

## Harriman Institute/East Central European Center Graduate Course Listing Fall 2024

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.

### Comparative Literature: Russian

#### **POETS, REBELS, EXILES: 100 YEARS OF RUSSIANS AND RUSSIAN JEWS IN AMERICA**

**Comparative Literature: Russian GU4037 Call Number: 11476 Points: 3**

**Day/Time:** Th 2:10-4:00PM **Location:** 707 Hamilton Hall

**Instructor:** Anna Katsnelson

Poets, Rebels, Exiles examines the successive generations of the most provocative and influential Russian and Russian Jewish writers and artists who brought the cataclysm of the Soviet and post-Soviet century to North America. From Joseph Brodsky—the bad boy bard of Soviet Russia and a protégé of Anna Akhmatova, who served 18 months of hard labor near the North Pole for social parasitism before being exiled—to the most recent artistic descendants, this course will interrogate diaspora, memory, and nostalgia in the cultural production of immigrants and exiles.

#### **COLD WAR REASON: CYBERNETICS AND THE SYSTEMS SCIENCES**

**Comparative Literature: Russian GU4213 Call Number: 11518 Points: 3**

**Day/Time:** M 2:10pm-4:00pm **Location:** 613 Hamilton Hall

**Instructor:** Adam Leeds

The Cold War epoch saw broad transformations in science, technology, and politics. At their nexus a new knowledge was proclaimed, cybernetics, a putative universal science of communication and control. It has disappeared so completely that most have forgotten that it ever existed. Its failure seems complete and final. Yet in another sense, cybernetics was so powerful and successful that the concepts, habits, and institutions born with it have become intrinsic parts of our world and how we make sense of it. Key cybernetic concepts of information, system, and feedback are now fundamental to our basic ways of understanding the mind, brain and computer, of grasping the

economy and ecology, and finally of imagining the nature of human life itself. This course will trace the echoes of the cybernetic explosion from the wake of World War II to the onset of Silicon Valley euphoria.

### **Comparative Literature: Slavic**

#### **EXPERIMENTAL CULTURES**

**Comparative Literature: Slavic GU4011 Call Number: 10754 Points: 3**

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

**Instructors:** Aleksandar Boskovic and Christopher Caes

This seminar course will provide a punctual survey of trends and figures in the experimental cultures of East Central Europe. Formations include the avant-gardes (first, postwar, and postcommunist); experimental Modernisms and Postmodernisms; alternative film, media, and visual culture; and formally inventive responses to exceptional historical circumstances. Proceeding roughly chronologically from early twentieth to early twenty-first centuries, we will examine expressionist/surrealistic painting and drama; zenithist hybrid genres such as cinépoetry and proto-conceptualist writing; mixed-media relief sculpture; post-conceptual art; experimental and animated film; and avant-garde classical music. In terms of theory, we will draw on regional and global approaches to artistic experimentation ranging from Marxist and other theories of value through discourses of the body and sexuality in culture to contemporary affect theory. The course will be taught in English with material drawn primarily from Poland, Yugoslavia, Czechoslovakia, and Hungary. Each session will include a lecture followed by discussion.

#### **HOLOCAUST LITERATURE: Critical Thinking**

**Comparative Literature: Slavic GU4012 Call Number: 13510 Points: 3**

**Day/Time:** W 10:10PM-12:00PM **Location:** 709 Hamilton Hall

**Instructor:** Offer Dynes

How do you write literature in the midst of catastrophe? To whom do you write if you don't know whether your readership will survive? Or that you yourself will survive? How do you theorize society when the social fabric is tearing apart? How do you develop a concept of human rights at a time when mass extermination is deemed legal? How do you write Jewish history when Jewish future seems uncertain?

This course offers a survey of the literature and intellectual history written during World War II (1939-1945) both in Nazi occupied Europe and in the free world, written primarily, but not exclusively, by Jews. We will read novels, poems, science fiction, historical fiction, legal theory and social theory and explore how intellectuals around the world responded to the extermination of European Jewry as it happened and how they changed their understanding of what it means to be a public intellectual, what it means to be Jewish, and what it means to be human.

