

EUS 3930 (2084) -- PLT 3930 (1779) -- WST 3930 (6463)

WOMEN FROM THE "OTHER" EUROPE:

FEMININITY AND FICTION IN CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE

INSTRUCTOR: DR. EWA WAMPUSZYC

CLASS TIMES / PLACES:

- M-W-F: 5TH PERIOD
- 2319 TURLINGTON

FILM SCREENINGS:

- TIME AND PLACE TBA

OFFICE HOURS / CONTACT INFO:

M (6th-7th periods)
W (6th period)
By appointment

OFFICE: 3326B Turlington Hall
E-MAIL: ewamp@ufl.edu
OFFICE PHONE: (352) 392-8902 x 203

COURSE DESCRIPTION:

The study of women and the debate regarding women's rights in East-Central Europe is particularly important for the new member states of the European Union as the EU develops ways for building a common European identity. While these new countries have successfully carried out economic, institutional, and political reforms, deeply rooted cultural biases related to gender roles and identities often remain unresolved and cause a gap in the cultural understanding between "East" and "West." By studying the representation of women in film and literature in an interdisciplinary theoretical and historical context, this course will provide students with a unique opportunity to interrogate Western ideas of feminism and begin to answer such questions as:

- What models of femininity have been constructed in East and Central Europe and how do these models compare with Western concepts of womanhood?
- What types of "feminisms" exist in East and Central Europe today? How can we talk about the "women's question" in post-communist countries?
- What are the points of debate between East and West feminist perspectives? How is Western feminist critique adopted and transformed by societies in the "Other" Europe?
- How does gender fit into the process of rewriting identity—national and European—in a post-communist/EU context?

GOAL: The purpose of this course is...

- 1) ...to explore and analyze the representation of women and women's issues in Central and East European literature and film, focusing on select new EU member states (Czech Republic, Hungary and Poland)
- 2) ...to provide students with an overview of women's history in East and Central Europe, while offering a comparative context with the West
- 3) ...to shed light on the problems of identity and gender in post-communist countries as they relate to the theoretical debates between Western Feminism and its East and Central European incarnation.

COURSE MATERIALS:

- Required and recommended books are available for purchase at
 - UF bookstores on campus.
- Coursepack is available at:
 - OBT, 309 NW 13th St., (352) 375-2707
- Selected texts will be available as pdf files on E-Learning
- Most required and recommended readings/films will also be on reserve at the library.

REQUIRED BOOKS

Drakulić, Slavenka. *How we survived Communism and Even Laughed*. 1993
Hulová, Petra. *All this Belongs to Me*. 2009
Masłowska, Dorota. *Snow White, Russian Red*. 2003.
Müller, Herta, *The Appointment*. 2002.

OPTIONAL BOOKS (YOU WILL HAVE TO CHOOSE ONE OF THESE)

Drakulić, Slavenka. *S.: A Novel About the Balkans*. 2001
Ugrešić, Dubravka. *The Museum of Unconditional Surrender*. 2002.

SELECTIONS FROM BOOKS / ARTICLES:

Selections and Articles will be provided as pdf files on E-Learning

FILMS:

Bugajski, Ryszard. <i>Interrogation</i> . (1982)	<i>Propaganda Films from the People's Republic of Poland</i>
Butterworth, Jez. <i>Birthday Girl</i> (2002)	Ślesicki, Maciej. <i>Daddy</i> (1995)
Chytilová, Věra. <i>Daisies</i> (1966)	Wajda, Andrzej. <i>Man of Marble</i> (1976)
Kuźmiński, Zbigniew. <i>On the Banks of the River Niemen</i> (1986)	----- <i>Man of Iron</i> (1981)
Mészáros, Márta. <i>Adoption</i> (1975)	

OPTIONAL FILMS:

Holland, Agnieszka. *Kobieta samotna* (1981)
Mungiu, Cristian. *4 months, 3 Weeks and 2 Days* (2007)

