

The following courses fulfill the regional course requirements for the Harriman Institute/East Central European Certificate, the MA in Regional Studies: Russia, Eurasia, and Eastern Europe (MARS-REERS), and the SIPA Regional Specialization. Further course details may be found by visiting the appropriate department's website.

**Please Note:** Any course marked with an asterisk (\*\*\*) must be approved for regional credit by a Harriman advisor prior to enrollment. For Harriman approval of courses not listed which you believe may fulfill regional requirements, please contact [Rebecca Dalton](#) or [Elise Giuliano](#).

**Regional Languages:** The following languages satisfy the Harriman Certificate & MARS-REERS language requirements and are currently being offered: Armenian, Czech, Hungarian, \*\*\*Persian, Polish, Romanian, Russian, Serbo-Croatian-Bosnian, \*\*\*Turkish, Ukrainian, and Yiddish. Please consult the Directory of Classes for language times and sections.

Room assignments and class schedules are subject to change. Please consult the Columbia Directory of Classes on-line at [www.columbia.edu/cu/bulletin/uwb](http://www.columbia.edu/cu/bulletin/uwb) for final confirmation.

### Anthropology

#### **FILM AT LOW TEMPERATURES: CINEMAS OF THE ARCTIC**

**Anthropology GU4108 Call Number:** 13238 **Points:** 4 [View in Vergil](#)

**Day/Time:** R 12:10pm-2:00pm **Location:** 1201 International Affairs Building

**Instructor:** Tyler Adkins

This seminar explores the screen cultures of the Indigenous peoples of the Polar and Circumpolar regions of Canada, The United States, Russia, Scandinavia, and Greenland as they exist at the unstable boundary between cinematic object and creative subject. Viewing work by Indigenous filmmakers, we will draw on from Indigenous Studies, Cultural Anthropology, and Film Studies to examine the complicated role of film in the Arctic.

### Bosnian, Croatian, Serbian

#### **ADVANCED BOSNIAN/CROATIAN/SERBIAN**

**Bosnian, Croatian, Serbian GU4332 Call Number:** 10744 **Points:** 3 [View in Vergil](#)

**Day/Time:** TW 1:10pm-2:25pm **Location:** 352C International Affairs Building

**Instructor:** Aleksandar Boskovic

### Comparative Literature: Russian

#### **IMPOSSIBLE WORLDS IN RUSSIAN AND ENGLISH**

**Comparative Literature: Russian GU4113 Call Number:** 14823 **Points:** 3 [View in Vergil](#)

**Day/Time:** M 4:10pm-6:00pm **Location:** 304 Hamilton Hall

**Instructor:** Jessica E Merrill

**Please Note:** Any course marked with an asterisk (\*\*\*) must be pre-approved for regional credit by a Harriman advisor (see Page 1).

It is often remarked that narratives *constrain*. The pressure to fit knowledge to a plot structure can limit understanding. This course explores the problem of narrative structure by focusing on the storyworld. We ask, can distorting the time and space of a fictional world enable new knowledge? We consider fictions set in other places (heterotopias), stories without endings, genre hybrids, time travel, 4D space. In addition to texts, units focus on oral storytelling, and image and game based narrative. The syllabus is historical and comparative, contrasting (primarily) Russophone and Anglophone works drawn from the 19th-20th centuries. Our investigation of impossible worlds is supported throughout by readings in narrative theory. The course thus also provides an introduction to Bakhtinian, structuralist, and cognitive narrative studies. No prerequisites. All assigned reading is provided in English.

### **THINKING SOCIALISM: THE SOVIET INTELLIGENTSIA AFTER STALIN**

**Comparative Literature: Russian GU4215 Call Number: 11244 Points: 3** [View in Vergil](#)

**Day/Time:** T 4:10pm-6:00pm **Location:** 709 Hamilton Hall

**Instructor:** Adam Leeds

While the Soviet Union after the second World War is often figured as a country of “stagnation,” in contrast to the avant garde 1920s and the tumult of Stalin’s 1930s, this figure is currently being re-evaluated. Political calm belied a rapidly changing society. The period developed a Soviet culture that was indubitably educated, modern, and mass. Despite, or within, or against the ever changing and ambiguous boundaries, censors, and dogmas, Soviet intellectuals generated cultural productions that reflected upon, processed, and critiqued the reality in which they lived and created. This course examines the development of this late Soviet “intelligentsia,” the first that was fully a product of Soviet society itself. Against a background of social history, we will select developments in various realms of cultural production for further examination, which from year to year may include philosophy, literature, political culture and ideology, art, and science.

