



THE UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS
SLAVIC AND EURASIAN LANGUAGES & LITERATURES

THE LAWRENCIAN CHRONICLE

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IN THIS ISSUE

<u>Chair's Corner.....</u>	<u>3</u>
<u>Message from the Director of Graduate Studies.....</u>	<u>5</u>
<u>Message from the Director of Undergraduate Studies.....</u>	<u>6</u>
<u>Asynchronous Online Beginners' Russian Program to Start at KU</u>	<u>8</u>
<u>In Memory of Dr. Rebecca Ann Stakun.....</u>	<u>10</u>
<u>Ethem Mandić</u>	<u>14</u>
<u>Nicole Evans</u>	<u>15</u>
<u>Faculty Updates</u>	<u>16</u>
<u>Student & Alumni Updates</u>	<u>19</u>

CHAIR'S CORNER

Dr. Ani Kokobobo



Dear all –

What a semester it's been! It seems like it was almost yesterday that we were first learning about the beginnings of a pandemic that has had profound effects on our community. I still remember the pizza party I had for my Introduction to Russian

Culture class as a mid-semester treat and celebration. I had no idea at that point that we would not be coming back into the classroom to see our students face-to-face for the rest of the Spring 2020 semester.

This fall was profoundly affected by the effects of the pandemic. As KU opened up again, many of our faculty, lecturers, and graduate student instructors came back to the classrooms in person to teach Russian face-to-face and continued to do what we have been doing for years, but this time wearing masks and with social distancing guidelines in place. We also engaged in technological innovation, putting practically all of our languages online, including Russian. Despite the challenges we faced due to the pandemic, we have seen tremendous success in both in person and online instruction, as we worked to keep our students actively engaged in their learning. I am thrilled that this work paid off in the form of enrollment increases, as we brought new students to the study of Russia, Eastern Europe, and Eurasia. We also began teaching Russian at Ft. Leavenworth as part of our ongoing initiatives to teach languages to the military.

For those alumni who do not already know, another significant change we all underwent this semester was a name change. Although the department has been known as the Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures for over fifty years – last April we received the approval of the Kansas Board of Regents to change our name to the Department of Slavic and Eurasian Languages and Literatures. Some of the factors that went into our decision are outlined in this blog post I published on the ASEES website this fall. We are happy that with the changed name we can be more inclusive intellectually but also more directly inclusive of our colleagues who work on Persian/Tajik and Turkish studies. The new name better represents the broader implications of our field in the North Caucasus and Central Asia.

Faculty and graduate students have continued to stay research active, publishing articles and books and participating in lectures via zoom across the country. In response to the questions of racial justice and police brutality nationally, the department, in conjunction with our Center for Russian, East European and Eurasian Studies, launched a new lecture series, "Russia and Race," which addressed important questions about race in the region. We wanted to center our intellectual programming on race and had large audiences all fall for these interdisciplinary lectures, which

are all recorded on the CREES YouTube channel. We will continue the lecture series into the spring as well, but with a broader focus on the region beyond just Russia.

I served as interim director for the Center for Russian, East European, and Eurasian Studies for Fall 2020 and am thrilled to say that we learned from the Department of Education during that time that the center would receive Title VI funding for two years, beginning this fall. I want to congratulate my colleague, Vitaly Chernetsky, and his team, for a successful grant application back in 2018. The center is now back to being a funded National Resource Center for the region and we could not be happier. I will be stepping down from the interim director role and just wearing my my Slavic and Eurasian chair hat moving forward; Erik Scott from the History Department will be taking over the CREES director role.

One of the things that I look forward to doing come spring is launching a new initiative to put Russian in Kansas high schools. In conjunction with CREES, the department was awarded a US Russia Foundation grant for \$120,000 to build pipelines for Russian language and Russian studies in Kansas high schools. We were concerned that students in Kansas did not have enough exposure to Russian since only one high school in Kansas teaches the language, and we hope to give students access to the study of Russian through webinars and an online Russian language course.

