RUSSIAN, EAST EUROPEAN, AND EURASIAN STUDIES (RSEE)

* RSEE 210b / THST 233b, History of Russian Theater  Julia Titus
This seminar introduces students to the rich legacy of Russian theater, focusing specifically on the developments of Russian drama from the first third of the nineteenth-century to the early twentieth century. The readings and plays studied in the course are organized chronologically, starting with classic Russian comedies by Alexander Griboyedov and Nikolai Gogol, continuing with dramas by Alexander Ostrovsky and Ivan Turgenev, and ending with late nineteenth-century/early twentieth century plays by Leo Tolstoy and Anton Chekhov. Some readings from Stanislavsky are also included.  

* RSEE 222b / HIST 223b, Russia and the Eurasian Steppe  Paul Bushkovitch
A study of Russia’s interaction with the nomads of the Eurasian steppe. Topics include the Mongol invasion, the Mongol Empire, and the Golden Horde, Islam, nomadic society, and the Russian state. Focus on conquest and settlement. May count toward either European or Asian distributional credit within the History major, upon application to the director of undergraduate studies.  

* RSEE 225a / HIST 290a, Russia from the Ninth Century to 1801  Paul Bushkovitch
The mainstream of Russian history from the Kievan state to 1801. Political, social, and economic institutions and the transition from Eastern Orthodoxy to the Enlightenment.  

* RSEE 240a / RUSS 246a, Love and Death in the Russian Short Story  Edyta Bojanowska
A brilliant counterpart to the expansive Russian novel, the Russian short story is held in high esteem by the genre's connoisseurs and practitioners. This course explores both the classics and the hidden gems of the Russian short-story tradition from the 19th century to today, focusing on the most universal themes of story-writing: love and death. The course poses the following questions: What is distinctive about the short story form? How do stories "talk to" other stories in a tradition? What narrative twists and complications do authors use to keep readers hooked and spellbound? The readings cover most major Russian writers and movements, so the course provides a good overview of modern Russian literature. All readings and discussion in English.  

* RSEE 254a / LITR 254a / RUSS 254a, Tolstoy and Dostoevsky  Molly Brunson
Close reading of major novels by two of Russia's greatest authors. Focus on the interrelations of theme, form, and literary-cultural context. Readings and discussion in English.  

* RSEE 268b / ER&M 263b / HIST 264b, Eastern Europe since 1914  Timothy Snyder
Eastern Europe from the collapse of the old imperial order to the enlargement of the European Union. Main themes include world war, nationalism, fascism, and communism. Special attention to the structural weaknesses of interwar nation-states and postwar communist regimes. Nazi and Soviet occupation as an age of extremes. The collapse of communism. Communism after 1989 and the dissolution of Yugoslavia in the 1990s as parallel European trajectories.  

* RSEE 271a / HIST 271a / HUMS 339a, European Intellectual History since Nietzsche  Staff
Major currents in European intellectual history from the late nineteenth century through the twentieth. Topics include Marxism-Leninism, psychoanalysis, expressionism, structuralism, phenomenology, existentialism, antipolitics, and deconstruction.  

* RSEE 300b / CZEC 301b / LITR 220b, Milan Kundera: The Czech Novelist and French Thinker  Karen von Kunes
Close reading of Kundera’s novels, with analysis of his aesthetics and artistic development. Relationships to French, German, and Spanish literatures and to history, philosophy, music, and art. Topics include paradoxes of public and private life, the irrational in erotic behavior, the duality of body and soul, the interplay of imagination and reality, the function of literary metaphor, and the art of composition. Readings and discussion in English.  

* RSEE 329a / HIST 308Ja / MMES 300a / RUSS 329a, Introduction to Modern Central Asia  Claire Roosien
An overview of the history of modern Central Asia—modern-day Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, and the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region of the People's Republic of China. This course shows Central Asia to be a pivotal participant in some of the major global issues of the 20th and 21st centuries, from environmental degradation and Cold War, to women's emancipation and postcolonial nation-building, to religion and the rise of mass society. It also includes an overview of the region's longer history, of the conquests by the Russian and Chinese empires, the rise of Islamic modernist reform movements, the Bolshevik victory, World War II, the perestroika, and the projects of post-Soviet nation-building. Readings in history are supplemented by such primary sources as novels and poetry, films and songs, government decrees, travelogues, courtly chronicles, and the periodical press. All readings and discussions in English.  

* RSEE 375a / ANTH 319a, Migration and the Everyday in Russia and Eurasia  Lauren Woodard
The end of the 20th century was characterized by movement—as Cold War era barriers lifted, citizens from Russia, Eastern Europe, the Caucasus, and Central Asia joined their counterparts across the globe as they crossed national borders. In this course, we zoom in from the macro questions of what forces propel migration to focus on the everyday, lived experiences of migration to ask: (1) How do individuals and communities experience and understand new forms of belonging that emerge through transnational migration? (2) How do societies, governments, NGOs, scholars, and others legitimate some forms of migration over others (such as refugees versus economic migrants)? (3) How do societies and governments seek to regulate migration, and how do migrants navigate such obstacles to
assert belonging? Drawing on the anthropology of migration—and that of kindred social sciences—we explore migration, citizenship, and belonging as debated and lived in Russia, Eastern Europe, Eurasia.

* RSEE 380a / FILM 360a / LITR 301a / RUSS 380a, Putin’s Russia and Protest Culture Marijeta Bozovic
Survey of Russian literature and culture since the fall of communism. The chaos of the 1990s; the solidification of power in Putin’s Russia; the recent rise of protest culture. Sources include literature, film, and performances by art collectives. Readings and discussion in English; texts available in Russian. WR, HU

* RSEE 382a / THST 326a, Feminist Performances of Resistance in Central and Eastern Europe Aniko Szucs
Thirty years after the dictatorial regimes collapsed in Central and Eastern Europe, performances of resistance have recently gained a new momentum, both in artistic venues and at public spaces. In the now ‘illiberal democracies’ of the region, expressions of dissent and the mobilization of the suppressed opposition have become increasingly important to protect human rights, freedom rights, and the civil society. This course studies the genealogy of feminist artistic and political resistance in the region. We study the foundational texts of feminism in activism and academia. We consider the many genres in and themes through which Central Eastern European artists covertly, and later overtly, expressed their political views to their audiences. We also look at performances which we may consider today as the forerunners of the political changes of 1989 and read protest texts penned by dissidents, including Ewa Partum, Sanja Ivekovic, and Otilia Solt, about their frustrations with the repressive state and their utopian visions of an alternative political system. Building on our analyses of the political performances during state socialism, we then turn to the present and analyze recent and contemporary artistic movements and political performances that advocate for resistance in the ‘illiberal democracies’ of Hungary, Poland, and Macedonia. Through the discussion of theatrical performances, subcultural art events, and public protest movements, we explore the ways in which the legacies of dissidence, apathy, and self-censorship continue to shape the praxis and aesthetics of resistance. To initiate a transnational and trans-continental discussion, some of the readings center on Latin American and US artists, whose underground artworks critiqued the dictatorships of the 1970s and 1980s or challenge the authoritarian regimes of the present. HU

* RSEE 470a or b, Individual Writing Tutorial Staff

* RSEE 490a and RSEE 491b, The Senior Essay Staff
Preparation of the senior essay under faculty supervision. The essay grade becomes the grade for both terms of the course. Required of all seniors majoring in Russian and East European Studies. Credit for RSEE 490 only on completion of RSEE 491.