#### **Comparative Literature: Slavic**

### **HEBREW: HISTORY, POLITICS, CULTURE, LITE**

**Comparative Literature: Slavic GU4000 Call Number: 14824 Points: 3** [View in Vergil](#)

**Day/Time:** W 4:10pm-6:00pm **Location:** 304 Hamilton Hall

**Instructor:** Offer Dynes

This class offers an introduction to Hebrew culture from a historical and literary perspective, focusing on the intersection of linguistic ideology, and literary and cultural creativity. What, we will ask, is the relationship between what people think about Hebrew and what they write in Hebrew?

We will investigate the manners in which Hebrew was imagined – as the language of God, the language of the Jews, the language of the patriarchy, the language of secularism, the language of Messianism, the language of nationalism, a dead language, a diasporic Eastern European language, a local Middle Eastern Language, ext., and how these conflicting imaginaries informed Hebrew creativity.

This class does not require prior knowledge of Hebrew. Students proficient in Hebrew, Yiddish, Arabic, Ladino, and/or European languages are encouraged to contact the instructor in advance for supplementary material in these languages.

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## Czech

### READINGS IN CZECH LITERATURE II

**Czech GU4334 Call Number:** 11032 **Points:** 3 [View in Vergil](#)

**Day/Time:** TR 4:10pm-5:25pm **Location:** 476B Alfred Lerner Hall

**Instructor:** Christopher Harwood

Prerequisites: two years of college Czech or the equivalent. A close study in the original of representative works of Czech literature. Discussion and writing assignments in Czech aimed at developing advanced language proficiency.

## Georgian

### EXPRESSIVE CULTURE OF SOVIET AND INDEPENDENT GEORGIA

**Georgian GU4042 Call Number:** 14822 **Points:** 3 [View in Vergil](#)

**Day/Time:** W 10:10am-12:00pm **Location:** 707 Hamilton Hall

**Instructor:** Lauren E Ninoshvili

Expressive culture in the form of traditional and mediated performing and visual arts, film and literature has reflected and shaped modern Georgian social life in immeasurable ways. This seminar brings anthropological perspectives to bear on how expressive culture has served to articulate national and local senses of identity, grappled with collective trauma, and forged avant-garde creative networks within and beyond Georgia's borders in the socialist and postsocialist periods. The course is organized in three units: it begins by interrogating the curatorial interventions of international organizations like UNESCO and their role in commodifying Georgian culture for global markets, proceeds by exploring powerful creative responses to colonial and totalitarian experience, and concludes by focusing on the capital city of Tbilisi—its built spaces, ever-changing social configurations, and shifting value systems—as a persistent muse in expressive cultural forms.

There are no prerequisites and the course assumes no prior knowledge of Georgian history, language, or culture.

## History

### EASTERN EUROPE'S COLD WAR

**History GU4231 Call Number:** 12150 **Points:** 4 [View in Vergil](#)

**Day/Time:** M 12:10pm-2:00pm **Location:** 1201 International Affairs Building

**Instructor:** Elidor Mehili

This seminar explores the Cold Wars impact on Eastern Europe (1940s-1980s) and Eastern Europe's Cold War-era engagements with the wider world. We will address the methodologies used by historians to answer questions like these: What was the Cold War? What did it mean, and for whom? We will also look at the Cold War as something more than a series of events; we will consider its value, uses, and limits as a device for framing the second half of the twentieth century.

### UKRAINE IN NEW YORK

**History GU4253 Call Number:** 14740 **Points:** 4 [View in Vergil](#)

**Day/Time:** W 10:10pm-12:00pm **Location:** 1201 International Affairs Building

**Instructor:** Alexander J Motyl

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Ukraine in New York is a multidisciplinary exploration of the Ukrainian-American community in New York City from its beginning in the late 19th century to the present. The course focuses on the history, demographics, economics, politics, religion, education, and culture of the community, devoting particular attention to the impact thereon of the New York setting, shifting attitudes towards American politics and culture and homeland politics and culture, the tensions encountered in navigating between American, Soviet Ukraine, and independent Ukraine...