In closing, I want to recognize our donors who have made a number of things possible for us through their tremendous generosity. I want to recognize Belinda Conrad whose generosity to our department in honor of her father, the late Prof. Joseph Conrad, continues to make it possible for our students to attend conferences and present their research, as well as receive teaching and service awards. I also want to thank Edith Clowes whose contributions to Czech studies have allowed us to expand our Central European offerings in the department. We are also grateful to more recent alumni like Yuki Onogi and Aric Toler, who have gone on to do wonderful things in the world, but who still remember the department and KU. All these contributions are all the more valuable to us during this challenging time in higher education.

This has been a difficult semester as we all struggle with health concerns and personal challenges, as our children are out of school or we interface with students remotely. I am proud of our community for digging deep and not just pulling through but actually thriving during this time. Thank you all for your support and we hope that you and your families are staying well. And best wishes for the holiday season.

Best wishes,

Ani Kokobobo
Associate Professor and Chair
akokobobo@ku.edu
(m) 646-416-1879

ELEMENTARY BOSNIAN CROATIAN MONTENEGRIN SERBIAN 2

BCRS 108/109 Spring 2021

ONLINE!

BCRS 108/109 Elementary Bosnian/Croatian/Serbian 2 is a second-semester language course, continuation of BCRS 104/105. Students continue building language skills for basic everyday communication. The fully online course provides more scheduling flexibility, but the same amount of interaction and personal attention as a f2f course. Not on KU campus or not a KU student? No problem, now you can learn B/C/M/S from anywhere and the course is open to non-KU students upon a placement test.*



*Students who did not complete BCRS 104/105, but have some basic knowledge of B/C/M/S: Contact the instructor to schedule a placement test.

Questions? Get in touch:
Marta Pimat-Greenberg
mpg@ku.edu

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GIST 535/750 ENGL 590

Literature & Society in the Contemporary Middle East

Online!

Spring 2021
Feb 01 - May 14

This course offers a general introduction to the modern Middle Eastern literatures in English translation. Through analyses of selected short stories and novels from Arabic, Turkish and Persian literature, students develop an understanding of the issues that shape everyday life in the Contemporary Middle East. The course investigates issues of nation and national identity, war, ethnicity, class, religion, and gender and sexuality. We use a variety of paradigms, namely nationalist, Marxist, feminist, and Islamist, to provide a theoretical framework for discussion of the selected works. No prior knowledge of Arabic, Turkish or Persian language is needed. Enjoy reading works of fiction by major literary figures from the Middle East such as Nobel laureates Naguib Mahfouz, Orhan Pamuk and more.



Prerequisite for GIST 535/750: Junior or Senior standing or consent of instructor.
 Prerequisite for ENGL 590: Prior completion of the first-and second-year English requirement or its equivalent, and at least one 300- or 400-level ENGL course: or permission of instructor.

Get in touch!
Dr. Razi Ahmad
rahmad@ku.edu

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Spring 2021 Iran Through Literature and Film

GIST 335/503
ENGL 328
FMS 302

Do you like reading interesting literary works and watching award-winning films?

The course explores aspects of Iranian society through literature and film. It engages in discursive analyses of the selected short stories, novels and films in their historical, social, and political contexts to examine and gain a comprehensive understanding of the complex and pressing issues facing the modern Iranian society. Some of the literary works we will read and films we will watch are The Neighbors by Ahmad Mahmoud, The Book of Fate by Parinoush Saniee, The Cow (1969) by Dariush Mehrjui and A Separation (2011) by Asghar Farhadi.



Tuesday, Thursday

1:00 - 2:15 pm
SMI 100

Get in touch!

Dr. Razi Ahmad
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Persian 110 Online: Elementary Iranian | Dari | Tajik | Persian

Fall 2020 | 5 credit hours | Online | Dr. Razi Ahmad | rahmad@ku.edu



Watch and enjoy award-winning Persian films through KU Libraries Streaming Video Collections.

Be part of a closely-knit online Persian language learning community to enrich your experience.

Learn the language as and when your schedule permits.

Why Learn Persian?