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

- Attendance / Class Participation: 20%
- Response Paragraphs (10): 10%
- Paper and Abstract (6-7 pages): 20%
- Midterm: 25%
- Final: 25%

COURSE REQUIREMENTS (HONORS):

- Attendance / Class Participation: 20%
- Response Paragraphs (10): 10%
- Paper and Abstract (10-12 pages): 20%
- Midterm: 25%
- Final: 25%

ATTENDANCE / CLASS PARTICIPATION (20%): Academic conversation is a skill that you should acquire in college. It is important that you prepare well for every class, that you are on time to engage with the *entire* class during the *entire* class time, and that you learn to listen to your fellow students and your professor, as well as to articulate your questions, concerns, and insights appropriately. In sum, a good class participation grade depends on regular attendance and active participation in discussions. Please come to class prepared! This means that you have read all the assigned materials, thought about what you have read, and written/posted the 1 paragraph weekly response to the reading on the E-Learning discussion board. REMEMBER: The format of the course is lecture and discussion, so reading the texts and watching films is not enough to complete the take-home midterm and finals. You need to be able to contextualize what you have read within the class discussion. Regular attendance and participation is the best way to reach this goal!

Ideally all class members will participate in class discussion. Thus, the letter grade for participation is based on the following criteria:

- quantity of your participation (ideal participation is regular without monopolizing class time or discourse)
- quality of your participation: preparedness, understanding of text, ability to move discussion forward, originality of insight, ability to listen, level of analysis, attention to class discussion, attention to textual detail
- consistency of quantity and quality of participation

2 unexcused absences are permitted. Anything beyond that, please provide written documentation. According to the 2009-2010 Undergraduate Catalogue, acceptable reasons for absence from class include "...illness, serious family emergencies, special curricular requirements (e.g., judging trips, field trips, professional conferences), military obligation, severe weather conditions, religious holidays and participation in official university activities such as music performances, athletic competition or debate. Absences from class for court-imposed legal obligations (e.g., jury duty or subpoena) must be excused. Other reasons also may be approved." For further explanation of the UF attendance policy, see: <http://www.registrar.ufl.edu/catalog/policies/regulationattendance.html>

PLEASE NOTE: Viewing the assigned films is part of your class participation grade. If you cannot make the screenings, most films are available on reserve at the library. If you plan on viewing films in the library, plan ahead. For most films, there is only one copy on reserve, thus if everyone plans on watching the film before class, chances are that NO ONE will be able to watch the film!!! If a film is not available in the library, you must make arrangements with me to view the film during business hours on campus.

RESPONSES PARAGRAPHS (10%): You must submit at least 10 responses by the end of the semester. Please post weekly response paragraphs on the E-Learning discussion board by **12:00 p.m. on Tuesdays**. The first response is due **Tuesday, January 12**.

Use these responses to reflect on what you have read the previous week for class and to organize your thoughts about the material read/watched/discussed. You can post your reaction to any reading or topic of the previous week that you find particularly interesting (or irritating, inspirational, problematic, exciting, etc...); in addition, you can respond to other classmates' postings. These "discussions" can also be a good source of paper topics. Finally, this forum provides a way to discuss topics that we may not have a chance to cover fully in class.

Responses will not receive individual, evaluative grades. Instead, you will either receive credit for a response or not. This means that you are expected to post thoughtful comments, proofread your postings, and (in essence) treat the assignment seriously. Responses that are short, show lack of effort or thought, or are clearly rough drafts will not be counted. At the end of the semester, you will receive credit as follows:

10 responses: 100% 9 responses: 90% 8 responses: 80% etc...