The aim of the course is threefold. First, it offers a survey of the Jewish experience during WWII, in France, Russia, Poland, Latvia, Romania, Greece, Palestine, Morocco, Iraq, the USSR, Argentina, and the United States. Second, it introduces some of the major contemporary debates in holocaust studies. Finally, it provides a space for a methodological reflection on how literary analysis, cultural studies, and historical research intersect.

## **POST COLONIAL/POST SOVIET CINEMA**

**Comparative Literature: Slavic GU4075 Call Number: 10290 Points: 3**

**Day/Time:** T 6:10PM-10:00PM **Location:** 507 Hamilton Hall

**Instructor:** Yuri Shevchuk

The course will discuss how filmmaking has been used as an instrument of power and imperial domination in the Soviet Union as well as on post-Soviet space since 1991. A body of selected films by Soviet and post-Soviet directors which exemplify the function of filmmaking as a tool of appropriation of the colonized, their cultural and political subordination by the Soviet center will be examined in terms of postcolonial theories. The course will focus both on Russian cinema and often overlooked work of Ukrainian, Georgian, Belarusian, Armenian, etc. national film schools and how they participated in the communist project of fostering a «new historic community of the Soviet people as well as resisted it by generating, in hidden and, since 1991, overt and increasingly assertive ways their own counter-narratives. Close attention will be paid to the new Russian film as it re-invents itself within the post-Soviet imperial momentum projected on the former Soviet colonies.

## **POSTMODERNISM VS TYRANNY: A ROMANIAN LITERARY REVOLUTION**

**Comparative Literature: Slavic GR6103 Call Number: 19376 Points: 1**

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

**Instructor:** Mircea Cartarescu

The course will examine the legendary Generation of the 1980s (the Blue Jeans generation) in Romanian literature, and its relationship with the Beat generation in American poetry on one hand, and with American Postmodernism in fiction, on the other.

The course will begin with a focus on Romanian literature of the 1980s and the suffocating atmosphere in which young writers were forced to live, their day-to-day struggles with the dictatorship and censorship, as well as their strong determination to preserve their inner freedom and the essential independence of the literary text. The discovery of the Beat poets, for example, Allen Ginsberg, Lawrence Ferlinghetti, Gregory Corso, Gary Snyder etc., was a game-changer for Romanian poetry, introducing a fresh breath of air and a new poetic attitude. Like the Beat poets in San Francisco, who fought against the conservative establishment during the Vietnam War, the poets of the 1980s generation used the power of language against the Communist dictatorship, creating a poetry that was a mixture of European surrealism and the avantgarde, and the spirit of the U.S. Beat poets. The course will examine the work of the foremost Romanian poets of the period, including Traian T. Coșovei, Mariana Marin, Magda Cârneci, Florin Iaru, and Ion Stratan.

In the same historical period, the prose writers of the 1980s became interested in the philosophy of language, writing sophisticated texts under the influence of the literature of the Left Bank, the Nouveau Roman, the Oulipo group, etc. The new Postmodern American writers were also a huge influence on their works. John Barthes, Donald Barthelme, Robert Coover, and Thomas Pynchon, among others, were key figures for Romanian writers of that period. We will first examine the Postmodern philosophical ideas as expressed by Gianni Vattimo, Guy Scarpetta, Jean Francois Lyotard, Francis Fukuyama etc., then move on to the literary concepts that define postmodernity, as discussed in the work of theorists like Ihab Hassan, Matei Calinescu, Gerald Graff, Douwe Fokkema etc. Finally, the course will consider the short stories and novels by Mircea Nedelciu, Gheorghe Craciun, Ioana Parvulescu, Cristian Teodorescu, Gheorghe Iova, etc.

The course will be conducted in English. All required readings will be posted on Courseworks.