### **THE LEGACIES OF DIVISION: EAST-WEST ENTANGLEMENTS IN CONTEMPORARY EUROPEAN HISTORY**

**History GU4282 Call Number:** 11970 **Points:** 4 [View in Vergil](#)

**Day/Time:** W 10:10am-12:00pm **Location:** SAT Alfred Lerner Hall

**Instructor:** Ferenc Laczo

Through exploring how the asymmetrical relationship between Eastern and Western Europe has transformed since the 1970s, this course aims to decenter and reconsider contemporary European history. We shall focus primarily on political-institutional change, socioeconomic matters, and questions of political culture. We will pay special attention to key themes – such as the end of empire and Europeanization, the contemporary meanings of democracy, changing gender regimes, patterns of migration, and ongoing contestations of how Europeans remember – through which this complex relationship can be grasped.

### **BLACK SEA VIRTUAL TEXTBOOK: A DIGITAL RESEARCH SEMINAR**

**History GU4346 Call Number:** 11578 **Points:** 4 [View in Vergil](#)

**Day/Time:** M 4:10pm-6:00pm **Location:** 311 Fayerweather

**Instructor:** Catherine Evtuhov

This course is a continuation of History 4218, The Black Sea in History. It is open to all alumni of that class, from Fall 2023 or earlier. The goal of this research seminar is to craft a “virtual textbook” that gathers materials for each session of The Black Sea in History and posts them to a student-designed site. The primary “pull” of this class is that upper-level undergraduates, MA students, and PhD students will write (at least) one research article that will be published on the site. The site will serve as a textbook for future iterations of The Black Sea in History, and, while we will have a complete version by the end of the semester, future students will also be able to contribute. BSVT will be publicly accessible, so not limited to classroom use.

### **EMPIRE AND ENVIRONMENT IN EURASIA, 1700-2024**

**History GU4373 Call Number:** 14739 **Points:** 4 [View in Vergil](#)

**Day/Time:** R 2:10-4:00pm **Location:** 1201 International Affairs Building

**Notes:** Add to waitlist & see instructions on SSOL

**Instructor:** Taylor Zajicek

The Soviet Union, like the Russian Empire before it, straddled one-sixth of the planet’s landmass. Both powers drew on this territory’s vast resources—organic, mineral, animal, and human—to dominate their neighbors and exert power on the world stage. In the process, they dramatically reconfigured local ecosystems, from Central Asian deserts to Pacific islands. This seminar traces the interaction between empire and environment across three eras: Tsarist, Soviet, and post-Soviet. Its approach is comparative, framing developments in Russia alongside those elsewhere—in China, Europe, and the US. The course asks: How have modern polities transformed Eurasia’s land, water, and air? In turn, how has the natural world shaped the trajectories of diverse imperial projects? And what legacies have these encounters left for today?

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Topics include settler colonialism, energy transitions, “natural” disasters, warfare, environmentalism, scientific diplomacy, ecocide, climate change, and the comparative footprints of capitalism and communism. While the approach is historical, students will engage materials from across disciplines (alongside films, novellas, and other primary sources) with an eye towards today’s political and ecological dilemmas. The seminar is designed for upper-division and graduate students with an interest in environmental history methods. Previous exposure to Russian and Eurasian Studies is helpful, but not required.

