EUROPEAN AND RUSSIAN STUDIES

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M.A.

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Lecturers Paris Aslanidis (Hellenic Studies; Political Science), George Syrimis (Hellenic Studies; Religious Studies)

Senior Lectors Irina Dolgova (Slavic Languages & Literatures), Marion Gehlker (German), Krystyna Illokowicz (Slavic Languages & Literatures), Maria Kaliambou (Hellenic Studies), Ruth Koizim (French), Constantine Muravnik (Slavic Languages & Literatures), Julia Titus (Slavic Languages & Literatures), Karen von Kunes (Slavic Languages & Literatures)

The European Studies Council at the MacMillan Center promotes innovative research on Europe’s past and present in the context of regional and global interactions. The council collaborates with schools and departments throughout Yale to support faculty, students, and visiting scholars by sharing their interdisciplinary expertise on European affairs with the broader public. The council aims to foster a wider understanding of Europe as both a place and an idea, reflecting the evolving nature of the region and its network of connections throughout the world. The geographical scope of the council’s activities extends from Ireland to Italy, and from Portugal to the lands of the former Soviet Union. The council’s definition of Europe transcends conventional divisions between Western, Central, and Eastern Europe, and includes the Balkans and Russia. The U.S. Department of Education has repeatedly designated the council a National Resource Center and a FLAS Center under its HEA Title VI program. Further information on the council and the Graduate Certificate of Concentration in European Studies is provided under Non-Degree-Granting Programs, Councils, and Research Institutes in this bulletin.

The council administers an M.A. program in European and Russian Studies (E&RS). This M.A. program is unusual in its embrace of all of Europe, cast as well as west. The program allows students to choose a regional focus while also ensuring familiarity with those parts of Europe outside of that focus. Students specializing in Russia and East Europe, for example, will concentrate their efforts in that area, but will also take courses that address Europe-wide problems or the countries of West and Central Europe. As an interdisciplinary program, the E&RS M.A. allows for concentration in a variety of humanities (languages, literatures, history, art, music) and social science (political science, economics, sociology, anthropology) disciplines, as well as law. The program is suited both to students who wish to pursue further academic studies and to students interested in pursuing careers in policy, journalism, teaching, human rights, development, and NGOs.
FIELDS OF STUDY
European languages and literatures; economics; history; human rights; journalism; law; music; policy; political science; sociology and other social sciences.

SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS FOR THE M.A. DEGREE
When applying to the program, students will specify as an area of primary concentration either (1) Russia and East Europe, or (2) West and Central Europe. All students must complete sixteen graduate-level term courses (or their equivalent) in the various fields related to European and Russian studies.

Students in their first year must enroll in one course focusing on methodology in a field of study, e.g., History, Comparative Literature, Sociology, or Political Science. Students are required to take at least one course in at least three of the four fields of study relevant to the program, i.e., history (including history of art, history of science, and history of music), literature, social sciences, and law. Students can fulfill this three-field requirement by taking Europe-related graduate-level courses from across the University. Only one of the sixteen graduate-level term courses may be taken for audit. Courses graded Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory cannot be counted toward the sixteen-course requirement of the program. For students focusing on Russia and East Europe, two of the sixteen required courses (excluding language courses) must concern the nations of West and Central Europe. Conversely, for those focusing on West and Central Europe, two courses must concern Russia and East Europe.

