Course Description

Amazons or Anna Kareninas? Strong woman or femme fatale? Baba Yaga or Cinderella? Do strong women produce weak men? Are gender relations in Slavic nations really traditional? Quite dysfunctional? The construction of gender as an important difference in Russian and Eastern European cultures became particularly evident in the nineteenth-century, with the confluence of questions about nation, history, politics, society, education, and culture. In these nations, feminism has long been associated with westernization, and Western views of gender and of gender in these nations are an intricate part of their and our gender discourses. During the past twenty years, with the disintegration of the Soviet empire and now the reintegration of a Russian empire, these issues have again brought gender to the foreground in debates about nation and society.

Traditionally, Russia, Ukraine, Belorus, the Baltic nations (Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania), the Czech Republic, Poland, Hungary, Romania, Bulgaria, and the former Yugoslavia have tended to compare their level of civilization and standard of living, partly reflected by status of women, with each other over against that of the West (Europe and America). Recently, the social and political gains women made under socialism have been seriously eroded by the transitions to capitalism and democracy. Since the break-up of the Soviet Union in 1991, women in all of these nations have created centers for the study of gender, many funded by Western governments and organizations in the quest to improve women’s representation in civil society and democracy through NGOs. New centers for gender studies institutionalize the new Western language of gender through gender research, training of young scholars, the translation of Western gender scholarship, and production of their own gender scholarship.

In a historical context, the course examines this next round of westernization and its cultural and ideological clash of competing feminisms. With an emphasis on primary sources, we will draw on literature, history and historiography, psychology, anthropology, sociology, film, and feminist theory to examine the constructions of feminine and masculine in nations of the former Soviet bloc.
Requirements

- Daily paragraph on question about readings for class. (10%)
- A paper on gender centers and the Internet in Russia, Eastern and Central Europe (3 pages), due Monday, February 21. The purpose of this assignment is for you to research the websites of gender centers in the former Soviet Union and Eastern Europe and analyze the meta-narratives they tell. Your points of departure are the readings for February 2nd on the beginnings of the current feminist movement in Russia and on the history of European feminism. This assignment should help you choose the country you want to work on for your papers. (15%)
- A paper (7 pages) on a particular country and national feminist narratives, due Monday, March 14. (30%)
- A paper (10 pages) on one country in past two decades and international aspects of feminism, due Monday, April 25th. (30%)
- Presentations in class and reading assignments for the class during the final two weeks of the semester about the country you have chosen to work on. (15%)

At the Bookstore

2. Durova, Nadezhda, The Cavalry Maiden
4. Kollontai, Aleksandra, Love of Worker Bees
5. Nagrodskaia, Evdokiia, The Wrath of Dionysus
7. Turgenev, Ivan, On the Eve

In the Library


Syllabus
What is culture? What is gender? What is nation? What is modernity?