- Persian is spoken by over 100 million people in Iran, Afghanistan, Tajikistan and other parts of the world.
- Learning Persian will give you deeper insight into a region of the world too little known in the United States, and will open up career opportunities in government, military, research institutes, international relations organizations, NGOs, trade, travel & tourism and many other areas.
- There is always a short supply and high demand for Persian linguists.

Persian languages courses offered at KU:

- PERS 110 & 120: Elementary Persian
- PERS 210 & 220: Intermediate Persian
- PERS 593: Directed Study in Persian

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MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR OF GRADUATE STUDIES

by Oleksandra Wallo



Despite the unprecedented challenges brought by the year 2020, the Slavic and Eurasian Languages and Literatures graduate program is going strong, and I am happy to report on our graduate students' numerous achievements.

In Spring and Summer 2020, two of our graduate students, Krzysztof Borowski

and Anna Karpusheva, defended their Ph.D. dissertations with honors and accepted academic positions in the Slavic field. Krzysztof is now Lecturer in Polish language and culture at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and Anna is Visiting Assistant Professor of Russian at Colby College in Waterville, Maine. Heartfelt congratulations, Dr. Borowski and Dr. Karpusheva!

Also in Spring 2020, advanced doctoral student Oksana Husieva defended her professional Ph.D. portfolio with honors, including a proposal for her dissertation, "Writing Terror, Writing Selves: Women's Narratives of Soviet-Era Repression."

Our graduate students have been working hard to write up and publish their research. In the spring of 2020, doctoral candidate Katya Chelpanova saw her article, "Free Emotional Expression as a Strategy of Trauma Resistance in Mikhail Kalatozov's *The Cranes Are Flying* (1957) and Alexander Zarkhi's *Anna Karenina* (1968)," published in *Studies in Russian and Soviet Cinema*. Oksana Husieva's essay, "Entirely Different: When Feminist, LGBTQIA+, Inclusive, and Environmental Activism Meets Science Fiction," won the third prize of NYU Jordan Center's Graduate Student Essay Competition and was published on their *All the Russias' Blog* in April of 2020, and Oksana's article on Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn and Varlam Shalamov was accepted for publication in *The Russian Review*. On the Slavic linguistics front, several graduate students have been involved in writing articles for Brill's Encyclopedia of Slavic Languages and Linguistics under the editorship of Prof. Marc Greenberg.

Two of our graduate students who specialize in second language acquisition received external grants in support of their research projects. Olga Garabrandt (Savchenko) was awarded the Language Teaching and Research Grant from the University of Pittsburgh to conduct an experimental study for her dissertation, "The Effects of Teaching Gestures on Learners' Pragmatic Comprehension of L2 Russian." Frane Karabatic, who is now a lecturer in BCMS and Russian at the University of Texas at Austin, recently

received a prestigious three-year International Research and Studies Program Grant (Title VI) from U.S. Department of Education for his open-access web-based textbook of elementary Croatian.

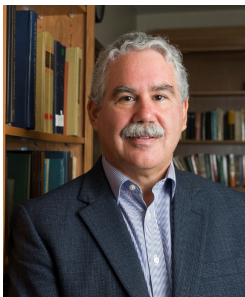
Before many of our professional conferences moved online due to the COVID-19 pandemic, our graduate students traveled widely to present their work. At the 2019 ASEEEES Convention, our department was represented by Katya Chelpanova, Olga Garabrandt, Oksana Husieva, and Devin McFadden. Devin also gave a paper at the 2020 MLA convention. Cecilia King gave a presentation at the 2020 AATSEEL Conference on a Tolstoy panel. In early fall of 2020, several of our linguistics students had an opportunity to try participating in a virtual conference, since the 15th Meeting of the Slavic Linguistics Society was held via Zoom. Chul Hyun Hwang presented there on his project, "Does Russian Have Unaccusative Verbs or an Unaccusative Construction?"

Summer 2020 language teaching also moved online, which required our graduate teaching assistants to show flexibility and ingenuity. Olga Garabrandt, Oksana Husieva, Molly Godwin-Jones, and Pavlo Popov delivered first-rate online instruction in intermediate and advanced Russian to military students, and Devin McFadden collaborated with Jakob Johnson to teach an intensive online elementary Russian course.

