

Senior Seminar for Slavic Majors

RUSS W3595x
 Fall 2013
 T 4:10-6
 237 Milbank Hall

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 Office hours: T 12:30-2:30 and by appt.

Course Description

The goals of this seminar are twofold: (1) to help you organize and execute the major research component of your Slavic major, the senior thesis; and (2) to create a community of advanced undergraduate scholars in the field, who are able to share the fruits of their research and communicate their ideas in a common scholarly language that crosses disciplinary boundaries. As we work toward these twin objectives, you will enrich your working knowledge and understanding of Slavic cultures both by focusing on your own scholarly topic and by learning about the problems your peers in the field are investigating; you will also benefit from the thoughtful feedback of your colleagues and instructor at various stages in the completion of your thesis project.

As you reach each major “milestone” on the road to writing your thesis, this course will operate as a writing workshop, assisting you in formulating, researching, refining, and articulating your ideas as efficiently and elegantly as possible. At the same time, it will act as a “content” course whose content is determined by the interests and discoveries of its participants. In the best-case scenario – for which we should strive! – the course will emulate the model of a professional seminar in Slavic Studies.

Course Requirements

1. Timely completion of the major stages in writing the thesis:

- Proposal
- Preliminary bibliography
- Outline and (if necessary) revised bibliography
- Initial chapter draft (not necessarily Chapter One)
- Complete rough draft
- Final paper (approx. 25-30 pages).

NOTE: Barnard majors in Russian/Slavic Regional Studies must write a 2-semester thesis, of which they should aim to have completed at least one chapter, as well as research toward the remainder, by the end of the fall semester. Other students may opt to write a two-semester thesis if desired.

2. Participation in an initial roundtable about your topic, approach, argument, and problems.
3. Assumption of complete responsibility for one class session devoted to your topic or to an aspect of your topic (assigning readings a week in advance, delivering an oral presentation, leading class discussion).
4. Participation in in-class workshops devoted to writing, at the instructor's discretion.
5. Attendance at our class field trip to the Metropolitan Opera for *The Nose* (Shostakovich's opera based on Gogol's novella). ArtsLink has reserved discounted tickets for us (one per student) for **Thursday, October 17**. Tickets are \$15 and may be purchased at the Ticket and Information Center (TIC) in Lerner Hall. The TIC is open Tuesday through Saturday from 1pm to 8pm. The deadline to purchase your ticket is **Wednesday, September 18, at 8pm**. After that, any unsold tickets will be returned to the Met.

Schedule

Tue Sept 3	Introduction (and sign-up for Met Opera trip,* October 17)
Mon Sept 9	Draft thesis proposals due at 9 AM (2 pages, MSWord or PDF format, email to rstanton@barnard.edu)
Tue Sept 10	Bibliography and library resource session with Robert Davis, Slavic Librarian
Tue Sept 17	Strategies for outlining and organizing information (roundtable session) revised proposals w/bibliography due (use tools from library session to prepare)
Tue Sept 24	Special guest presentation by Bradley Gorski
* Tue Oct 1	Special session on <i>The Nose</i>
Tue Oct 8	Class led by Caroline Brown chapter-by-chapter outline due; submit revised bibliography if needed
<i>Tue Oct 15</i>	<i>No class (replaced by field trip to the opera on Thursday)</i>
*Thu Oct 17	Field trip to <i>The Nose</i> at the Metropolitan Opera, 7:30pm
Tue Oct 22	Class led by Sam Jacobs
Tue Oct 29	Class led by Alla Khodykin and Shelley Farmer
<i>Tue Nov 5</i>	<i>Election Day; no class</i>
Tue Nov 12	Class led by Anabel Bacon
Mon Nov 18	Draft of one chapter, or 10 pages of writing, due at 9 AM (MSWord or PDF format, email to rstanton@barnard.edu)
Tue Nov 19	Class led by Yujin Chung and Jorja Knauer
Tue Nov 26	Class led by Aisling Hunt and Sam Jacobs
Mon Dec 2	Complete rough draft due to advisers at 9 AM (one-semester theses) Note that individual advisers may set an earlier due date. Students writing two-semester theses should reach an agreement in advance with their advisers about what will be due on this date.
Tue Dec 3	Class led by Gregory Koski
Mon Dec 16	FINAL DRAFT DUE (one-semester theses) Note that individual advisers may set an earlier due date. Students writing two-semester theses should reach an agreement in advance with their advisers about what will be due on this date.