

Fall 2020/ University of Texas, Austin  
REE 325 (43030), EUS 347 (36005), WGS 340 (45100)

## **Women and Resistance in Contemporary Eastern Europe**

Instructor: Dr. Oksana Lutsyshyna  
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### **Course description:**

This course will examine works of a number of Eastern European women writers, such as Olga Tokarczuk (Poland), Natalka Babina (Belarus), Oksana Zabuzhko (Ukraine), Slavenka Drakulić, Dubravka Ugrešić (Croatia), Herta Müller (Romania – Germany), Sofi Oksanen (Finland), Ludmila Ulitskaya and Ludmila Petrushevskaya (Russia), and trace their role and involvement in resisting not only political regimes but also gender-based oppression. We will also read supplemental articles, interviews, and secondary sources to provide a general understanding of contemporary politics and ethnic conflict as well as gender roles in Eastern Europe. Through class discussion, students will discuss the many forms and repercussions of women's resistance to recent issues and events within this strategic region.

### **Disclaimer**

The students should come to class with **an open mind and ready to discuss complex, at times controversial and difficult issues**, such as totalitarianism, violence, sexually explicit material, drug and alcohol abuse, and others. This class aims at providing a safe environment for everyone; therefore the students are expected to treat each other, and the instructor, with respect and courtesy. **If you feel that you would prefer not to deal with such topics, you are advised to drop this course.**

### **Required Readings:**

Ulitskaya, Ludmila. *Sonechka: A Novella and Stories*. Glas 1998, ISBN 5717200382. (available via Canvas)

Drakulić, Slavenka. *How We Survived Communism and Even Laughed*. ISBN 006097540-7.

Oksanen, Sofi. *Purge*. Trans. Lola Rogers. Grove Press, 2010. ISBN-10: 0802170773.

Tokarczuk, Olga. *House of Day, House of Night*. Trans. By Antonia Lloyd-Jones. Northwestern UP, 2003. 987-0-8101-1892-8.

Müller, Herta. *The Land of Green Plums*. Transl. Michael Hofmann. Picador, 2010. ISBN-10: 0312429940.

Zabuzhko, Oksana. *Fieldwork in Ukrainian Sex*. Trans. Halyna Hryn. AmazonCrossingEnglish, 2011. ISBN-10: 1611090083.

Ugrešić, Dubravka. *The Culture of Lies: Antipolitical Essays*. Penn State UP, 1998.  
ISBN-10: 027101847X (**available via Canvas**)

Petrushevskaya, Ludmila. *There Once Lived a Woman Who Tried to Kill Her Neighbor's Baby: Scary Fairy Tales*. Trans. Keith Gessen. Penguin, 2009.  
ISBN-10: 0143114662.

Babina, Nataalka. *Down Among the Fishes*. Glagoslav 2013,  
1782670769.

For each class, you will have an assigned portion of the readings.

### **Course Introduction**

**Class Attendance:** Class attendance is required. You are expected to read all assigned texts before class and to participate actively in the discussions. According to the General Information catalog, “[a] student who is absent from a class or examination for the observance of a religious holy day may complete the work issued within a reasonable time after the absence, if proper notice has been given” (page 71). The deadline for notification of such an absence is fourteen days prior to the class absence or the first class day for religious holydays that fall within the first two weeks of the semester.

**Participation:** Please keep in mind that attendance alone does not equal participation. You are expected to be fully prepared, to have your textbooks with you, to refrain from texting during class, to **actively listen and to speak up**. If you come late, after the roll is taken, you will be counted as absent. If you cannot make it to class, let the instructor know.

### **Participation Rubric**

<b>10</b> – Student makes daily, productive contributions to class. Takes an active leadership role in helping other students understand the course material. Is respectful and inclusive of other members of the classroom community. During workshops and conferences, provides substantial, thoughtful feedback to classmates. Absences fall within the allowance established on the syllabus.
<b>9</b> – Student frequently contributes to the class in a productive manner and is respectful and inclusive of other members of the classroom community. Provides substantial feedback during workshops and conferences. Absences fall within the allowance established on the syllabus.
<b>8</b> – Student occasionally contributes to class discussion and to classmates' learning. He or she is respectful of other members of the classroom community. Participates fully in conferences and workshops. Absences fall within the allowance established on the syllabus.