## **WOMEN AND RESISTANCE: UKRAINE, BELARUS, RUSSIA**

**Comparative Literature: Slavic GR6128 Call Number: 10985 Points: 4**

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

**Instructor: Valentina Izmirlieva**

A graduate seminar which invites students to re-read contemporary history of Eastern Europe through the lens of women's resistance. Women are no less effective history agents than men, but they usually act outside of dominant power structures, opposing and subverting them through imaginative strategies of resistance in the everyday. Focused on the Soviet Union and the contemporary states of Ukraine, Belarus and Russia, this course explores female resistance channeled through visual and performance art, fiction and documentary, poetry and film. Structured in reverse chronological order, it begins with current manifestations of women's resistance, from artistic interventions in the War in Ukraine to Pussy Riot's punk performances and the political activism of the Belarus Free Theater. It then investigates the genealogy of these contemporary forms of resistance in underground feminist and dissident activism during the late Soviet period, a whole range of resistance articulations through the female experiences of WW2, the GULAG and Stalinist purges, and female agency in subverting gender norms since the Bolshevik sexual Revolution of the 1920s. All reading will be available in English.

Open to graduate students. Advanced undergraduates can register with instructor's permission. No Russian, Ukrainian or Belarusian required.

## **Czech**

### **READINGS IN CZECH LITERATURE I**

**Czech GU4333 Call Number: 10750 Points: 3**

**Day/Time: MW 10:10PM-11:25PM Location: 404 Hamilton Hall**

**Instructor: Christopher W 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.

## **History**

### **THE BLACK SEA IN HISTORY**

**History GU4218 Call Number: 12914 Points: 4**

**Day/Time: W 2:10pm-4:00pm Location: 302 Fayerweather**

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

**Instructor: Taylor Zajicek**

We are used to thinking of history in national terms, or at least in reference to major civilizations ("Western civilization," "Near Eastern civilization," etc.). In "real life," however, interactions among people, linguistic communities, and cultures frequently cut across political divisions. Water - rivers, streams, seas - is often an invitation to settlement, commerce, and conquest. This course offers a look (inspired in part by Fernand Braudel's Mediterranean) at a body of water - the Black Sea - and

the lands around it, in sweeping historical perspective. Focus is on those moments when the various civilizations and empires that originated and flourished around the Black Sea met and intersected in friendship or in enmity. We will look at ancient civilizations, Greek colonization, Byzantine-Slav interactions, the period of Ottoman dominance, Russian-Turkish rivalry, and decolonization and wars in the 19th and 20th centuries. We hope that we will be able to pay particular attention to questions of ecology, language, religion, and cultural interaction throughout.

### **FOOD IN MODERN EAST CENTRAL EUROPE: A CULTURAL AND POLITICAL HISTORY**

**History GU4298 Call Number:** 19511 **Points:** 4

**Day/Time:** M 12:10pm-2:00pm **Location:** 569 Alfred Lerner Hall

**Notes:** add to waitlist and see instructions on SSOL

**Instructor:** Gabor Egry

Food is life – says a banal truism. It is the foundation of biological existence, and producing, creating and savoring food pervades life from the cradle to the last breath. It is everywhere from the campfire to picture galleries and philosophy books. It is material and symbolic, emotional and calculated. It is a glue and a dividing line between people.

Food is history. Both as a prominent or an almost invisible thread running through life, food is more than itself, a lens on how society changed through history. This course uses food as a social phenomenon to highlight differences and commonalities of the region called East Central Europe without and within. It reflects upon the numerous faces of food, how its changes, its use, creation, consumption, and study mirrors broader historical developments and how it serves as focus of attachments known from contemporary politics: national, local, regional. Following food in East Central European history offers not only an analysis of food and its function within society, but how food has changed with society too.

