

Fall 2020/ University of Texas, Austin
REE 325 (42470), EUS 347 (35420), WGS 340 (44505)

Women and Resistance in Contemporary Eastern Europe

Instructor: Dr. Oksana Lutsyshyna
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Class meets: via Zoom T 9:30 a.m. to 11 a.m.
Office Hours for Oksana: noon – 2 p.m. Wed, and by appointment

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 culture, politics, and gender roles in Eastern Europe. The course is writing-intensive and deals with various foreign cultures and contexts. Through writings and class discussion, students will discuss the forms and repercussions of women's resistance in regard to recent issues and events within this strategic region. This is a writing-intensive course, not a composition course. You will use writing to demonstrate mastery of the subject matter, to synthesize ideas, to learn concepts, and to explore ideas. You will still be responsible for grammar, punctuation, spelling, and style. This class also carries the ethics flag. This means that we will engage in ethical reasoning - how to think critically about, and trace the application of, certain values expressed in the readings, and to how to compare them to the ones in use in the USA. ¹

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.**

¹ Many thanks to the Writing Office at the School of Undergraduate Studies at UT Austin, who shared their materials, and from whom I borrowed ideas and phrasing.

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, Natalka. *Down Among the Fishes*. Glagoslav 2013, 1782670769.

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

Writing Flag

This course carries the Writing Flag. Writing Flag courses are designed to give students experience with writing in an academic discipline. In this class, you can expect to write regularly during the semester, complete substantial writing projects, and receive feedback from your instructor to help you improve your writing. You will also have the opportunity to revise one or more assignments, and you may be asked to read and discuss your peers' work. You should therefore expect a substantial portion of your grade to come from your written work. Writing Flag classes meet the Core Communications objectives of Critical Thinking, Communication, Teamwork, and Personal Responsibility, established by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

Ethics Flag

This course carries the Ethics flag. Ethics courses are designed to equip you with skills that are necessary for making ethical decisions in your adult and professional life. You should therefore expect a substantial portion of your grade to come from assignments involving ethical issues and the process of applying ethical reasoning to real-life situations.

Global Cultures Flag

This course carries the Global Cultures flag. Global Cultures courses are designed to increase your familiarity with cultural groups outside the United States. You should therefore expect a substantial portion of your grade to come from assignments covering the practices, beliefs, and histories of at least one non-U.S. cultural group, past or present.

Course Introduction

Grading Evaluation:

Journals, on authors of choice (4)	20 %
Annotated bibliography	15 %
Final paper (may be based on one of the journals) (15 % – first draft, 20% – second/final)	35 %
Group presentation on the country of choice	20%
Participation/Discussion Board	10%
Total:	100%

There will be separate files on Canvas describing the assignments.

- Overall, the more structured assignments will include four journals (1-2 pages), annotated bibliography (5 entries), and two drafts of the final paper (10 pages or so).
- A less structured, shorter, low-stakes Discussion Board writings will ask the students to respond to a prompt, and given full credit as long as the student produced an entry.

University Policies:

Class Recordings: Class recordings are reserved only for students in this class for educational purposes and are protected under FERPA. The recordings should not be shared outside the class in any form. Violation of this restriction by a student could lead to Student Misconduct proceedings.

Sharing of Course Materials is Prohibited: No materials used in this class, including, but not limited to, lecture hand-outs, videos, assessments (quizzes, exams, papers, projects, homework assignments), in-class materials, review sheets, and additional problem sets, may be shared online or with anyone outside of the class unless you have my explicit, written permission. Unauthorized sharing of materials promotes cheating. It is a violation of the University's Student

Honor Code and an act of academic dishonesty. I am well aware of the sites used for sharing materials, and any materials found online that are associated with you, or any suspected unauthorized sharing of materials, will be reported to Student Conduct and Academic Integrity in the Office of the Dean of Students. These reports can result in sanctions, including failure in the course.

COVID: To help keep everyone at UT and in our community safe, it is critical that students report COVID-19 symptoms and testing, regardless of test results, to University Health Services, and faculty and staff report to the HealthPoint Occupational Health Program (OHP) as soon as possible. Please see this [link](#) to understand what needs to be reported. In addition, to help understand what to do if a fellow student in the class (or the instructor or TA) tests positive for COVID, see this University Health Services link.

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.

Open Carry

* 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/>

To make this a viable learning environment, we ask you to abide by the following guidelines:

- Find a quiet space where you would not be disturbed during the Zoom session.
- Conduct yourself as you would in a face-to-face meeting.
- Clothing is not optional! Dress comfortably, but remember that you are in a public setting.
- Have your video on, unless you are experiencing technical difficulties (contact us if those persist). If your video is off, we would assume that you are not present for the session.
- Mute your microphone when you're not speaking. This would help limit background noise.
- When you wish to speak, raise your hand or post a hand icon in Zoom.
- To ensure optimal connectivity, close all other windows/applications on your device.
- To hear and be heard better, consider using a headset with external microphone.
- Be aware that you are on camera, and avoid doing other tasks during the class meeting (checking email, updating social networks, checking your phone, etc.)

Class Calendar (subject to change):

Date	Readings/ materials/due dates
27 Aug	Introduction and syllabus
1 Sep	Ulitskaya 1-35
3 Sep	Ulitskaya 36-71
8 Sep	Drakulić 1-65
10 Sep	TBA
15 Sep	Drakulić 66 -156
17 Sep	Drakulić – finish Journal 1 due –on Ulitskaya or Drakulic
22 Sep	Oksanen 1-106
24 Sep	Oksanen 107-213
29 Sep	Oksanen – finish
1 Oct	Tokarczuk 1-88
6 Oct	Tokarczuk –89-198
8 Oct	Tokarczuk – finish Journal 2 – Tokarczuk or Oksanen
13 Oct	Müller 1-125

15 Oct	Müller - finish
20 Oct	Zabuzhko 1-85
22 Oct	Zabuzhko - finish Journal 3 – Zabuzhko or Müller
27 Oct	Babina 1-120
29 Oct	Babina 121-221
3 Nov	Babina – finish
5 Nov	Petrushevskaya, select stories TBA
10 Nov	Petrushevskaya, TBA
12 Nov	Ugrešić, <i>The Culture of Lies</i>
17 Nov	Ugrešić, <i>The Culture of Lies</i> Journal 4 – Babina, Ugrešić, or Petrushevskaya
19 Nov	Paper first draft due
24 Nov	TBA
26 Nov	<i>Thanksgiving</i>
1 Dec	Individual meetings
3 Dec	Individual meetings
8 Dec	Group Presentations

Final paper due Dec 15 by 11:59 p.m. Central Time, electronic submission via Canvas.