### International Affairs

#### **\*\*\*INTERNET GOVERNANCE AND HUMAN RIGHTS**

**International Affairs U6202 Call Number:** 10702 **Points:** 3 [View in Vergil](#)

**Day/Time:** W 6:10pm-8:00pm **Location:** To be announced

**Instructor:** Peter Micek

Whoever controls the future of the internet, controls the future of the world. We'll look at the technical roots of the internet, and the people and entities -- telecom companies and their regulators, technologists and idealists, security forces and hackers -- shaping it today. Each group faces challenges. Policymakers have reached consensus that human rights apply online, but need to update and replace laws, regulations, and norms for the digital age. Companies have responsibilities to law and policy, but vary widely in their respect for users and governments. The UN Sustainable Development Goals identify internet access as essential to development, but policy environments fail to extend connectivity to vulnerable or marginalized communities. And the cat-and-mouse game between cyber offense and defense continues, leaving many less-resourced groups -- and the right to privacy -- lagging behind. Will national sovereignty reassert itself, breaking the internet, or will the vision of a borderless cyberspace prevail? Will the European approach to data protection set global standards? Does network neutrality function amidst the internet of everything? To find the answers, we nimbly role-play, enjoy small group activities, welcome guest experts, and hone tech policy skills under time pressure. Expect to participate frequently, and learn to navigate the most pressing issues facing companies, governments, and technologists today.

#### **\*\*\*DYNAMICS OF CYBERCONFLICT**

**International Affairs U6383 Call Number:** 10269 **Points:** 3 [View in Vergil](#)

**Day/Time:** T 4:10pm-6:00pm **Location:** To be announced

**Instructor:** Jason Healey

This class examines the dynamics of cyber conflict. We will focus less on the technology of cyberspace than the national security threats, challenges, and policy responses including lessons from history and other kinds of conflict. After taking this course, you will understand about the Internet and Internet-based attacks; how cyber conflicts unfold at the tactical and strategic levels; how cyber conflicts and cyber power are different or similar to conflict and power in other domains; the evolution of US cyber policies and organizations; as well as legal issues and the policies and organizations of other nations. The centerpiece of the course is an exercise to reinforce the fundamentals of national security response to a major cyber incident. Accordingly, you will demonstrate the ability to formulate policy recommendations in the face of the uncertainties of an unfolding cyber conflict.

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## Political Science

### ETHNIC POLITICS ACROSS POST-SOVIET EURASIA

**Political Science GU4436 Call Number:** 13225 **Points:** 4 [View in Vergil](#)

**Day/Time:** R 2:10pm-4:00pm **Location:** 1219 International Affairs Building

**Notes:** No direct registration; those interested should join waitlist

**Instructor:** Elise Giuliano

Various forms of ethnic politics have characterized politics in many states throughout Eurasia since 1991, from nationalist separatism to violent conflict to political competition among ethnic minorities and majorities. This course is designed to encourage students to think deeply about the relationship between ethnicity and politics. We will consider several questions. First, why does ethnicity become politicized? We investigate this question by examining nationalist secessionism and ethnic conflict—phenomena that mushroomed at the end of the Cold War. We will focus on East Central Europe and the former Soviet Union, devoting special attention to the cases of Yugoslavia, the USSR, Moldova, Abkhazia and South Ossetia, and Chechnya. However, we will also study cases in which the dog didn't bark, i.e. places where nationalist mobilization and ethnic violence either did not occur, or emerged and then receded as in the ethnic republics of the Russian Federation (including the "Muslim" regions of Tatarstan and Bashkortostan, etc.). In the second part of the course, we will analyze ethnic politics after independent statehood was achieved throughout the post-Soviet space. How do nationalist state-builders try to construct a nation and a state at the same time? Have they incorporated or discriminated against minorities living within "their" states? How have ethnic minorities responded? We will study Ukraine, the Baltics and Kazakhstan where ethnic Russians and Russian-speaking populations form large portions of the population, devoting particular attention to the crisis in Ukraine. We will also examine how the post-conflict regions of Bosnia and Kosovo have dealt with ethnic pluralism. These cases allow us to gain greater understanding of how multi-ethnic states use forms of federalism, consociationalism, and power-sharing as state-building strategies.