Throughout the course we shall explore the different – material, cultural, political, class – meanings of food, while introducing perspectives from different academic disciplines like social and political history, sociology, nationalism studies, anthropology. We start from the material, and through the concepts of food culture and food ways we shall connect the symbolic and practical aspects of food. After exploring how technology and science changed food and how it is related to modernity, we shall delve into the cultural and political: how does food reflect and represent various differences, how it is used to symbolize the immaterial. Finally, as East Central European food history is anything but peculiar, we will use food to think about the possible meanings of this geographic concept.

### **STALINISM**

**History GU4389 Call Number:** 10531 **Points:** 4

**Day/Time:** M 2:10pm-4:00pm **Location:** 311 Fayerweather

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

**Instructor:** Yana Skorobogatov

The quarter century during which Joseph Stalin ruled the Soviet Union witnessed some of the twentieth century's most dramatic events: history's fastest plunge into modernity, an apocalyptic world war, and the emergence of a socialist state as a competitive world power. This tutorial will offer students a deep dive not only into the historical depths of the Stalin era but into the gloriously

complex historiographical debates that surround it. Some of the questions that will animate the readings, writings, and discussions that students will engage in are as follows: Did Stalin depart from or represent a continuation of the policies introduced by his predecessor Vladimir Lenin? Did he rule in a totalitarian fashion or in ways comparable to other twentieth century regimes? Were his policies destructive or possibly productive? And perhaps most boggling of all: why did no one resist Stalinist rule?

### **AN ECONOMIC HISTORY OF CENTRAL EAST AND SOUTHEASTERN EUROPE THROUGH AUSTRO-HUNGARIAN LENS. ECONOMIC IMPERIALISM AND ECONOMIC SPACE 1870-1940**

**History GR8244 Call Number:** 19510 **Points:** 4

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

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

**Instructor:** Gabor Egry

Austria-Hungary was seen for a long time as a land of oppositions: an empire without colonies, a liberal parliamentary state oppressing its nationalities, a Great Power shrinking instead of building an empire, the second largest state in Europe (except Russia) in terms of population numbers and still weak in terms of its economy. This course will look at one of these oppositions, the alleged absence of imperialism. In doing so we shall focus on the economics of the empire, its high capitalist circles, and Austria-Hungary's economic presence in East, Central and Southeastern Europe. Thus, the course presents the economic history of the region not in the conventional form of parallel national narratives, it is rather focusing on a structure that lent a kind of coherence to it.

Mobilizing the toolkit of political, social, economic and business history, the discussions shall revolve around what is economic and political imperialism, how businesses are embedded in national and local contexts, and how business networks operate and delineate economic regions without necessarily relying on politics or clashing with each other. We shall look at Austria-Hungary particularly as the story of its economic networks runs through the dissolution of the empire, shifting the focus from politics to business and social continuities. We shall think about how an Austro-Hungarian economic space was part of broader continental economic configurations reaching to the late Ottoman Empire and how a regional economic space is created. Finally, this story is a good starting point to think about rival understandings of capitalism.

This course is partly based on the ongoing research project of the instructor. Based on the linguistic skills of attendees, the students could engage with primary sources, and they will be able to gain experience with how research is developed and operationalized.

### **Middle Eastern, South Asian, and African Studies**

#### **\*\*\*WAR GENOCIDE AND AFTERMATH**

**Middle East GU4357 Call Number:**10903 **Points:** 4

**Day/Time:** M 4:10-6:00 PM **Location:** 608 Martin Luther King Building

**Instructor:** Khatchig Mouradian

This 4000-level course examines how societies grapple with the legacy of mass violence, through an exploration of historical texts, memoirs, textbooks, litigation, and media reports and debates on confronting the past. Focusing on case studies of the Herero Genocide, the Armenian genocide

during WWI, and the Holocaust and the Comfort Women during WWII, students investigate the crime and its sequelae, looking at how societies deal with skeletons in their closets (engaging in silence, trivialization, rationalization, and denial to acknowledgment, apology, and repair); surveying responses of survivors and their descendants (with particular attention to intergeneration transmission of trauma, forgiveness, resentment, and the pursuit of redress); and dissecting public debates on modern day issues that harken back to past atrocities.

