



SLST 300

Slavic Cultural Studies

This course will not look at the parts of Russian culture that we specialize in - and are offered in other courses in this department. You will not find the Revolution, Stalin's Russia, World War II, fairy tales, or the Cold War.

Instead you will find award-winning Putin-era television, Pussy Riot and gender analysis, a Chekhov play, a Soviet film about difficult parents, one beautiful 19th century novel, and Pushkin.

Our learning goals include clear expression of ideas in writing and in discussion, research, and engagement with literature, film, cultural contexts and cultural theory.

Spring 2021

TWF 12:30-1:30 Pacific Standard Time

This course is mostly asynchronous in 2021, however there are regular Zoom calls that you are required to attend. They will happen 12:30-1:30 PST so please block off these times in your calendar.

Instructor: Dr. Megan Swift

E-Mail: maswift@uvic.ca

Materials

Ivan Turgenev, *Fathers and Sons* – please order online

All other readings provided by instructor

Important Course Dates -

Intro Day on Zoom – Jan. 15

6 Discussion Days on Zoom—Jan 26 or 27; Feb. 5 or 9; March 5 or 9; March 12 or 16; March 19 or 23; March 26 or 30

(note: if 2 days are indicated it means one half of the class will discuss on first day and second half on second day)

4 Discussion Posts - Feb 24 or 26;
Two posts on research projects April
6-9

Take-Home Test – posted Wed. Feb.
10, due Fri. Feb. 12

Final Research Project – due March
31

UVic Grading Scheme

A+ 90-100%

A 85-89%

A- 80-84%

B+ 77-79%

B 73-76%

B- 70-72%

C+ 65-69%

C 60-64%

D 50-59%

F 0-49%

Evaluation

Six Zoom Discussion Days throughout semester - 30%

- Response in discussion or chat to a text + pre-assigned questions

Four Posts on Discussion Forums – 20%

- Two post on a text; two posts on your response to other students' research projects

Take-Home test posted Wed. Feb. 10, due Fri. February 12 – 25%

- essays in response to questions about texts and films covered in class

Research project due March 31 –

Create a website or a set of Power Point slides with 1500 words + images, and do a voice narration recorded in Kaltura or Zoom. Submit two things via Brightspace: the project with and without recorded voice narration.

Written portion of project – 25% (ie. your research and writing)

Narrated recording – 10% (ie. your explanation and presentation of research and writing)

Tentative Course Calendar (also on BrightSpace)

WEEK ONE. Jan. 12-15 What is Cultural Analysis? (**Reading: The Sage Handbook of Cultural Analysis pp. 1-12 on Brightspace; Start watching “Better Than Us” on Netflix – 13 episodes – please finish by March 24**)

All Roads Lead to Pushkin (**Reading: The Queen of Spades (on Brightspace); Catriona Kelly, “Chapter 3, ‘Tidings of me will go out over all great Rus’, Pushkin and the Literary Canon on CourseSpaces**)

WEEK TWO. Jan. 19-22 Slides on Pushkin and Discussions about The Queen of Spades (**Readings: Turgenev, *Fathers and Sons* – Bookstore; “Romantic outcasts, “superfluous men” from the *History of Russian Literature* - Brightspace**)

WEEK THREE. Jan. 26-29 Slides on *Fathers and Sons*. **Watching *Adam’s Rib*** (Director Vyacheslav Kristofovich, 1990).

WEEK FOUR. Feb. 2-5 Discussion on *Fathers and Sons*, superfluous men and generational clashes. (**Reading: “Writing About the Humanities,” in**

preparation for Take-Home test in Week Five)

WEEK FIVE. Feb.9-12 Discussion on *Adam's Rib*, workshop on writing, **Take-Home Test** with essays on *Queen of Spades*, *Fathers and Sons* and *Adam's Rib*. **Assigned Feb. 10, due Feb. 12.**

WEEK SIX. Feb. 15-19 **READING WEEK.** Finish "Better Than Us" to end of Episode 6. Read "The Cherry Orchard."

WEEK SEVEN. Feb. 22-26. Slides on Chekhov, "The Cherry Orchard," Discussion posts on *The Cherry Orchard*.

WEEK EIGHT. March 2-5 Workshop #1 on Research Projects. **Reading: Pierre Nora, Introduction to *Sites of Memory*. Watch "Vanya on 42nd St. (1994, adaptation of Chekhov play "Uncle Vanya").** Discussion on Uncle Vanya and question session for research projects.

WEEK NINE. March 9-12 Workshop #2 on Research Projects. Slides on theory of memory studies. **Reading: Aivozova: "Feminism in Russia. Debates from the Past"** Slides on Pussy Riot and gender in Russia.

WEEK TEN. March 10-13 Workshop #3 on research projects. Discussion on Pussy Riot and feminism in Russia.

