



Slavic Languages & Literatures

FALL 2009

Literature & Culture Courses

Special points of interest:

- Most of our courses are taught in English
- Many of our courses fulfill more than one LSA requirement
- Most of our courses have NO Prerequisites
- We investigate exciting topics: censorship in cinema, nationalism, avant-garde art, politics, and more!

POLISH LITERATURE

Polish 325/525: 19th Century Polish Literature: Appetite for Destruction (ULWR, HU) T,Th 11:30-1:00

The story of Poland from the Middle Ages to the dawn of the twentieth century reads more strangely than fiction: in the first six hundred years since its Christianization, Poland grew to be one of the most expansive and powerful states in Europe; two hundred years later, it was no longer a state at all. This course will trace these dramatic transformations through Poland's extraordinary contributions to European literature. Drawing on concurrent developments in the visual arts, politics, and the sciences, we will consider a range of texts that remain as relevant today as they were at the time of their composition.

RUSSIAN LITERATURE COURSES

RUSSIAN 347: Survey of Russian Literature (ULWR, HU) M,W 1:00-2:30

This course focuses on the masterpieces of Russian fiction written between 1820 and 1870, including Tolstoy's *War and Peace* and Dostoevsky's *Crime and Punishment*. This period marks a blossoming of Russian culture.

We will trace how writers treated the political, social, intellectual, and religious issues dividing their contemporaries, creating a unique kind of literature.

No knowledge of Russian literature or history is presupposed.



RUSSIAN 469: Babel, Bulgakov, and Platonov M,W 2:30-4:00

This course examines the works and careers of three of the masters of 20th century Russian prose. Their works will be individually analyzed, but also read with due regard for their historical context. The literary and social

worlds from which they emerged, and the ways in which their writing was shaped by historical circumstances will be studied, as will the posthumous fate of their texts.

RUSSIAN 478: Nabokov-The Russian Years T,Th 4:00-5:30

This course is a historical as well as theoretical introduction to Nabokov's intellectually challenging literary art as a unique phenomenon of Russo-American cultural synthesis. Readings during fall term include Russian short stories and novels (*King-Queen-Knave*, *Glory*, *Despair*, *The Gift*, *Invitation to a Beheading*, and the unfinished *Solus Rex*), plays (*The Granddad* and *The Waltz Invention*), selected poetry, and Nabokov's first English novel *The Real Life of Sebastian Knight*.

Russian & Ukrainian Film: (ULWR & HU)

SLAVIC 313: Russian and Ukrainian Cinema T,Th 2:00-3:00 (Lec) M 7:00-9:00 (Lab)

Th 3:00-4:00; 4:00-5:00; F 12:00-1:00 (Dis)

Russian and Ukrainian cinema is studied against the background of the artistic and political revolutions which helped shape it. The course spans

the period 1917-present, from the Russian pioneers of film montage (Sergei Eisenstein, Vsevolod Pudovkin, Dziga Vertov, Alexander Dovzhenko) to the varied cinematic approaches of recent directors such as Andrei Tarkovsky, and Nikita Mikhalkov. Films by all of the above directors and

others are viewed, analyzed, and discussed with respect to their intrinsic aesthetic structure and to cultural trends and socio-political events.



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FIRST YEAR SEMINARS: FYWR

SLAVIC 151.001: Prague: The Magic City
M,W 4:00-5:30

Prague, the capital of the Czech Republic, belongs to those European cities that fascinate as unique historical amalgams whose composition defies disciplinary boundaries. The course traces Prague's history, culture, architecture, the symbiosis of ethnic groups within its walls, and its current spirit. We will read literature inspired by Prague; study visual documents; and watch films.



SLAVIC 151.002: Yiddish Love Stories
T,Th 1:00-2:30

Did young Jewish men and women fall in love in the old days? What was the place of love in traditional Jewish society? How did ideas about love, romance, and marriage change with time? We will look closely at a series of 19th and 20th century Yiddish stories from Russia, Poland, and America. We will explore the ways Yiddish writers portrayed romantic feelings, study their literary techniques and devices, and create our own interpretations.

SLAVIC 151.003: Yugoslav & Post-Yugoslav Literature
T,Th 11:30-1:00

Through the literary renditions and theoretical elaborations of myths created in the Balkan region, as well as those created about the region by the West, we will delve into the problematics of identity, ethnicity, gender, body, memory, totalitarianism, violence, exile, and the gaze. We will also follow the development of pertinent mythical themes from classical antiquity to modern times.

RUSSIAN CULTURE COURSES

RUSSIAN 322: Russia Today (ULWR, R&E, HU)
M,W 11:30-1:00 (Lec); T 1-2; W 3-4; Th 10-11, 3-4 (Dis)

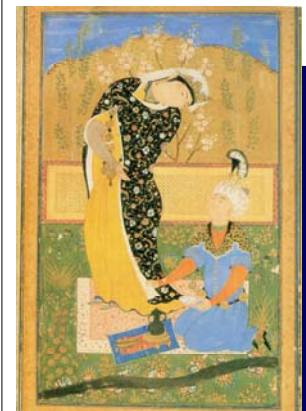
This course is intended to introduce aspects of Russia today to a general student audience, with special emphasis on contemporary Russia as a "multi-national" country. No background in the subject is required. Various features of modern Russia will be examined through such diverse

materials as the literature, cinema, and political history of recent years.

RUSSIAN 358/558: Central Asia through Russian Eyes (R&E, HU)
T,Th 2:30-4:00

Russia's expansion to the East throughout the imperial period provided a cultural, political, and geographical setting for Russian literature and fine arts, dramatically enriching their

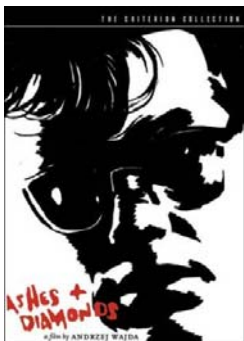
thematic range. The course will address fundamental issues of Russian self-image by exploring key literary and fine arts representations of Turkmenistan. We will discuss how perceptions of Russian culture have evolved since the 19th century. We will also highlight how Russians positioned themselves in regard to the Muslim social, intellectual, and religious values.



East European Culture Courses

SLAVIC 225: Central European Art & Architecture (R&E, HU)
M,W,F 2:00-3:00

The course is an introduction to the rich cultures of the peoples of Central Europe (Croats, Czechs, Hungarians, Jews, Poles, Serbs, and Slovaks) seen against the background of two world wars, communism and its recent disintegration. The course will outline the ethnic complexities of the region, with



special attention to Jewish culture and its tragic destruction during the Holocaust. The course will also examine the fate of culture under totalitarianism and study subterfuges used by novelists, dramatists, and artists to circumvent political control and censorship.

SLAVIC 470: Shtetl: Image & Reality
Wed. 10:00-1:00

Until the Holocaust, the majority of East European Jews lived in

numerous *shtetlekh*, small market towns that served as local hubs of trade and commerce. The *shtetl* was the primary setting of many classical works of Yiddish and Hebrew literature and left a lasting impact on Jewish imagination and memory. This course will explore the interaction between reality and imagination in the representation of the *shtetl*.

This class will be co-taught by the University of Michigan and the European University at St. Petersburg.