Treat your responses more formally than a private journal or an e-mail message to a friend. Here are some rules of thumb:

- **"We should take care not to make the intellect our god; it has, of course, powerful muscles, but no personality."** (Albert Einstein). Be respectful of your classmates' ideas.
- **"Politeness: The most acceptable hypocrisy."** (Ambrose Bierce) Address your classmates and professor properly--on the discussion board, in emails, and in class!
- **As Herman Melville said, "It is better to fail in originality than to succeed in imitation"**. Write your own response before reading anyone others'.
- **First come, first serve**. Don't repeat already posted ideas. If when you sit down to post your paragraph, someone else has already talked about that theme or topic, you can respond to their paragraph, but make sure you contribute your own thoughts and ideas.
- **"A computer can make as many mistakes in two seconds as 20 men working for 20 years."** The moral of the story: *Czech you're spelling, proof read you're papers, and Polish your writing!*
- **"Copy from one, it's plagiarism; copy from two, it's research."** (Wilson Mizner) Always cite your sources! (BTW: The above aphorisms come from <http://www.aphorisms-galore.info/>) E-Learning postings are subject to the same rules and regulations as outlined under "Student Responsibilities" in the 2009-2010 Undergraduate Catalogue <http://www.registrar.ufl.edu/catalog/policies/students.html>

SHORT PAPER AND ABSTRACT (20%):

Paper abstracts due **Friday, March 19, 2009** at the start of class.

Paper due on **Monday, April 12, 2009** at the start of class.

You are required to write a short **analytical paper** (6-7 pages; 10-12 pages for Honors students) on a topic of your own choice. You can continue a class discussion that particularly interested you, analyze two or more texts or films, or closely analyze a single text or film. Most importantly, your paper must clearly state a thesis in the first paragraph. This thesis should be clearly articulated and then defended throughout the paper. Use direct quotes and provide proper references from the text(s) you are analyzing. Grammar and spelling will be part of your grade, so please proofread!

Plagiarism will not be tolerated and will be addressed according to UF regulations. **Please be forewarned: I will seek maximum penalty for even the slightest act of plagiarism.** For an outline of these rules, see "Student Responsibilities" in the 2009-2010 Undergraduate Catalogue <http://www.registrar.ufl.edu/catalog/policies/students.html>

Guidelines for writing an Abstract: An abstract is the shortest possible summary of your paper. The abstract should be one-two paragraphs long and include your basic analytical question, your preliminary thesis statement, the texts that you will be analyzing, the tentative title of your paper, and your bibliography (if applicable). You will receive written feedback on your abstract. Writing an abstract necessitates that you undertake the first steps of beginning research for your paper, such as defining a topic, its scope, your questions, and – very important – the availability of secondary material at UF libraries or ordering possible texts through interlibrary loan (if applicable). **You receive full points, if your abstract is handed in on time. For every day the abstract is late, you will receive a point deduction equal to dropping one letter grade.**

Guidelines for writing your Final paper: The final paper is a 6-7 page analytical paper on a topic that you chose and that engages with the material of the course, illustrates your understanding of the material, and moves beyond class discussion. For an explanation of what an analytical paper is, see the following website: <http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/658/02/>

The letter grade for the final paper reflects evaluation in the following areas:

- originality of the topic
- appropriate scope of the paper
- illustration of your understanding of the material covered in class
- clarity of thesis
- coherence of argument
- cohesiveness of writing
- grammar, syntax, and correct use of academic vocabulary
- thoroughness and appropriateness of documentation (attribution of sources through correct quotes, footnotes, and complete bibliography)
- correct academic format including title, page numbers, length
- submission date of your final paper

Submission of your paper after class time counts as one day late, and each late day results in lowering your grade by one letter grade.

MID-TERM (25%) AND FINAL (25%): The take-home midterm and final will be comprehensive exams based on reading/viewing assignments, lectures and handouts. Since lectures and handouts will complement rather than repeat the reading material, attendance will be an important factor in doing well

on these exams. Again, grammar and spelling will be part of your grade, so please proofread! **For every hour that an exam is late, you will receive a ½ grade lower.**

Take-Home Midterm: Due at the start of class on Monday, February 22, 2009. No exceptions!

You will receive the midterm assignment one week before it is due.

Take-Home Final: Due Thursday, April 29 @ 7:30 a.m.

You will receive the final on the last day of class.

Should you be sick (or affected other extenuating circumstances, such as a death in your family) on the date that the exam is handed out, please make arrangements to receive an alternative exam at an alternative date prior to class-time and provide documentation for extenuating circumstances, such as a doctor's notice.