### STATE AND SOCIETY IN UKRAINE

**Political Science GU4439 Call Number:** 15428 **Points:** 4 [View in Vergil](#)

**Day/Time:** M 2:10pm-4:00pm **Location:** 522C Kent Hall

**Notes:** No direct registration; those interested should join waitlist

**Instructor:** Volodymyr Kulyk

This course deals with the functioning of the state and society in post-Soviet Ukraine, from its peaceful establishment in 1991 to its affirmation and revision in the crucible of the war with neoimperial Russia since 2014. On the one hand, it examines the formation and subsequent transformation of the state, including the branches of government, the party system, elections, foreign policy, education and social welfare. On the other hand, it discusses various facets of society such as religion, media, language use, gender relations, poverty, racism, etc. In tracing the relations between the state and society on a rocky road from totalitarianism to democracy, particular attention is paid to two upsurges of popular protest against state abuse, namely the Orange and Euromaidan revolution and subsequent attempts to empower society and strengthen its control over the state. No less prominent will be discussions of two military interventions by Russia seeking to keep Ukraine in its sphere of influence, the annexation of Crimea and the instigation of a separatist conflict in the Donbas in 2014, and the full-blown invasion in 2022, and the Ukrainian state and society's responses to these interventions.

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**RUSSIAN PROPAGANDA IN DOMESTIC & GLOBAL POLITICS****Political Science GU4457 Call Number:** 13227 **Points:** 4 [View in Vergil](#)**Day/Time:** T 2:10pm-4:00pm **Location:** 711 International Affairs Building**Notes:** No direct registration; those interested should join waitlist**Instructor:** Anton Shirikov

Propaganda is a key tool of contemporary authoritarian politics. Autocrats such as Russia's Vladimir Putin, China's Xi Jinping, or Hungary's Viktor Orbán use state-controlled media to manipulate citizens, and some of them extensively rely on propaganda to undermine democracy in other countries. This course encourages students to think about the specific roles that media and propaganda play in autocracies, focusing on Russia in particular. We will read and discuss cutting-edge empirical research in political science and media studies to understand how autocrats such as Putin manipulate public opinion, why their propaganda can be successful, what its limits are, and how we can spot authoritarian propaganda in practice.

**RUSSIA AND THE WEST****Political Science GU4875 Call Number:** 00375 **Points:** 3 [View in Vergil](#)**Day/Time:** MW 10:10am-11:25am **Location:** to be announced**Instructor:** Kimberly Marten**POLITICS OF AUTOCRACY****Political Science GR8428 Call Number:** 13276 **Points:** 4 [View in Vergil](#)**Day/Time:** W 4:10pm-6:00pm **Location:** 711 International Affairs Building**Notes:** No direct registration; those interested should join waitlist**Instructor:** Timothy M Frye**Regional Institute****ENERGY, CORPORATE RESPONSIBILITY & HUMAN RIGHTS****Regional Institute U6149 Call Number:** 10334 **Points:** 3 [View in Vergil](#)**Day/Time:** TR 4:10pm-5:25pm **Location:** 1201 International Affairs Building**Instructor:** Jenik Radon

This class examines how to reconcile the differing/conflicting interests/goals of energy, and mining, companies and the public interest (e.g. governments); how to negotiate PPP agreements; understand the function/impact of laws and international trade agreements; and determine how CSR, especially environment and anti-corruption, and human rights apply. Case studies of multi-billion international energy pipeline projects, including TAP in Albania and Greece, TAPI in Turkmenistan, Afghanistan, Pakistan and India, BTC in Georgian and the Caucasus and , for comparative purposes, the controversial Keystone in US and Canada, will be the prism/focus for analysis. The class is dynamic and cross-disciplinary.

**\*\*\*ECONOMICS OF EUROPEAN INTEGRATION****Regional Institute U6300 Call Number:** 10335 **Points:** 3 [View in Vergil](#)**Day/Time:** R 4:10pm-6:00pm **Location:** 402 International Affairs Building**Instructor:** Seamus C O'Cleireacain

A policy-oriented but theory-based course on the current state of economic integration in the European Union. Topics include: macroeconomic policy responses to the Covid-19 crisis; the impact of Brexit; design

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failures of the Eurozone and steps to completing the Banking Union and Monetary Union; monetary policy of the ECB; fiscal policies and fiscal rules; EU labor markets; the Common Agricultural Policy and environmental policy; tax and competition policy for high tech firms in a digital economy; EU trade policy particularly relations with the U.S. and with China.