## Polish

### **ADVANCED POLISH**

**Polish GU4101 Call Number:** 10285 **Points:** 3

**Day/Time:** T Th 11:40am-12:55pm **Location:** 522A Kent Hall

**Instructor:** Christopher Caes

Prerequisites: two years of college Polish or the instructor's permission. Extensive readings from 19th- and 20th-century texts in the original. Both fiction and nonfiction, with emphasis depending on the interests and needs of individual students.

## Political Science

### **GOVERNMENT & POLITICS OF UKRAINE**

**Political Science GU4458 Call Number:** 19403 **Points:** 4

**Day/Time:** T 10:10am-12:00pm **Location:** 1219 International Affairs Building

**Instructor:** Anastasiia Vlasenko

This upper-level undergraduate comparative politics course applies the basic concepts of comparative political science to the political system of Ukraine. The course provides an in-depth examination of the political system, institutions, and social dynamics of Ukraine. Students will explore the historical, cultural, and geopolitical factors shaping Ukrainian politics, as well as key issues such as democratization, corruption, foreign policy, and the ongoing full-scale invasion of Ukraine. The course will also analyze the role of Ukraine in the broader context of European politics and its relationship with Russia. The assigned readings cover theories of voting, the party system development, political protests, transitions to democracy, the choice of political institutions, among other topics. Some of these topics are familiar from the Introduction to Comparative Politics course and other political science courses. In this class, students reexamine these theories in the specific context of Ukrainian politics. They also examine historical development of contemporary Ukrainian institutions and their effects on current policy decisions.

The main goal of this course is to help students develop theoretical tools for understanding political events and challenges of Ukraine. While this course covers some recent history of Ukraine, it also uses Ukraine as an example of the broader, more general issues that come along with democratization reforms. To accomplish this goal, the course draws on readings from comparative political science, economics, and sociology to introduce students to the major debates on economic and political reforms.

### **\*\*\*GLOBAL ENERGY: SECURITY/GEOPOLITICS**

**Political Science GU4814 Call Number:** 13529 **Points:** 3

**Day/Time:** MW 10:10AM-12:00PM **Location:** 407 Mathematics Building

**Instructor:** Albert Bininachvili

The course focuses on the nexus between energy and security as it reveals in the policies and interaction of leading energy producers and consumers. Topics include: Hydrocarbons and search for stability and security in the Persian Gulf, Caspian basin, Eurasia, Africa and Latin America; Russia as a global energy player; Analysis of the impact of Russia's invasion of Ukraine on energy markets, global security, and the future of the energy transition; Role of natural gas in the world energy balance and European energy security; Transformation of the global energy governance structure; Role and evolution of the OPEC; Introduction into energy economics; Dynamics and fundamentals of the global energy markets; IOCs vs NOCs; Resource nationalism, cartels, sanctions and embargoes; Asia's growing energy needs and its geo-economic and strategic implications; Nuclear energy and challenges to non-proliferation regime; Alternative and renewable sources of energy; Climate change as one of the central challenges of the 21st century; Analysis of the policies, technologies, financial systems and markets needed to achieve climate goals. Climate change and attempts of environmental regulation; Decarbonization trends, international carbon regimes and search for optimal models of sustainable development. Special focus on implications of the shale revolution and technological innovations on U.S. energy security.

### **Regional Institute**

#### **WRITING ON EURASIA**

**Regional Institute U6522 Call Number:** 16401 **Points:** 1.5

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

**Notes:** Course Dates Oct 17 to Dec 5

**Instructor:** Justin Burke

This course is designed to help MA-level students improve their researching and writing skills, and become adept at distilling acquired knowledge into straightforward prose. The aim is to assist students in being more effective communicators regardless of whether they pursue careers in academia, journalism, government service, private enterprise or the non-governmental sector. The course will also promote better understanding of how to get work published by mass media outlets. The course places particular emphasis on practical work, including the preparation of commentaries and book reviews concerning current affairs in Eurasia. Lectures examine the basic elements of editing, interviewing and concise writing. Other lectures focus on how to maintain personal and digital security while living and researching/working in Eurasia, and discuss best practices on harnessing social media for career advancement. Guest speakers will provide additional perspectives on ways to make writing on academic topics more accessible to the general reading public, and how to leverage expertise in Eurasian-area affairs in ways that can jump-start careers.