1M 1/24 THEORIES OF CULTURE, AND WOMEN AND CULTURE


2M 1/31 ORIGINARY MYTHS


3M 2/7 CROSSING BOUNDARIES
• Nadezhda Durova (1783-1866), The Cavalry Maiden (1836), Intro. – Ch. 2
• Joan Wallach Scott, Ch. 8, Gender and the Politics of History (New York: Columbia UP, 1988), 172-77
• Joan Wallach Scott, Preface and Ch. 1, Only Paradoxes to Offer: French Feminists and the Rights of Man (Cambridge: Harvard UP, 1996), 1-18
Q: How do Offen and Scott disagree with each other?
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Reading</th>
<th>Notes</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>W</td>
<td>2/9</td>
<td>•Durova, Ch. 3-6&lt;br&gt;•Offen, ch. 1: Thinking About Feminism in European History, <em>European Feminisms</em>, 19-26&lt;br&gt;Q: What might be a thick description of Durova’s return home at the beginning of Ch. 5?</td>
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<tr>
<td>F</td>
<td>2/11</td>
<td>•Durova, Ch. 7-9&lt;br&gt;•Offen, Part I: The Eighteenth Century, ch. 2: Reclaiming the Enlightenment for Feminism, <em>European Feminisms</em>, 27-49&lt;br&gt;Q: How does Offen offer an alternative to Scott’s analysis of the problems of feminist discourse?</td>
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<tr>
<td>4M</td>
<td>2/14</td>
<td>•Durova, Ch. 10-13&lt;br&gt;•Offen, ch. 3: Challenging Masculine Aristocracy: Feminism and the French Revolution, <em>European Feminisms</em>, 50-76&lt;br&gt;Q: If Scott argues that everything revolves around a masculine gendered individual and is a matter of discourse and philosophy, what does Offen argue is the central issue of the French Revolution? How is this different from Scott's view?</td>
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<tr>
<td>W</td>
<td>2/16</td>
<td>•Ivan Turgenev (1818-83), <em>On the Eve</em> (1860), Ch. 1-5&lt;br&gt;•Offen, Part II: The Nineteenth Century, <em>European Feminisms</em>, 77-85&lt;br&gt;Q: In the opening of Turgenev's <em>On the Eve</em>, the men talk philosophy and girls. How do they relate?</td>
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<td>F</td>
<td>2/18</td>
<td>•Turgenev, Ch. 6-15&lt;br&gt;•Offen, ch. 4: Rearticulating Feminist Claims, 1820-1848, <em>European Feminisms</em>, 87-107&lt;br&gt;Q: On p. 98, Offen discusses the next wave of feminism as part of a program of social transformation. Explain what she means and suggest how this might apply to Turgenev's novel.</td>
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<td>5M</td>
<td>2/21</td>
<td>WOMEN’S EMANCIPATION&lt;br&gt;•Turgenev, Ch. 16-25&lt;br&gt;•Offen, ch. 5: Birthing the ‘Woman Question,’ 1848-1870, <em>European Feminisms</em>, 108-43&lt;br&gt;Q: Analyze Turgenev’s representation of a young woman’s inner life through her diary in light of the historical developments Offen chronicles at the period Turgenev wrote this (the late 1850s).</td>
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<td>W</td>
<td>2/23</td>
<td>•Turgenev, Ch. 26-35&lt;br&gt;Q: In the light of your reading in Offen’s history, posit some connections between gender and the Russian nation. How is it significant that the hero is a Bulgarian revolutionary.</td>
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<td>F</td>
<td>2/25</td>
<td>•Nadezhda Khvoshchinskaia (1824-84), <em>The Boarding School Girl</em> (1861), Ch. 1-6&lt;br&gt;•Offen, ch. 6: Internationalizing Feminism, 1870-1890, <em>European Feminisms</em>, 144-81&lt;br&gt;Q: What issues for women does Khvoshchinskaia raise through the life of a provincial Russian girl? Is this relational or individual feminism?</td>
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<td>6M</td>
<td>2/28</td>
<td>FEMME FATALITIES AT THE FIN DE SIÈCLE&lt;br&gt;• Khvoshchinskaia, Ch. 7-13</td>
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W 3/2 • Evdokiia Nagrodskaia, *The Wrath of Dionysus* (1910), Intro.-40
• Offen, ch. 7: Feminist Challenges and Antifeminist Responses, 1890-1914, *European Feminisms*, 182-212

F 3/4 *Bed and Sofa* (73 min.), Mikhail Room
• Nagrodskaia, 40-100
• Offen, ch. 8: Nationalizing Feminisms and Feminizing Nationalisms, 1890-1914, *European Feminisms*, 213-249

7M 3/7 • Nagrodskaia, 100-149
• Offen, Part III: The Twentieth Century, *European Feminisms*, 251-56

W 3/8 Professor István Horváth (Sociology dept, Research Center on Inter-Ethnic Relations, Babes-Bolyai University, Cluj, Romania), Ph.D. thesis on "Space, Time and Ethnicity".
Research: [http://www.ccrit.ro/research_2.htm](http://www.ccrit.ro/research_2.htm)

F 3/10 • Nagrodskaia, 150-191
• Offen, ch. 9: Feminism Under Fire: World War I, the Russian Revolution, and the Great Backlash, 1914-1930s, *European Feminisms*, 257-76
• Paragraph on paper for Monday

8M 3/14 THE BOLSHEVIK REVOLUTION
• Aleksandra Kollontai (1872-1952), *Love of Worker Bees* (1923), 7-79
• Offen, ch. 10: Feminist Dilemmas in Postwar National Political Cultures: England Italy, Austria, Hungary, and Germany, *European Feminisms*, 277-310

W 3/16 • Kollontai, 79-148

F 3/18 • Kollontai, 148-222
• Offen, ch. 11: More Feminisms in National Settings: Portugal, Ireland, Spain, and Sweden, *European Feminisms*, 311-40

9M 3/28 WORLD WAR II AND THE GULAG
F • Offen, ch. 12: Globalizing and Politicizing European International Activity, 1919-1945, *European Feminisms*, 341-77

10M 4/4 THE BODY: MOTHERHOOD, PROSTITUTION, & TRAFFICKING
• *Adam’s Rib* (Vyacheslav Kristofovich, 1992, 77 min.)