### **POLITICS OF IDENTITY IN POST-COMMUNIST EAST CENTRAL EUROPE**

**Regional Institute U6520 Call Number:** 15469 **Points:** 3 [View in Vergil](#)

**Day/Time:** W 2:10pm-4:00pm **Location:** 1201 International Affairs Building

**Instructor:** Volodymyr Kulyk

The course examines the complex relations between politics and identities in various countries of post-communist Eastern, Central and Southern Europe. It deals with various aspects of the politics of identity, including language, ethnicity, religion, and memory, in an array of social domains encompassing education, public administration, media, churches, linguistic landscapes, and public monuments. It seeks to describe post-communist processes in these domains as both grounded in ideologies and practices of the communist and pre-communist past and shaped by the domestic sociopolitical situation and external (geo)political contexts. A case featured in the course is Ukraine, which is very interesting in view of its ambivalent historical legacy, contradictory policies in post-Soviet years, and the remarkable resilience that has been demonstrated in time of war with Russia. At the same time, considerable attention will be paid to cases as different as Belarus, Moldova, Georgia, Poland, Slovakia, Hungary, Romania, the Baltic and post-Yugoslav states. This choice of cases makes it possible to present a diversity and complexity of identity politics in post-communist societies.

### **GLOBAL RELIANCE ON RUSSIAN ENERGY**

**Regional Institute U6538 Call Number:** 10337 **Points:** 3 [View in Vergil](#)

**Day/Time:** W 4:10pm-6:00pm **Location:** 1219 International Affairs Building

**Instructor:** Natasha Udensiva

Russia's unprovoked war in Ukraine dramatically changed the world energy landscape and created one of the primary energy crises in the world. The Russian Federation is the world's largest energy exporter of fossil fuels. However, shocked by the war, the West imposed sanctions on the Russian energy sector. The course will discuss a significant energy geopolitical shift happening worldwide because of the war. We will focus on how the EU navigates this crisis and how Russia tries to escape sanctions. What new energy alliances appear, and what disappear because of this war?

### **POLITICS OF THE CAUCASUS**

**Regional Institute U6562 Call Number:** 10338 **Points:** 3 [View in Vergil](#)

**Day/Time:** T 11:00am-12:50pm **Location:** 1201 International Affairs Building

**Instructor:** Julie George

This course tracks the trajectories of politics in the Caucasus, focusing on the political development of the independent states of the South Caucasus: Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Georgia. While the focus is on contemporary political dynamics, the course considers the mechanisms through which the legacies of Imperial Russian expansion and Soviet structures interact with current mechanisms of interest articulation and power. Students in this course will examine the contours and mechanisms of the collapse of Soviet hegemony in the South Caucasus, spending some time examining the conflicts that accompanied this process and persist today. The course will address the country contexts both individually and comparatively,

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thereby encouraging students to delve deeply into the politics of each state, but then also enabling them to find continuities and contrasts across major thematic considerations.

### **UKRAINE: POWER POLITICS & DIPLOMACY**

**Regional Institute U8755 Call Number:** 10339 **Points:** 3 [View in Vergil](#)

**Day/Time:** T 2:10pm-4:00pm **Location:** 1201 International Affairs Building

**Instructor:** Valerii Kuchynskyi

The seminar-like course consists of three parts: Historical Background, Thematic and Political Issues and Conclusions. It provides historical perspectives on the development of today's Ukraine, analyzes the evolution of its politics since Independence and its quest for Euroatlantic integration. While providing an assessment of political, social and economic transformations, the course examines major causes of Euromaidan and the Revolution of Dignity. The current political situation in the country and an ongoing military conflict are thoroughly investigated. The results of the 2019 Presidential and Parliamentary election and its impact will also be analyzed in detail. What are the chances by the new Government to reach a "peaceful solution" in the Donbass, eradicate corruption, improve economic situation and implement reforms? Is there a future for the Minsk accords? What's the significance of the Normandy Summit? These and other issues, including behind-the-scenes activities, power struggle and diplomatic activities, are dealt with in the newly revised course delivered by a career diplomat. The format of the course will encourage active dialogue and analytical reflection on the part of the students. The professor regularly provides additional articles and analytical reviews on current political situation to be discussed at each session. During the course each student is to prepare a mid-term and final papers exploring the prospects of Ukraine becoming a free, prosperous, democratic state and a member of European institutions or staying in the zone of Russian influence and the consequences thereof.