E-LEARNING: <http://lss.at.ufl.edu/>

EMAIL POLICY: University policy requires that you use your UF gatorlink account for university (and class) related email communication. Please see <http://www.it.ufl.edu/policies/forwarding.html> to read more on this policy.

OFFICE HOURS: Feel free to take advantage of office hours. It's a good time to ask questions, continue discussions started in class, and get ideas for your paper.

ACADEMIC HONESTY: Another reminder! Plagiarism and cheating will not be tolerated. Any example of Academic Dishonesty will be subject to the rules and regulations set forth in the *The University Record: Undergraduate Catalog, 2009-2010* under "Student Responsibilities." See <http://www.registrar.ufl.edu/catalog/policies/students.html> for more details.

SPECIAL ACCOMMODATIONS: Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office. The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the Instructor when requesting accommodation.

GRADING SCALE: Grades will be calculated according to the approved UF grading scale. For more information, see "Grades and Grading Policies" in the 2009-2010 Undergraduate Catalog (<http://www.registrar.ufl.edu/catalog/policies/regulationgrades.html>):

Letter Grade	Grade Points	Percentage
A	4.0	94-100
A-	3.67	90-93
B+	3.33	87-89
B	3.0	83-86
B-	2.67	80-82
C+	2.33	77-79
C	2.0	73-76
C-	1.67	70-72
D+	1.33	69-67
D	1.0	63-66
D-	.67	60-62
E	0	0-59

WEEK 1:

- Wed., January 6: **Introduction**
- Fri., January 8: **Theories, Definitions**
 - Selections from *Feminist Theory*

WEEK 2:

- Mon., January 11: **Aesthetics**
 - Felski, Rita. Selections from *Beyond Feminist Aesthetics*.
 - Hawkesworth, Celia. "Feminist writing in Eastern Europe: the problem solved?"
- Wed., January 13: **East-West Dialogues I**
 - Selections from *Women's Writing On-Line* <http://womenswriting.fi/online-journal/>
 - Borghi, Liana. "Space and Women's Culture"
- Fri., January 15: **Lecture: Fin de siecle Central and Eastern Europe**

WEEK 3:

- Mon., January 18: No Class—MLK Day
- Tues., January 19:
 - **Film Screening:** *On the Banks of the River Niemen* (1987), dir. Zbigniew Kuźmiński
- Wed., January 20: **Women and Nation: Early Representations**
 - *On the Banks of the River Niemen*
 - Borkowska, Grażyna. "The Feminism of Eliza Orzeszkowa"
- Fri., January 22
 - Jesenská, Růžena. "A World Apart" (1909)
 - Preissová, Gabriela. "Eva" (1896)

WEEK 4:

- Mon., January 25: **Lecture: Women's Suffrage in E/C Europe**
 - Petö, Andrea. "The History of the Hungarian Women's Movement"
- Wed., January 27: **Inter-war: Women's Liberation**
 - TBA
- Fri., January 29: TBA

WEEK 5:

- Mon., February 1: TBA
- Tues., February 2:
 - **Film Screening:** Propaganda Films from the Polish People's Republic
- Wed., February 3: **Socialist Real(ism)/ities**
 - Selections of from writings by Marx, Engels, Lenin, Stalin on women
 - Propaganda Films
- Fri., February 5
 - Marx, Engels, Lenin, Stalin (cont.)