#### **SYSTEMIC CORRUPTION IN EURASIA: COMPETITION, CONFLICT, AND WAR**

**Regional Institute U6534 Call Number:** 16402 **Points:** 3

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

**Instructor:** Matthew H Murray



In Russia, Ukraine, Moldova, Belarus, and other countries of the Eurasia region, corruption is systemic. Corruption, defined as the abuse of public trust and power for private gain, is institutionalized in government at the national, regional, and local levels. Formal government decision-making processes have been captured by informal networks of political and business elites who exert significant control over the allocation of public resources. They utilize this control to make illegal financial gains with the support of government authorities and protection of the law.

When President Putin began Russia's expanded military invasion of Ukraine on February 24, 2022, the imprisoned Russian anticorruption activist and political opposition leader Alexey Navalny was on trial once again over fabricated charges of embezzlement. Though Mr. Navalny faced another 15 years in a penal colony, he seized the opportunity during his February 24 hearing to publicly state his opposition to Russia's war on Ukraine. "This war between Russia and Ukraine was unleashed to cover up the theft from Russian citizens and divert their attention from problems that exist inside the country," he said.

This seminar examines the role that Russia's systemic corruption played as a cause of Russia's war against Ukraine. Is the war an extension, and drastic escalation, of the Putin regime's campaign against both his own citizens and the citizens of post-Maidan Ukraine? We will consider how the Kremlin's strategic use of corruption is threatening the sovereignty of other nations in Eurasia.

This seminar analyzes the political economy, power relationships, historical and cultural factors that have engendered systemic corruption in Eurasian countries. We identify different types of corrupt systems that have emerged in the regions. We will also examine how systemic corruption causes conflict and war, and poses a threat to the global economy and democracy. Finally, we analyze various anti-corruption reforms to understand why some failed while others succeeded.

The seminar will benefit SIPA and Harriman Institute students who specialize in regional studies of countries of Eurasia. It will also benefit SIPA and other graduate students who specialize in international security, economics, finance, energy, law, development, conflict resolution, and journalism. To achieve a deep understanding of Eurasia corruption, we will examine causes and impacts from an interdisciplinary perspective.

## **HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE WESTERN BALKANS**

**Regional Institute U6545 Call Number:** 16403 **Points:** 1.5

**Day/Time:** T 6:10pm-8:00pm **Location:** 1201 International Affairs Building

**Notes:** Course Dates Oct 15 - Dec 3

**Instructor:** Tanya L Domi

This Human Rights practicum course focuses on the Western Balkans of the Former Yugoslavia in a contemporary context. The course focuses on war crimes and their respective consequences that have occurred during the most recent Balkan Wars 1991-1999 in the Former Yugoslav states and will include a detailed review and examination of human rights policies and practices carried out by international, regional and national bodies, laws, organizations, frameworks of transitional justice and evaluative tools employed in an effort to stabilize a post-war, post-Communist, post-conflict scenario. The course will present and examine in detail policies and practices deployed by international and national state structures to address the legacies of war crimes and the emergence of new human rights issues that are currently present in the Former Yugoslav space. The course will require students to prepare a 10-page paper on a human rights issue in the region, analyze the issues,

review implementation to date and recommend policy initiatives that will address the problem (75 percent of the grade). Students are expected to read weekly assignments and regularly participate and attend the class, which will constitute 25 percent of their final grade. Failure to attend class without a justifiable explanation will be penalized by a reduction of one grade letter.