W Finish *Adam’s Rib*

F  •Offen, Epilogue: Reinventing the Wheel?, European Feminisms, 379-95

11M 4/11  1990s TRANSITION CAPITALISM & DEMOCRACY

W  4/13  Louise Shelley, Professor, School of International Service, Director, Transnational Crime and Corruption Center (TraCCC), American University; Research in the former Soviet Union and the Caucasus on crime, corruption and terrorism
http://www.american.edu/traccc/tracccpersonnel/shelleybio.html
http://www.geocities.com/Athens/2533/russfem.html
http://www.geocities.com/Athens/2533/russfem.html

F  4/15

12M 4/18  A SURVEY: INTERNET, POLITICS & GENDER

•Rebecca Kay. Russian Women and Their Organizations: Gender, Discrimination and Grassroots Women's Organizations, 1991-96. (St. Martin’s Press, 2000, Ch. 9, “Pot of Gold or Poisoned Chalice? The Impact of Western Support,” 187-209.
•Valerie Sperling; Myra Marx Ferree; Barbara Risman, Constructing Global Feminism: Transnational Advocacy Networks and Russian Women's Activism, Signs > Vol. 26, No. 4, Globalization and Gender (Summer, 2001), pp. 1155-1186
Stable URL: http://links.jstor.org/sici?sici=0097-9740%28200107%2926%3A4%3C1155%3ACGTAN%22.0.CO%3B2-H
•Beauty of the fatherland: Estonia, 51 min. HQ1663 .B438 2001
Open Society Institute, Network Women’s Program, New York
http://www.soros.org/initiatives/women
THE BALTICS

ESTONIA:
• Unit of Gender Studies, University of Tartu
http://www.zone.ee/sociology/eng

LATVIA & LITHUANIA

UKRAINE
• Kharkov Center for Gender Studies
http://www.gender.univer.kharkov.ua/ENGLISH/index.html
• Lyudmyla Smolyar, “Women’s NGO’s in the System of Civil Society in Ukraine,”
http://www.ciaonet.org/wps/sml01/sml01.pdf

BELARUS:
• Minsk Center for Gender Studies
http://www.geocities.com/Athens/Agora/9237/eng/gender.html

FORMER YUGOSLAVIA
PAPERS DUE TODAY

CROATIA:
• Center for Women’s Studies
http://www.zenstud.hr/links.htm Links to all other centers in former Yugoslavia
www.zenstud.hr/aboutus.htm

SLOVENIA
•

SERBIA AND MONTENEGRO
•

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA
•

FRY MACEDONIA
•

RUSSIA
• Moscow Center for Gender Studies http://www.gender.ru/english/index.shtml
• St. Petersburg Center for Gender Issues (PCGI)
http://www.zenskestudie.edu.yu/wgsa/russia/ru-pcgi.html
• St. Petersburg Center of Gender Problems
http://www.womnet.ru/db/english/organiz/topics/org0090.html
• Anastasiia Posadskaya, et. al. at the Moscow Gender Center. Women in Russia: A New Era in Russian Feminism, trans. by Kate Clark (NY: Verso, 1994).
• Jirina Smejkalova, “The Other Monster: ‘American Feminism’ in the Post-Communist World,” in Nationalism and Sexuality: Crises of Identity, ed. by Yiorgos Kalogerias and


POLAND
• Women’s Study Center, Lodz
  http://www.wsmip.uni.lodz.pl/onbpk/kontakten.html

CZECH REPUBLIC
• Prague Gender Studies Center
  Gender Studies o.p.s.
• One Eye Open;

SLOVAKIA
•

FORMER EAST GERMANY: film Goodbye Lenin

F 4/29 ROMANIA
• CPE Center Partnership for Equality
  http://www.gender.ro/
  CPE’s program with Stop Violence Against Women
  http://www.stopyaw.org/10Aug200417.html
• Civic Education Project (CEP), The Campaign Against Domestic Violence in Romania
  http://www.cep.org.hu/countries/romania.html
• Euroregional Center for Democracy
  http://www.regionalnet.org/english/incubator/gender.html
• Trust for Civil Society in Central and Eastern Europe
  http://www.ceetrust.org/links/romania.html
• Interdisciplinary Group for Gender Studies, Institute for Cultural Anthropology at the Faculty of European Studies of the "Babeș-Bolyai" University, Cluj-Napoca, Romania
  http://www.gender.salve.ro/
• Romani Women, Soros Foundation Initiative
  http://www.soros.org/initiatives/roma/focus_areas/romani_women
  European Commission in Romania's Information Centre, http://www.infoeuropa.ro/