WEEK 6:

- Mon., February 8
 - Hartmann, Heidi. "The Unhappy Marriage of Marxism and Feminism"
 - Nicholson, Linda. "Feminism and Marxism"
- Tues., February 9:
 - **Film Screening:** *Interrogation* (1982), dir. Ryszard Bugajski
- Wed., February 10: **Communist Realities**
 - *Interrogation*

- Fri., February 12
 - Kantůrková, Eva. *My Companions in the Bleak House* (selections)
 - Miller, Marlowe. "Narratives of Witness: Testimony and Polemic in the Work of Eva Kantůrková"

WEEK 7:

- Mon., February 15
 - Kantůrková (cont.)
- Tues., February 9:
 - **Film Screening:** *Daisies* (1966), dir. Věra Chytilová
- Wed., February 17
 - *Daisies*
- Fri., February 19
 - Müller, Herta. *The Appointment*

WEEK 8:

- Mon., February 22: **MIDTERM DUE TODAY**
 - Müller (cont.)
- Tues., February 23:
 - **Film Screening:** *The Adoption* (1975), dir. Márta Mészáros
- Wed., February 24
 - *The Adoption*
- Fri., February 26
 - Drakulić, Slavenka. *How We Survived Communism and Even Laughed*

WEEK 9:

- Mon., March 1
 - Drakulić (cont.)
- Thurs., March 2:
 - **Film Screening:** *Man of Iron* (1976), dir. Andrzej Wajda
- Wed., March 3
 - *Man of Iron*
- Fri., March 5
 - Sz wajcowska, Joanna. "The Myth of the Polish Mother"
 - Penn, Shana "National Secret"
 - Kenney, Padraic. "The Gender of Resistance in Communist Poland"

WEEK 10: March 6-14: SPRING BREAK

WEEK 11: CRISIS OF MASCULINITY

- Mon., March 15: **The Poetic Feminine**
 - Selections of poetry by Anna Świrszczyńska and Wisława Szymborska
- Tues., March 16:
 - **Film Screening:** *Man of Marble* (1981), dir. Andrzej Wajda
- Wed., March 17
 - *Man of Marble*
 - Mazierska, Ewa. "Agnieszka and Other Solidarity Heroines of the Polish Cinema"
- Fri., March 19: **Women and War: ABSTRACTS DUE TODAY**
 - Mladjenović, Lepa and Matijašević, Divna. "SOS Belgrade July 1993-1995: Dirty Streets"

- Boric, Rada and Desnica, Mica Mladineo. "Croatia: Three Years After"
- TBA

WEEK 12:

- Mon., March 22: TBA
- Wed., March 24: TBA
- Thurs., March 25:
 - **Film Screening:** *Daddy* (1995), dir. Maciej Ślesicki
- Fri., March 26: **Fall of Communism and the Crisis of Masculinity**
 - *Daddy*
 - Watson, Peggy. "The Rise of Masculinism in Eastern Europe"
 - Mazierska, Ewa. "Witches, Bitches and Other Victims of the Crisis of Masculinity: Women in Polish Postcommunist Cinema"

WEEK 13:

- Mon., March 29: **Post-Communist Realities**
 - Barrett, Michele. "Capitalism and Women's Liberation"
 - **Short Film (in-class):** *Moscow Wife* (2005), dir., Barbara Białowąs
- Tues., March 30:
 - **Film Screening:** *Birthday Girl* (2001), dir. Jez Butterworth
- Wed., March 31: **Western Images of Women from the "Other" Europe**
 - *Birthday Girl*
 - Tuszyńska, Agnieszka. "Eastern Girls, Western Boys: The Image of the Eastern European Woman in *Birthday Girl*"
 - Radulescu, Dominica. "Amazons, Wretches, and Vampirettes: Essentialism and Beyond in the Representation of East European Women"
- Fri., April 2: **East-West Dialogues II / New Voices**
 - Slapšak, Svetlana. "Identities under Threat on the Eastern Borders"

WEEK 14:

- Mon., April 5:
 - Masłowska, Dorota. *Snow White, Russian Red*
- Wed., April 7:
 - Masłowska (cont.)
- Fri., April 9:
 - Masłowska (cont.)
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WEEK 15:

- Mon., April 12: **PAPERS DUE TODAY**
 - Hulová, Petra. *All This Belongs to Me*
- Wed., April 14:
 - Hulová (cont.)
- Fri., April 16:
 - Hulová (cont.)

WEEK 16:

- Mon., April 19: **Reassessing Women and Nation**
 - TBA
- Wed., April 21:
 - Wrap-up