### **Russian**

### **REMEDIATING PROTEST: TRANSGRESSIVE AESTHETICS IN SOVIET & POST-SOVIET CULTURE**

**Russian GU4126 Call Number:** 13242 **Points:** 3 [View in Vergil](#)

**Day/Time:** T 4:10-6:00pm **Location:** 707 Hamilton Hall

**Instructor:** Tatiana Efremova

In the past ten years the authoritarian regime in Russia has rendered political protest exceedingly dangerous but it has not immobilized the cultural forms of dissent shaping contemporary anti-war resistance. From a feminist performance in a church to satirical documentary and whimsical trial speeches, contemporary artists, journalists, and activists have been creating the language of protest essential to understanding post-Soviet space. Why has protest in the post-Soviet region been taking these specific aesthetic forms? Taking our point of departure from Rancière's idea of resistance – signifying both firm persistence and a practice yielding change – we will explore how contemporary post-Soviet protest genres rely on the communication strategies that return to Soviet parody, poetic form, underground art, and dissident practices of cultural distribution. Looking at laughter as a transgressive communicative device, we will search for the reverberations of Soviet satire in Russian and Belorussian stand-up, as well as in less obvious genres, such as the recent documentary work by Alexey Navalny. We will focus on mimesis as a tool of resistance in Soviet underground art and contemporary performative practices. Exploring the aesthetics of testimony rooted in Soviet show trials, we will examine how Soviet journalistic prose and, later, contemporary theater reclaimed its devices. We will study the persistence of bodily tropes and language of violence in women's prose, drama, contemporary feminist poetry and feminist performance from Russia and Belarus. Finally, we will discuss

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how dissident practices of samizdat and tamizdat helped create cultural networks in Soviet Russia and beyond as we reflect on the use of new media platforms and technologies of digital activism in post-Soviet space. Rather than searching for instances of direct influence between cultural producers, we will examine how protest strategies are shaped and remediated while activating multiple layers of cultural memory. Students will learn to annotate images and videos online, write blog posts and carry out an independent research project in consultation with the instructor. At the end of the course they have a choice of presenting the project in the form of a paper or a multimedia digital piece. Enrollment is open to upper level undergraduate and graduate students. All primary and secondary readings are in English or have subtitles.

### **MUSIC IN TIME AND TIME IN MUSIC**

**Russian GU4127 Call Number:** 18907 **Points:** 3 [View in Vergil](#)

**Day/Time:** TR 1:10pm-2:25pm **Location:** 709 Hamilton Hall

**Instructor:** Marina Tsylyna

If you have a passion for music, like listening to music, or simply want to explore the realm of Russian melodies, this course is made for you. In the class, we'll focus on the development and strengthening of "four language skills": speaking, listening, reading, and writing in Russian. You will learn to analyze and interpret lyrics, compare and contrast music across generations, discuss the values of a certain generation of people, and argue the popularity of music genres in specific time periods. Beyond linguistic proficiency, the course will immerse you in a comprehensive exploration of common knowledge, beliefs, attitudes, cultural traditions, and behavioral patterns unique to the people of Russia.