### **CENTRAL ASIAN POLITICS AND SECURITY**

**Regional Institute U6652 Call Number:** 16405 **Points:** 3

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

**Instructor:** Lawrence Markowitz

This course surveys the politics and history of the five countries of contemporary Central Asia (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan). In addition to imparting a substantive understanding of these countries, the course explores several conceptual lenses through which the region can be analyzed both over time and in comparison with other parts of the world. The first half of the course examines the political history of the region, with particular reference to how policies and practices of the Soviet state shaped the former republics of Soviet Central Asia. The second half turns to special topics at the center of the region's political and social life today. Coverage of these topics—which include democratization, Islam and the politics of counter-insurgency, women and definitions of the public sphere, the politics of nation-building, and international security—will involve light reading from other regions to provide comparative perspective.

### **PROPAGANDA, RUSSIA, & THE WORLD INFORMATION WAR**

**Regional Institute U8753 Call Number:** 16410 **Points:** 3

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

**Instructor:** Thomas Kent

This course is a highly current guide to the international information war, why propaganda and disinformation work, and how they can be fought. After an introduction to the philosophy of information – how people process it and whether there can in fact be multiple truths – the course looks in depth at the disinformation tactics that state and private actors use to advance their goals. The course then considers a broad range of techniques to combat false information – including the ethics and effectiveness of overt and covert counter-disinformation campaigns conducted by Western countries. The course draws heavily on information operations by Russia, but also considers other disinformation actors – as well as the impact of disinformation on the US, Europe, Africa and Latin America. It concludes with a discussion of the future of information and disinformation, with an emphasis on the promise and dangers of artificial intelligence.

### **UKRAINIAN FOREIGN POLICY: RUSSIA, EUROPE, AND THE US**

**Regional Institute U8757 Call Number:** 16411 **Points:** 3

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

**Instructor:** Valerii Kuchynskyi

The newly revised 3 point seminar-like course deals with the performance of independent Ukraine on the international arena, its relationship with major powers: Russia, Europe and the US and the trajectory of its foreign policy. Having illegally annexed Crimea and conducting a proxy war in Eastern Ukraine, Russia has challenged the basic principles of international law, numerous bilateral agreements and threatening global peace and security. What is to be done to rebuff the aggressor?

Can diplomacy still play a role? These and other issues are dealt with in this course. Special emphasis is made on the assessment of current conflict with Moscow and on the new trends in foreign policy doctrine. The issues of national security and current political situation are dealt with extensively. The course delivers first-hand insights by a career diplomat, who has been actively involved in the implementation of Ukrainian foreign policy for over three decades. The format of the course will encourage active dialogue and analytical reflection on the part of the students. The course is aimed at attracting both graduate and advanced undergraduate students.

## **Religion**

### **ISLAM IN THE SOVIET UNION AND SUCCESSOR STATES**

**Religion GU4377 Call Number: 15067 Points: 4**

**Day/Time: T 6:10pm-8:00pm Location: 201 80 cLAREMONT avE**

**Instructor: Aziza Shanazarova**

This seminar is designed for advanced undergraduate and graduate students seeking to develop an understanding of Islam in the Soviet Union and its successor states. The Soviet experience drastically altered the ways Central Asian Muslims practice Islam. This course explores the various ways in which Central Asian Muslims practiced Islam during the Soviet era and the lasting impacts of that period on contemporary Central Asia. Topics covered include the Soviet campaign against Islam, Soviet Islamic authorities, the growth of international Islamic networks in post-Soviet Central Asia, emerging Islamic movements, and common Islamic practices like pilgrimage and Islamic healing. Additionally, we will read theoretical and topical articles on comparable Islamic practices in various regions of the Muslim world to provide a broader perspective on Central Asia.

All of the readings for this course will be in English. Prior course work related to Islam or the Soviet Union is recommended, but not required.

