

Summer 2023/ University of Texas, Austin
REE f325 (82355), EUS f347 (79875), WGS f340 (82955)

Women and Resistance in Contemporary Eastern Europe

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Course description:

Welcome! 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 (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 scholarly articles. We will practice close readings of text, and hone writing skill through a variety of assignments, ranging from short responses to a structured paper with a thesis. 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. We will hold discussions in a friendly environment, with all voices heard.

Objectives:

- to hone reading and close reading skills
- to foster critical thinking
- to practice research skills
- to introduce texts of various styles
- to produce a research paper

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:

Drakulić, Slovenka. *How We Survived Communism and Even Laughed*. Harper Perennial, 1993. ISBN 9780060975401.

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

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

Tokarczuk, Olga. *Drive Your Plough Over the Bones of the Dead*. Penguin, 2019. ISBN 978052541356.

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

Zabuzhko, Oksana. *Your Ad Could Go Here*. Amazon Crossing, 2020. ISBN 978-1542022521.

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.

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.

Important: 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.

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.

Grading Evaluation:

Quote analysis, on author of choice	10 %
Annotated article	10%
Annotated bibliography	20 %
Discussion Board posts (5)	10%
Thesis for Final Paper	10%
Final paper	15 %
Group presentation	15%
Quizzes (4)	10%
Total:	100%
93-100 A	
90-92 A -	
87-89 B +	
83-86 B	
80-82 B-	
77-79 C+	
73-76 C	
70-72 C-	
67-69 D+	
63-66 D	
60-62 D-	
> 60 F	

Under *Assignments* tab, on Canvas, the assignments are described in detail.
Rubrics are provided there as well.

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 \(Links to an external site.\)](#) 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> (Links to an external site.)

* Here is UT's general information website about campus carry: <https://campuscarry.utexas.edu/> (Links to an external site.)

Zoom Etiquette:

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.)

Tentative Schedule (subject to change)

Date	Readings/ materials/due dates
1 June	Introduction and syllabus
2 June	Drakulić “Pizza in Warsaw, Torte in Prague,” “Make-up and Other Critical questions”, “On Doing Laundry”
5 June	Drakulić “The Strange Ability of Apartments...”, “Language of Soup”, ‘A Letter from the United States’ Discussion Board 1 (on Drakulić)
6 June	Ulitskaya 1-35 (Canvas)
7 June	Ulitskaya 36-71 (Canvas) Discussion Board 2 (On Ulitskaya) Quiz 1 (On Ulitskaya)
8 June	Oksanen 1-70
9 June	Oksanen 71-120
12 June	Oksanen 121-200 Quiz 2 (On Oksanen)
13 June	Scholarly articles (Canvas) Quote analysis due (on any author)
14 June	Zabuzhko “O Sister, My Sister”
15 June	Zabuzhko “The Tennis Instructor” Discussion Board 3 (on Zabuzhko) Annotation due
16 June	On writing, bibliography, and thesis (no readings for this day)

19 June	NO CLASS
20 June	Müller 1-50 Thesis due
21 June	Müller 51-75 Annotated Bibliography due
22 June	Tokarczuk 1-65
23 June	Tokarczuk 66-94 Discussion Board 4 (on Tokarczuk) Quiz 3 (on MLA)
26 June	Petrushevskaya “The Arm,” “Revenge,” “Two Kingdoms”
27 June	Petrushevskaya “Hygiene,” “The Father,” “The Black Coat” Discussion Board 5 (on Petrushevskaya)
28 June	Babina 1-30
29 June	Babina 31-50 Quiz 4 (on Final Paper)
30 June	Writing workshop (Final Paper)
3 July	Writing workshop (Final Paper)
5 July	Group Presentations (due on the 5th at 9 a.m.)
6 July	Group Presentations
	Paper due July 9, 11:59 p.m.