### **CHTENIIA PO RUSSKOI LITERATURE: TURGENEV**

**Russian GU4331 Call Number:** 10716 **Points:** 3 [View in Vergil](#)

**Day/Time:** MW 1:10am-2:25pm **Location:** 507 Hamilton Hall

**Instructor:** Irina Reyfman

### **FOURTH-YEAR RUSSIAN II**

**Russian GU4343 Call Number:** 14954 **Points:** 4 [View in Vergil](#)

**Day/Time:** MWF 2:40pm-3:55pm **Location:** 709 Hamilton Hall

**Notes:** PREREQ GU4342 or placement test

**Instructor:** Tatiana Mikhailova

### **RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CULTURE**

**Russian GR6142 Call Number:** 10745 **Points:** 4 [View in Vergil](#)

**Day/Time:** W 4:10pm-6:00pm **Location:** 1201 International Affairs Building

**Instructor:** Valentina Izmirlieva

From Prince Valdimir's Rus' to the Post-Soviet Russia of Vladimir Putin, religion has remained a key factor in the making and remaking of Russian polity and culture. This course will explore how Orthodox Christianity—whether privileged or persecuted—came to dominate the Russian religious scene and shape Russian institutions, discourses, and lived experiences. Students will draw from a variety of primary and secondary sources—chronicles, saints' lives, travel narratives, memoirs, letters, legal documents, icons and other ritual objects, films and fictional texts, as well as a large body of scholarly works and contemporary media materials—to examine how Russia's Orthodox past and its rewriting into competing "histories" have been used over time as "legacies" shaping the present and the future.

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**RUSSIAN DRAMA AND THEATER: PERFORMATIVE****Russian GR6164 Call Number:** 11778 **Points:** 4 [View in Vergil](#)**Day/Time:** R 2:10pm-4:00pm **Location:** 317 Hamilton Hall**Instructors:** Irina Reyfman and Mark Lipovetsky

In this course, our goal is to provide students with a comprehensive overview of the rich tradition of Russian dramaturgy. We will embark on a journey that starts with court drama and ends with contemporary political plays. In addition to exploring literary works, we will explore theories related to theatricality and performativity. Our primary emphasis will be on tracing the evolution of dramatic genres and their significance within a broader cultural context. Through the lens of these dramatic genres, we will illuminate the developmental stages of key aesthetic systems in Russian culture, ranging from the Baroque, Classicism, Romanticism, the avant-garde, and modernism up to postmodernism and docudrama.

The course is designed primarily for graduate students in the Slavic field who are interested in Russian drama and theater (a subfield that we are rarely addressing). It is designated GR6\*\*\*, because few of these texts are available in translation, and reading the originals requires advanced knowledge of Russian. The course will fulfill requirements for M.A. and M.Phil. degrees. Advanced Russian undergraduate majors with native or near native knowledge of Russian will be allowed to take the course with the instructor's permission.

**Ukrainian****ADVANCED UKRAINIAN THROUGH LITERATURE MEDIA AND POLITICS II****Ukrainian GU 4007 Call Number:** 11036 **Points:** 3 [View in Vergil](#)**Day/Time:** MW 1:10pm-2:25pm **Location:** 351A International Affairs Building**Instructor:** Yuri Shevchuk

This course is organized around a number of thematic centers or modules. Each is focused on stylistic peculiarities typical of a given functional style of the Ukrainian language. Each is designed to assist the student in acquiring an active command of lexical, grammatical, discourse, and stylistic traits that distinguish one style from the others and actively using them in real-life communicative settings in contemporary Ukraine. The styles include literary fiction, scholarly prose, and journalism, both printed and broadcast

**CREATING IDENTITY: CONTEMPORARY UKRAINIAN CULTURE****Ukrainian GU4054 Call Number:** 10714 **Points:** 3 [View in Vergil](#)**Day/Time:** TR 1:10pm-2:25pm **Location:** 707 Hamilton Hall**Instructor:** Mark Andryczyk

This course presents and examines post-Soviet Ukrainian literature. Students will learn about the significant achievements, names, events, scandals and polemics in contemporary Ukrainian literature and will see how they have contributed to Ukraine's post-Soviet identity. Students will examine how Ukrainian literature became an important site for experimentation with language, for providing feminist perspectives, for engaging previously-banned taboos and for deconstructing Soviet and Ukrainian national myths. Among the writers to be focused on in the course are Serhiy Zhadan, Yuri Andrukhovych, Oksana Zabuzhko and Taras Prokhasko. Centered on the most important successes in literature, the course will also explore key developments in music and visual art of this period. Special focus will be given to how the 2013/2014 Euromaidan revolution and war are treated in today's literature. By also studying Ukrainian literature with

**Please Note:** Any course marked with an asterisk (\*\*\*) must be pre-approved for regional credit by a Harriman advisor (see Page 1).

regards to its relationship with Ukraine's changing political life, students will obtain a good understanding of the dynamics of today's Ukraine and the development of Ukrainians as a nation in the 21st century. The course will be complemented by audio and video presentations. Entirely in English with a parallel reading list for those who read Ukrainian.

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