In spite of the great upheaval of 2020, this year three new graduate students have joined the department. Gina Sane and Trena Tackitt were able to begin their graduate studies in Slavic in Fall 2020. Kamila Saifeeva, who could not arrive in Lawrence in the fall because of pandemic-related disruptions to international travel, will start the program in Spring 2021. Gina, Trena, and Kamila, WELCOME to KU!

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR OF UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES

by Marc L. Greenberg



In Fall 2020 I took on the Director of Undergraduate Studies duties from Professor Dickey, who is on research leave. Under the unusual circumstances of the pandemic it has been a little disorienting taking on this new role, but we have managed well so far. With the outstanding expertise of our department's undergraduate advisor, Ms. [Nicole-Marie Evans](#)

(nicoleevans@ku.edu), and the College Undergraduate Services advising team, we have been working via electronic communication (Zoom, email) to make sure students find the courses and mentorship they need to meet their academic goals. I have particularly enjoyed getting to know students individually and am always happy to meet them in a one-to-one Zoom session to talk about their interests and educational aspirations. I am always impressed with the level of intellectual curiosity of our students and their openness to explore creative paths in the education and future goals.

Students who are already majoring or minoring in Slavic languages, or even just considering a focus in our major/minor, should feel free to email me at mlg@ku.edu to set up an advising appointment. Sessions can be focused on particular questions or we can just have an informal session to check in and catch up on campus and virtual-campus life, sometimes even on life in general.

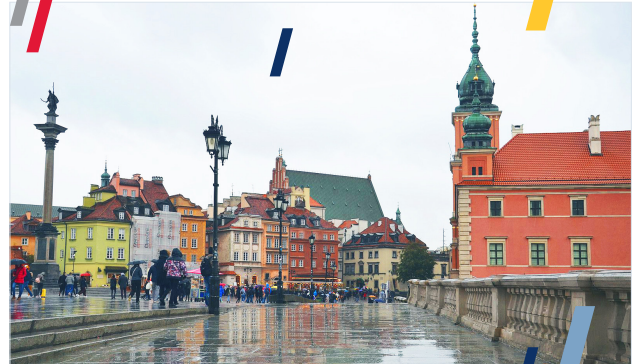
Students should be aware of how much flexibility and variety we can accommodate in pursuit of their degree foci with our department. We have quite a range of languages and cultures to choose from. Russian, of course, is the main focus, but we have world-class expertise among our faculty in many languages, literatures, cultures, and linguistics of the Slavic family (Polish and Czech, Ukrainian, Bosnian-Croatian-Montenegrin-Serbian) as well Turkish, Persian, and Yiddish. Our capstone experience gives students the opportunity to work closely with a faculty member and create unique profiles for themselves. I encourage students to read our faculty pages closely to get an idea of what areas and topics they might pursue:

<https://slavic.ku.edu/faculty>

PLSH 104/105

FALL 2020
5 credit hours | Online

Elementary Polish I



Elementary Polish I introduces students to the fundamentals of the Polish language and develops their basic listening, speaking, reading and writing skills. Additionally, the course has a strong emphasis on intercultural competence and uses authentic materials (video clips, newspaper articles, poems, songs, etc.) whenever possible in order to expose students to everyday communicative situations as well as to Polish values, attitudes, and beliefs.

GET IN TOUCH!

Dr. Svetlana Vassileva-Karagoyzova
svk@ku.edu



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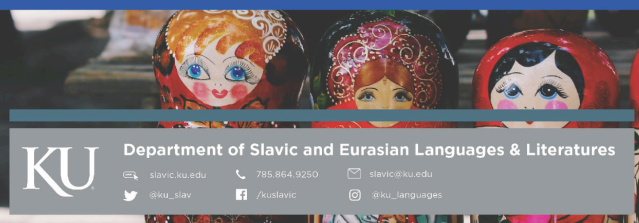
Get in touch!
Prof. Irina Six
irinasix@ku.edu

RUSS 104
now fully
online!



