RUSSIAN & EAST EUROPE STUDIES (RSEE)

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. HU

* RSEE 240b / CZEC 246b / FILM 364b, Milos Forman and His Films  Karen von Kunes
An in-depth examination of selected films by Milos Forman and representatives of the New Wave, cinéma vérité in Czech filmmaking. Special attention to Forman’s artistic and aesthetic development as a Hollywood director in such films as Hair, One Flew over the Cuckoo’s Nest, Ragtime, and Amadeus. Screenings and discussion in English. HU

* RSEE 241a / HIST 240Ja, Government, Law, and Society in Modern Russia, 1853-1953  Sergei Antonov
Russian political culture from the Crimean War to the death of Stalin. Special attention to continuities, as well as changes, across the revolutionary divide of 1917, and to comparing official policies with daily experiences of ordinary Russians. Changing ideologies and ruling styles of tsars and early Soviet leaders (esp. Lenin, Trotsky, and Stalin) and relations with aristocratic and bureaucratic elites; political dissent and protest, including popular and state-imposed violence; the problem of legality and the rule of law. All discussions and readings in English. WR, HU TR

RSEE 271a / HIST 271a / HUMS 339a, European Intellectual History since Nietzsche  Marci Shore
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. HU

* RSEE 337a / RUSS 337a, The Invention of Tradition in Post-Soviet Nation States  Katerina Clark
The breakup of the Soviet Union in 1991 resulted in a number of independent countries that had never been countries before, or not for several centuries. In the ensuing decades politicians, historians, and culture makers in each of these countries produced narratives that claim a separate national identity and chart its history over a long stretch of time though in many instances the country as a geopolitical unit was a Soviet fabrication. The course looks at the countries of Central Asia, Russia, and Ukraine. It discusses how each of the countries covered has generated revised accounts of the past that disaggregate ethnic, linguistic, or cultural imbrications with neighboring countries. It also considers the after effects of empire in this process. As much as possible course materials will be available in Russian, but all will be available in English translation. HU

RSEE 350a / ENGL 198a / FILM 394a / LITR 409a / WGSS 394a, Internet Cultures, Histories, Networks, and Practices  Marijeta Bozovic
Examination, through the lenses of histories, network studies, and cultural studies, of how human beings have seemingly overnight learned to use and depend on computer networks for various kinds of work, military operations, pursuits of scientific knowledge, religious proselytizing, political organization, searches for mates and social communities, illegal activities, and infinite varieties of play. 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 artwork critiques the dictatorships of the 1970s and 1980s or challenge the authoritarian regimes of the present. HU

RSEE 390b / HIST 237b / RUSS 241b, Russian Culture: The Modern Age  Sergei Antonov
An interdisciplinary exploration of Russian cultural history, focusing on literature, art, religion, social and political thought, and film. Conceptions of Russian nationhood; the myths of St. Petersburg; dissent and persecution; the role of social and cultural elites; the intelligentsia; attitudes toward the common people; conflicting appeals of rationality, spirituality, and idealism; the politicization of personal life; the impact of the Bolshevik Revolution and its aftermath. Readings and discussion in English. HU

* RSEE 490a and RSEE 491b, The Senior Essay  Jinyi Chu
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.