<b>7</b> – Contributions to class discussion may be infrequent but are generally productive. The student is respectful toward other members of the classroom community. Participates in workshops and conferences but may provide limited feedback. Absences fall within the allowance established on the syllabus.
<b>6</b> – Student makes no contributions or occasional, unproductive contributions to class discussion. Misses or does not actively participate in conferences and workshops. Absences fall within the allowance established on the syllabus.
<b>5</b> – Student's contributions disrupt the class and hamper other students' learning AND/OR student misses more than the allowed number of class periods.
<b>0</b> – Student misses an excessive number of classes and is therefore unable to contribute to the learning environment AND/OR frequently disrupts the learning environment.

**Late Work Policy:** Late work is strongly discouraged. Papers/journals will be lowered by one full letter grade for each day that they are late.

**Grading Evaluation:**

Journals, 1+ long, on authors of choice (4)	<b>20 %</b>
Annotated bibliography	<b>15 %</b>
Final paper (may be based on one of the journals) (15 % – first draft, 20% – second/final)	<b>35 %</b>
Group presentation on author of choice	<b>20%</b>
Participation	<b>10%</b>
<b>Total:</b>	<b>100%</b>

**There will be separate files on Canvas describing the assignments.**

**University Policies:**

**Special Accommodations:** At the beginning of the semester, students with disabilities who need special accommodations should notify the instructor by presenting a letter prepared by the Services for Students with Disabilities Office. To ensure that the most appropriate accommodations can be provided, students should contact the SSD Office at 471-6259 or 471-4641 TTY.

**Policy on Scholastic Dishonesty:** Students who violate University rules on scholastic dishonesty are subject to disciplinary penalties, including the possibility of failure in the course and/or dismissal from the University. Since such dishonesty harms the individual, all students, and the integrity of the University, policies on scholastic dishonesty will be strictly enforced. Refer to the Student Judicial Services website for official University policies and procedures on scholastic dishonesty.

\* All guns must be concealed at all times in line with the Campus Concealed Carry legislation. If an/the instructor or student(s) sees any sign of a gun in class, the UT police will be called immediately per the UT implementation policy for the statute.

\* For responsibilities of concealed gun permit holders on campus, see UT's information page: <https://campuscarry.utexas.edu/students>

\* Here is UT's general information website about campus carry: <https://campuscarry.utexas.edu/>

**Class Calendar** (subject to change):

<b>Date</b>	<b>Readings/ materials/due dates</b>
21 Jan	Introduction and syllabus
23 Jan	Ulitskaya 1-35
28 Jan	Ulitskaya 36-71
30 Jan	Drakulić 1-65
4 Feb	<i>On writing paper and annotated bibliography – no reading</i>
6 Feb	Drakulić 66-156
11 Feb	Drakulić – finish  <b>Journal 1 due – you can write on Ulitskaya or Drakulic, your choice</b>
13 Feb	Oksanen 1-106
18 Feb	Oksanen 107-213
20 Feb	Oksanen – finish
25 Feb	Tokarczuk 1-88
27 Feb	Tokarczuk –89-198
2 Mar	Tokarczuk – finish  <b>Journal 2 – Tokarczuk or Oksanen</b>

5 Mar	Müller 1-125
10 Mar	Müller - finish
12 Mar	Zabuzhko 1-85
16-20 SPRING BREAK	<b>NO CLASS</b>
24 Mar	Zabuzhko - finish  <b>Annotated Bibliography due</b>
26 Mar	Ugrešić, <i>The Culture of Lies</i>  <b>Journal 3 – Zabuzhko or Müller</b>
31 Mar	Ugrešić, <i>The Culture of Lies</i>
2 Apr	<i>On papers and bibliographies/MLA</i>
7 Apr	Petrushevskaya, select stories <b>TBA</b>
9 Apr	Petrushevskaya, <b>TBA</b>
14 Apr	Babina 1-120
16 Apr	Babina 121-221  <b>Paper first draft due</b>
21 Apr	Babina – finish  <b>Journal 4 – Ugrešić or Petrushevskaya</b>
23 Apr	<i>In-class writing activities</i>
28 Apr	<b>TBA</b>
30 Apr	Group Presentations
5 May	Group Presentations

7 May	Group Presentations
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**Final paper due May 12 by 11:59 p.m. Central Time, electronic submission via Canvas.**