RUSSIA AND THE OTHER: A CULTURAL APPROACH

http://www.stanford.edu/class/slavgen194a

A capstone seminar recommended for the alumni of Stanford’s Moscow Program, Russian majors and minors, CREES MA students, and Russian majors working on an honors thesis.

Russian cultural identity and its emergence in works of literature and art that deal with ethnic, racial, or class distinctions (the Western, Oriental, or internal Other).

Close reading of important texts in a variety of genres (history, travelogue, essay, fiction, poetry, film); introduction to literary/rhetorical analysis, cultural theory, elements of film analysis.
## SHEDULE OF READING FILM VIEWING & DISCUSSION

### Weeks 1-2

**An Introduction into History and Theory**

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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Lecture</th>
<th>Reading/Notes</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sept. 29</td>
<td>Clifford Geertz, “Thick Description”</td>
<td>Edward Said, <em>Orientalism</em> (selections)</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Victor Shklovsky, &quot;Art as Device&quot;</td>
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<td>Vs. Ivanov, “The Child”</td>
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<td>Oct. 3</td>
<td>Manuel Castells, “Nations and Nationalism in the Age of Globalization.”</td>
<td>(pp. 27-41)</td>
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<td>Benedict Anderson, <em>Imagined Communities</em> (selections)</td>
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<td>Oct. 6</td>
<td>Cold War. America looks at Red Russia.</td>
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<td>Oct. 10</td>
<td>Martin Malia, <em>Russia Under Western Eyes</em>. “Russia as Oriental Despotism”</td>
<td>(chapter 2, 1815-1855) and “Through the Soviet-Russian Looking Glass” (Chapter 5, 1917-1991)</td>
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### Week 3

**The West Looks at Russia**

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### Week 4

**Challenging the West and the West as Menace**

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<th>Reading/Notes</th>
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<tr>
<td>Oct. 20</td>
<td>F. Tiutchev, “Russia Cannot Be Fathomed by Reason”</td>
<td>F. Dostoevsky, <em>Winter Notes On Summer Impressions</em></td>
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<td>A. Solzhenitsyn, <em>The Harvard Speech</em></td>
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### Week 5

**The West Internalized**

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<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>Oct. 27</td>
<td>A. Pushkin, &quot;Bronze Horseman&quot;</td>
<td>A. Mickiewicz, <em>Digression</em> from <em>Forefathers’ Eve</em></td>
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<td>Nik. Leskov, “The Archbishop and the Englishman”</td>
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<td>Mikh. Zoshchenko, “The Bath”</td>
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<td>Vlad. Mayakovsky, “The Brooklyn Bridge”</td>
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Week 6

The East as Menace

Nov. 3  Zadonshchina
A. Blok, "On Kulikovo Field"
Vi. Soloviev, “A Short Story of the Anti-Christ” (Three Conversations)


Weeks 7-9

Orientalism

Nov. 10  Leo Tolstoy, Hadji Murad
Nov. 14  Alexander Pushkin, "Prisoner of the Caucasus"
         Leo Tolstoy, "Prisoner of the Caucasus"
Nov. 17  Nik. Leskov, The Enchanted Wanderer
Nov. 24  Alexei Balabanov, War (2002)

Week 10

Summing up

Dec. 1  Student presentations
Dec. 5  Final discussion
Dec. 12  Final paper due to both professors

Requirements

Attendance at class meetings (Mondays and Fridays 11:00-1:00). Almost every week, one meeting will be a film screening followed by a brief discussion.

Weekly one-paragraph essays on the readings, due to Professor Safran's and Professor Freidin’s E-mail by 9:00 a.m. on the day of class. Take care with these essays; you may be called upon to read them aloud in class. You may miss one week and there is no essay due the first or the final week; thus we expect each student to submit seven paragraphs.

20-minute presentation in class on December 1 based on your final paper.

Final paper of 10-12 pages, due December 12 to both professors.

The Course Reader:

Theory

1.  Clifford Geertz, “Thick Description” (his Interpretation of Cultures)
2. ______, “Art as a Cultural System” (his Local Knowledge)
4. Edward Said, Orientalism (selections)
5. Roland Barthes, Mythologies (Selections)
6. Victor Shklovsky, On estrangement (ostranenie) (“Art as Device”)

Prose and Fiction

7. Zadonshchina
9. Leo Tolstoy, “Prisoner of the Caucasus”
13. Vsevolod Ivanov, “The Child” (Dityo)

Poetry

17. Alexander Pushkin, Bronze Horseman. Ibid.
18. Fyodor Tyutchev, “Umom Rossiiu ne poniat’”
19. A. Blok, “Na Pole Kulikovom,” “Skify”
20. Vlad. Mayakovsky, “The Brooklyn Bridge” (Bruklinskii most”)

Books on Order and on Reserve at Green:

Required:


**Recommended:**


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