BULGARIA:
• The Research Center in Gender Studies, EuroBalkan
  http://www.euba.org.mk.gsnc.htm
• Kristeva, Julia, “Women’s Time” (1979)
14M 5/2  HUNGARY

• Department of Gender Studies, Central European University
  http://www.ceu.hu/gend/gendir.html
  http://orlando.women.it/cyberarchive/files/scott.htm
  <http://www.mona-hungary.org/eindex.ivy>

CONCLUSIONS
Women at Risk
A consultation center for women who are victims of domestic violence opened in St. Petersburg in May 1996. The first and only crisis center, "Women at Risk" helped over 600 women in its first few months of operation. Two lawyers and two psychologists provide women in need with free consultation and, if necessary, therapy. Four social workers help them with administrative and legal matters. The center's services are free, and the small amount contributed by the city budget hardly covers the cost; the rest comes from private contributions. There is a shortage of the most basic things--blankets and pillows, sterile utensils. For this reason, the center which was supposed to house 30 people now can give shelter to only eight women. The staff of the center will appreciate any help. Contact: Julia Nikiforova, coordinator; Tel: 095 293-0673.

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Sofia, 1113, Bulgaria

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11121 Prague 1, Czech Republic
tel. 2327106

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Giedre Purvaneckiene, Director
Universiteto g. 3
Vilnius 2743, Lithuania
tel. (122) 762763

Women's Studies Center
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University of Lodz
ul. Narutowicza 54
Lodz, Poland

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39 Stirbei Voda Str.
70732 Bucharest, Romania
tel. (40) (1) 615-9956

Slovakia Gender Studies Group (Women's Studies Club of Slovakia)
c/o Zuzana Kizckova and Estela Farkasova
Katedra filozofie
Filozificka fakulte UK
Gonolova 2
81801 Bratislava, Slovakia
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c/o Renata Saleci
Institut za Kriminologijo
Pravni fakultet
Trg Osvoboditve 11
61000 Ljubljana, Slovenia
fax (386) (1) 154-065

Women's Studies Center of Belgrade
c/o Dasa Duhacek
14 Decembra 49
11000 Belgrade, Yugoslavia
tel. (381) (1) 451273
fax (381) (1) 629-352
Gender montage: paradigms in post-Soviet space
The Network Women's Program of the Open Society Institute - Russia; The Gender Policy Institute. [St. Petersburg]: Open Society Institute, 2002

Gender montage: paradigms in post Soviet space / edited by Phoebe Schreiner, Elena Stishova, Irina Tartakovskaya, Nadezhda Azhgikhina; translated by Daniil Dynin. HQ1663 G46 2002 guide

Beauty of the fatherland: Estonia, 51 min. HQ1663 .B438 2001
A wry examination of femininity and beauty in Estonia through the lens of beauty pageants and a girl scout troop.

Hack workers: Uzbekistan, 21 min. HQ1663 .H335 2002
Hack workers, poor Uzbekistan women abandoned by their husbands, are subject to physical violence, rape and murder.

Invisible: Georgia, 26 min. HQ1663 .I595 2003
Women are rendered invisible by the patriarchal social structures in Azerbaijani villages.

Live containers: Tajikistan, 27 min. HQ1663 .L589 2002
Economic hardship drives some Tajik women to smuggle heroin inside their bodies.

Argues that matriarchy is the natural form of social organization in the Ukraine.

Red butterflies where two springs meet: Kyrgyzstan, 15 min. HQ1663 .R433 2002
Janyl Alibekova, an independent artist who creates traditional felt carpets, becomes a celebrity during the break-up of the Soviet Union.

Silk patterns: Mongolia, 27 min. HQ1663 .S554 2003
Female college graduates wear a special deli, the traditional women's costume, yet these women have few options in life after graduation.

Tomorrow will be better?: Lithuania, 40 min. HQ1663 .T666 2003
Four women struggle to build a new life in a post-Soviet Lithuania.

Wishing for seven sons and one daughter: Azerbaijan, 26 min. HQ1668 .W57 2002
Seven sons and one daughter is a traditional Azerbaijani wedding wish, and some wives are pressured to abort unwanted female fetuses.