WEEK ELEVEN. March 23-26. Slides on "Better Than Us." Discussion on "Better Than Us"

WEEK TWELVE. March 24-27 Research projects due March 31. Attend virtual graduate conference. **No class March 2 for Good Friday.**

WEEK THIRTEEN April 6-9 Read through gallery of research projects of SLST 300 and GMST 300, write discussion posts on two of them.

Course Policies

Territory Acknowledgement: We acknowledge with respect the Lkwungen-speaking peoples on whose traditional territory the university stands and the Songhees, Esquimalt and WSÁNEĆ peoples whose historical relationships with the land continue to this day.

Accessibility Statement

Students with diverse learning styles and needs are welcome in this course. In particular, if you have a disability/health consideration that may require accommodations, please feel free to approach me and/or the [Resource Centre for Students with a Disability](#) (RCSD) as soon as possible. RCSD staff members are available by appointment to assess specific needs, provide referrals and arrange appropriate accommodations. The sooner you let us know your needs the quicker we can assist you in achieving your learning goals in this course.

University Policy on Human Rights, Equity and Fairness:

The University promotes a safe, respectful and supportive learning and working environment for all members of the university community. The University fosters an environment characterized by fairness, openness, equity, and respect for the dignity and diversity of its members. The University strives to be a place that is free of discrimination and harassment, injustice and violence. The strength and

vibrancy of the University is found in the diverse life experiences, backgrounds and worldviews of all its members.

https://www.uvic.ca/universitysecretary/assets/docs/policies/GV0200_1105_.pdf

A Note on Pronouns:

We as a Department acknowledge and support each student's right to and preference for their own personalized pronouns.

Concessions and Documentation

Students may ask for an academic concession, such as the rescheduling of a quiz or test or an extension for an assignment, upon providing proper documentation of a personal or medical affliction or of a time conflict. Proper documentation would include a doctor's note or a memo from [Counseling Services](#), or a memo from a coach, employer or faculty member. It must be dated before or close to the time of the missed work or classes.

Withdrawals and Deferrals

Students who miss substantial amounts of class and assignments without documentation will be asked to withdraw, or will receive an 'N' at the end of the semester. Even when the reasons for failing to meet course requirements are valid, it is not academically sound to allow students missing significant amounts of work to continue in the course.

Students are to familiarize themselves with the withdrawal dates in the current academic calendar.

A Note on Academic Integrity and Plagiarism

Actions such as plagiarism, multiple submissions, falsifying materials used in academic evaluations, cheating or aiding others to cheat violate University policies on academic integrity and are considered serious offence. You must inform yourself about the university regulations (see [UVic Policy on Academic Integrity](#)).

Unauthorized Use of an Editor

An editor is an individual or service, other than the instructor or supervisory committee, who manipulates, revises, corrects or alters a student's written or non-written work. The use of an editor, whether paid or unpaid, is prohibited unless the instructor grants explicit written authorization. If you have questions, please ask! The main principle: do your own work according the guidelines, and all will be well.

Online Conduct

The University of Victoria is committed to promoting critical academic discourse while providing a respectful and supportive learning environment. All members of the university community have the right to this experience and the responsibility to help create such an environment. The University will not tolerate racism, sexualized violence, or any form of discrimination, bullying or harassment. Please be advised that, by logging into UVic's learning systems or interacting with online resources, and course-related communication platforms, you are engaging in a university activity. All interactions within this

environment are subject to the university expectations and policies. Any concerns about student conduct may be reviewed and responded to in accordance with the appropriate university policy.

Add/Drop Deadlines

It is the student's responsibility to attend to ADD/DROP dates as published in the Calendar and the Undergraduate Registration Guide and Timetable. You will not be dropped automatically from a class that you do not attend.

Information on Campus Supports for Student Wellbeing:

A note to remind you to take care of yourself. Do your best to maintain a healthy lifestyle this semester by eating well, exercising, getting enough sleep and taking some time to relax. This will help you achieve your goals and cope with stress. All of us benefit from support during times of struggle. You are not alone. Resources include:

Counselling Services - *Counselling Services can help you make the most of your university experience. They offer free professional, confidential, inclusive support to currently registered UVic students.* <https://www.uvic.ca/services/counselling/>

Health Services - *University Health Services (UHS) provides a full service primary health clinic for students, and coordinates healthy student and campus initiatives.* <http://www.uvic.ca/services/health/>

Center for Accessible Learning (CAL) - *Students with diverse learning styles and needs are welcome in this course. In particular, if you have a disability/health consideration that may require accommodations, please feel free to approach me and/or the CAL as soon as possible. CAL staff members are available by appointment to assess specific needs, provide referrals and arrange appropriate accommodations.* <https://www.uvic.ca/services/cal/>

The sooner you let us know your needs the quicker we can assist you in achieving your learning goals in this course. Please note that your instructor cannot provide CAL-type accommodations without CAL documentation.

Good luck!