

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

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Teaching Assistant: Emily Hillhouse

Office Hours: Varies over the course of the semester

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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

- Bella Bychkova Jordan and Terry G Jordan-Bychkov, *Siberian Village: Land and Life in the Sakha Republic*, University of Minnesota Press, 2001.
- Lydia Chukovskaya, *Sofia Petrovna*, Northwestern University Press, 1988.
- Slavenka Drakulić, *They Would Never Hurt a Fly*, Penguin 2005.
- Heda Margolius-Kovály, *Under a Cruel Star: A Life in Prague, 1941-1968*, Holmes and Meier, 1997.
- 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*.

Th Sep 5 “War in Bosnia,” Mary Neuberger, CREEES and History.
Readings: “Yugoslavia” in *The Encyclopedia of Europe, 1789-2004* (on BB)

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)
2) “Hungary’s Roma: How to Get Out of a Vicious Circle,” *The Economist* August 10, 2013 (on BB)

Th Sep 19 “Romani Music and Social Identity in South Eastern Europe: Overview and Case Study from Macedonia,” Sonia Seeman, CREEES and Music.

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:

Seeman, Sonia. 2012. “Macedonian Čalgija: A Musical Refashioning of National Identity.” *Ethnomusicology Forum* 21 (3): 1-32.

Reading no. 2:

Silverman, Carol. "Chapter 2: Musical Styles and Genres." In *Romani Routes: Cultural Politics and Balkan Music in Diaspora*. (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2012).

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

Th Sep 26 “Who art thou, Poland? Preserving National Identity under Radical Social Change,” Gilbert Rappaport, CREEES and Slavic.

Preparation: Watch short film about Polish history (on-line link through BB)

Week 6 Travels in Siberia

Tu Oct 1 “Life in Siberia,” Bella Jordan, CREEES and Geography.

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

Th Oct 3 “Travels in Siberia,” Craig Campbell, CREEES and Anthropology.

Week 7 Siberia (continued) and Russian Revolutions

Tu Oct 8 “Shamans and Shamanists: Lived Religion and Lived Magic,” Jason Roberts
CREEES, Slavic, and Germanic Studies.
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

Th Oct 24 “Visual History of Russia,” Joan Neuberger, CREEES and History.

Week 10 Geographies and Business

Tu Oct 29 “Post-Soviet Geographies,” Bella Jordan, CREEES and Geography.

Th Oct 31 “When Governments Break Contracts: Foreign Firms in Eastern Europe,” Rachel
Wellhausen, CREEES, Government, and the McCombs School of Business.

Readings: Rachel Wellhausen, “Expropriation, Nationality, and Diplomacy” (on
BB).

Week 11 The Collapse of Communism

Tu Nov 5 “Gorbachov and the Collapse of Communism,” Robert Moser, CREEES and Government.

Th Nov 7 “Vaclav Havel and the End of Communism,” Mark Hopkins, CREEES and Slavic.

Week 12 Post-Communist Russia – and the Holocaust in Eastern Europe

Tu Nov 12 “Politics in Post-Communist Russia,” Robert Moser, CREEES and Government.

Th Nov 14 “The New Woman Tries on Red: Russia in the American Feminist Imagination, 1905-1945,” Julia Mickenberg, CREEES and Department of American Studies.
Readings: TBA

Week 13 US-Russia Relations and Contemporary Russian Film

Tu Nov 19 “Putin and Obama: From Reset to Retreat,” Jeremi Suri, CREEES, History, and LBJ School of Public Affairs.

Th Nov 21 “Nationalism in Post-Soviet Cinema: Balabanov's the Brother II,” Keith Livers, CREEES and Slavic.

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).

Week 14

Tu Nov 26 “The Holocaust in Eastern Europe,” Tatjana Lichtenstein, CREEES and History.

Th Nov 28 Thanksgiving – No Class

Week 15

Tu Dec 3 Discussion of Kovaly, *Under a Cruel Star*

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

Th Dec 5 Final Class Discussion.