookstore)

Thursday, 10/25 – Revolutionary Russia (Dr. Charters Wynn, CREEES and History)

HW: TBA

Continue reading Grossman

Tuesday, 10/30 – Stalinist Russia (Dr. Charters Wynn, CREEES and History)

HW: Finish reading Grossman, selections from *Life and Fate* (on Blackboard)

Thursday, 11/1 – Discussion of Grossman's *Everything Flows* (Dr. Michael Pesenson, CREEES and Slavic)

HW: TBA

Tuesday, 11/6 – Collapse of the Soviet Union (Dr. Robert Moser, CREEES and Government)

HW: TBA

Thursday, 11/8 – Politics of Post-Communist Russia (Dr. Robert Moser, CREEES and Government)

HW: Watch Film "Brother" on Youtube

Third Paper Due! (Based on Grossman's *Everything Flows* and surrounding topics on Revolutionary and Stalinist Russia)

Tuesday, 11/13 – The Rise of Nationalism in Post-Soviet Cinema (Dr. Keith Livers, CREEES and Slavic)

HW: TBA

Thursday, 11/15 - Tolstoy (Dr. Nadya Clayton, CREEES and Slavic)

HW: Lermontov, *The Demon*; Selections from B. Akunin, *Turkish Gambit* (on Blackboard)

Tuesday, 11/20 – Russian Culture Between East and West (Dr. Elizabeth Richmond-Garza, CREEES, English and Comparative Literature)

HW: TBA

Begin reading Gessen's book: *The Man without a Face: Vladimir Putin*

Thursday, 11/22 – No class: Thanksgiving Day Holiday

HW: TBA

Continue reading Gessen's book

Tuesday, 11/27– Chechnya and Youth Culture (Dr. Thomas Garza, CREES and Slavic)

HW: TBA

Continue reading Gessen's book

Thursday, 11/29 – Visual History of Russia (Dr. Joan Neuberger, CREEES and History)

HW: TBA

Finish reading Gessen's book

Tuesday, 12/4 – Discussion of Gessen's book on Vladimir Putin (Dr. Michael Pesenson, CREEES and Slavic)

Thursday, 12/6 – Architecture in Russia (Dr. Danilo Udovicki, CREEES and Architecture)

HW: TBA

Fourth paper due! (on Gessen's book and surrounding lectures on contemporary Russia)

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 - 20%***
- 2. Four 5- page papers - 20% each***