For the purposes of this program, language courses in modern European languages count toward the sixteen required courses, even though they have undergraduate course numbers and undergraduate grade modes. If a student takes a language course to fulfill the 16-credit degree requirement, the language course cannot be taken for audit. Students with previous language preparation may in certain cases receive documentation of their language proficiency on the basis of this work. By the time the degree is completed, all students must demonstrate at least L4 proficiency in two modern European languages other than English. Those wishing to focus on Russia and East Europe will need to demonstrate knowledge of Russian or an East European language; those focusing on West and Central Europe will need to demonstrate knowledge of one of the appropriate regional languages. In all cases, students are required to demonstrate proficiency in two European languages by the end of the third term at Yale. The only exception to this rule is completion of the appropriate full sequence of Yale language classes, certified by the Yale instructor or the director of graduate studies (DGS). Students who wish to take Yale department examinations in French, German, Italian, Portuguese, Spanish, or other West European languages should register for a placement examination or a complete proficiency examination (with reading, oral, and grammar portions) with the appropriate Yale department. Students with Russian competence must receive the grade of 1+ or higher on the ACTFL/ETS Rating Scale as administered by the Slavic Languages and Literatures department at Yale, including reading, oral, and grammar portions. Students with competence in an East European language (such as Polish, Czech, Ukrainian, Hungarian, and others by special arrangement) or other European languages must take Yale department-administered examinations. Students who have met the language proficiency degree requirement may study a non-European language related to the student’s academic and professional goals if the courses are approved by the DGS.

In all cases, students will comply with the Policies and Regulations of the Yale Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, especially regarding degree requirements and academic standing.

Through agreements negotiated by the MacMillan Center, the European Studies Council offers joint master’s degrees with the Law School, the School of Management, the School of the Environment, and the School of Public Health. Application for admission must be made to both the Graduate School and the applicable professional school, with notation made on each application that this is to be considered for the joint-degree program. Refer to http://macmillan.yale.edu/academic-programs/joint-degree-programs and contact the European Studies DGS for up-to-date information.

THE MASTER’S THESIS
A master’s thesis is required. The master’s thesis is based on research in a topic approved by the DGS and advised by a faculty member with specialized competence in the chosen topic. M.A. students must register for E&RS 950, which may count toward the sixteen required courses. E&RS 950 may not be taken for audit. Students may register for one additional independent study to prepare topics and begin research. The master’s thesis must be prepared according to department guidelines and is due in two copies in the student’s second year on an early-April date as specified by the council.

Program materials are available upon request to the European Studies Council, Yale University, PO Box 208206, New Haven CT 06520-8206.

COURSES
E&RS 631a, Eastern European Feminist Artists under State Surveillance: Politics, History, and Performance Aniko Szucs
Central Eastern European performance and theater artists were subjected to the permanent surveillance of the dictatorial regimes’ secret police and informant networks during the decades of communism and state socialism. Art events, as nests of revolutionary ideas and active resistance, were considered especially threatening for the repressive ideological state. For this reason, the state security networks infiltrated the art world through their often violently recruited secret informants, who were obligated to inform the state about every little detail of the art events and the community—from the most mundane, everyday interactions to the more suspicious oppositional actions and utterances. This course focuses on the last two decades of the cold war and analyzes the ways in which performance and
theater artists from Poland, Czechoslovakia, Romania, Hungary, and East Germany navigated the permanent surveillance of the state security networks. In the first part of the term, after the introduction of foundational texts on the theory and history of surveillance, including those by Michel Foucault, Louis Althusser, and Gilles Deleuze, readings and discussions focus on the specificities of Soviet-type surveillance within the art world. We analyze both the strategies with which the repressive state apparatus aimed to discipline and control artistic expression, and the tactics with which artists subverted the policing gaze. Then, in the second part, we turn our focus to the present and study recent artworks that—through the recontextualization of the files excavated in the historical archives of the state security—either reconstruct the often invisible operations of the state security network or commemorate the enduring experience of living under such violently devious state control. We conclude the term by considering contemporary artists’ works that expose and critique the neoliberal, postcapitalist surveillance practices that threaten privacy rights globally. Although the main focus of this course is Central and Eastern Europe, we discuss the tactics of surveillance and the subversive artistic practices in a transnational, comparative context, studying artworks and surveillance files that originated in either the postdictatorial Latin American states or the U.S. Civil Rights Movement.

E&RS 940a or b, Independent Study  Staff
By arrangement with faculty.

E&RS 950b, Master’s Thesis  Staff
By arrangement with faculty.