## **Russian/Eurasian/Eastern European Regional Studies**

### **M.A. THESIS I**

**Russian, Eurasian, E. Europe Regional GR6998 Call Number: 14796 Points: 1**

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

**Instructor: Elise Giuliano**

### **M.A. THESIS II**

**Russian, Eurasian, E. Europe Regional GR6999 Call Number: 14797 Points: 2**

**Instructor: Elise Giuliano**

### **LEGACIES OF THE RUSSIAN EMPIRE AND THE SOVIET UNION**

**Russian, Eurasian, E. Europe Regional GR8445 Call Number: 14798 Points: 4**

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

**Notes: Instructor permission required for non-MARS-REERS students**

**Instructor: Elise Giuliano**

This intensive course offers an introduction to multiple disciplinary and cross-disciplinary approaches to the major issues defining the emergence, persistence, and transformation of the

countries that once comprised the Soviet bloc. The course explores the history, politics, economies, societies, and political cultures of Russia, the non-Russian republics of the former USSR, and East Central Europe, focusing on the conceptual, methodological, and theoretical developments employed by Soviet studies in North America and related disciplines. It also critically interrogates the enduring relevance and problems posed by the widespread use of the term “Soviet legacy” in reference to contemporary features and challenges faced by the region.

The intensive nature of this course is reflected in two ways- preparation and focus. First, the course carries a substantial reading load designed to inform and prepare students for the course sessions. These assignments will mostly be academic readings, but may also include short videos, news articles, and digital archival materials. In order to use our time together productively, the lectures and discussion will build upon, not review, the assignments for the session. Each session typically will be split into 2 segments, roughly of 55-60 minutes each. Many of these segments will be taught by guest lecturers who will give 30 mins presentations on their topic and then field questions. During our limited time for Q&A students should ask single, concise questions.

## **Russian**

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

**Russian GU4127 Call Number:** 12559 **Points:** 3

**Day/Time:** T Th 1:10pm-2:25pm **Location:** 327 uRIS hALL

**Notes:** Completion of UN3101 or instructor permission

**Instructor:** Marina Tsyliina

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.

### **FOURTH-YEAR RUSSIAN I**

**Russian GU4342 Call Number:** 12330 **Points:** 4

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

**Notes:** UN 3101 and UN3102, or placement test

**Instructor:** Tatiana Mikhailova

Systematic study of problems in Russian syntax; written exercises, translations into Russian, and compositions. Conducted entirely in Russian.

### **THE ART OF THE RUSSIAN POEM: 20TH-21ST CENTURY**

**Russian GR6223 Call Number:** 10729 **Points:** 4

**Day/Time:** W 2:10pm-4:00pm **Location:** 408 Hamilton Hall

**Instructors:** Mark Lipovetsky and Ronald Meyer

The goal of this seminar is twofold: 1) To introduce students to the variety of styles, tropes and forms of Russian lyrical poetry in the 20th -21st cc.; 2) To develop and practice analytical skills. The material will include poems by both famous and lesser known poets, with an accent on the latter. For each class students will be required to familiarize themselves with readings either justifying an analytical approach or providing a sample for the analysis, and to be prepared to analyze 4-5 original texts. Each seminar will provide examples of a given subgenre of Russian lyrics, spreading from the early 20th c. to the present-day poetry (some units are spread for two or three classes, e.g. – 2 and 3, 10-12). Intentionally, texts for the analysis represent different trends and groups, spreading from Neo-Classical modernism to contemporary performative poetry. Having practiced the analysis of poetic texts during entire semester, for their final project, students will have to produce a comprehensive analysis of a lyrical poem (optionally, a poetic cycle) of their choosing placing it in the context of Russian poetic traditions.

## **Ukrainian**

### **ADVANCED UKRAINIAN THROUGH LITERATURE, MEDIA, AND POLITICS**

**Ukrainian GU4006 Call Number: 10736 Points: 3**

**Day/Time: MW 1:10PM-2:25PM Location: 614 Martin Luther King 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.