STUDY RUSSIAN AT KU

- We have taught Russian at KU for over 50 years
- We even wrote our own free, online textbook
- Russian is the fourth most widely spoken language in the world
- In high demand in private sector and in government jobs



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Beginning Russian

RUSS 150 Fall 2020

Online course

DEPARTMENT OF SLAVIC LANGUAGES & LITERATURES



Become familiar with this strategic language through this survival Russian course. Russian is spoken by over 270 million people and is in demand in both the private sector and government jobs. Does not count for language requirement.

Get in touch!
Irina Six irinasix@ku.edu



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Spring 2021

SLAV 144/145 RUSS 712

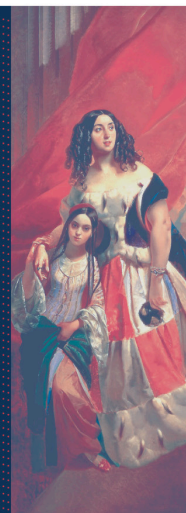
Survey of Russian Literature in Translation

In this course, we will read some of the best short stories ever written in the Russian language, beginning with Alexander Pushkin and ending with the recent Nobel Prize-winning Belarusian writer, Svetlana Alexievich. Other authors to be read include Gogol, Dostoevsky, Tolstoy, Turgenev, Chekhov, Bulgakov, Tsvetaeva, Nabokov, Petrushevskaya, and Tolstaya. We will discuss each story in its historical and literary context, striving to understand what makes these texts good works of literature. **All readings, discussions, and written assignments will be in English**, but students with knowledge of Russian will be given the option to complete some readings and assignments in Russian.

Prof. Aleksandra Wallo (owallo@ku.edu)

Hybrid
MW 12:30 - 1:45 pm
MAL 1001

Satisfies Goal 4 Outcome 2 (AE42), Goal 3 Arts and Humanities (GE3H), H Humanities (H), HL Literature & the Arts PC (HL), World Culture (W)



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Introduction to Slovene

1 CREDIT HOUR

SLAV 101

SPRING 2021



Online!

Get in touch!
Marta Pirnat-Greenberg
mpg@ku.edu

When
MAR-22/MAY-14

Teaches skills for survival communication in Slovene and basic orientation in Slovene culture. Blended short course, designed to give a student rudimentary linguistic and cultural preparation for functioning in Slovene-speaking environment. Recommended for participants of study abroad in Slovenia. No previous knowledge of Slovene or other foreign languages required. The course does not count toward undergraduate language requirement.



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SLAV148/149 Spring 2021

Introduction to Slavic Folklore



An introduction to the various forms of folklore among the Slavic peoples, with particular emphasis on the folk literature, customs, supernatural beliefs, and artifacts of Russia, Poland, and South Slavic countries.

Get in touch!
Prof. Renee Perelmutter
rperel@ku.edu
Cecilia King
ceciliaking@ku.edu

Online 8 week course!

January 25 - March 19



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ASYNCHRONOUS ONLINE BEGINNERS' RUSSIAN PROGRAM TO START AT KU

by Irina Six



Soon after the classes at KU were transferred to the online format during March of 2020, the Slavic department urged me as Russian program coordinator to find new approaches to teaching Russian that will be keeping our program well-enrolled and robust.

During the summer of 2020, a team of three people (myself and two graduate students Chul Hyun Hwang and Olga Garabrandt) with the technical support of KU CODL (Center of Distance Learning) designed a vision, website concept, and study material selections based on an existing online textbook, *Mezhdunami* (www.mezhdunami.org) that was launched at the University of Kansas ten years ago.

Using the new concepts and a revised approach, we designed the program that has helped to keep and even improve the retention, enrollment, and communication with students. Students welcomed the advantages that the asynchronous program provided in the COVID-restricted environments.

Though precipitated by the pandemic, the idea of the fully online Russian language program accessible for a wider audience of learner (non-traditional students, online students KU and also Kansas high-school students) has been on our minds for quite a while.

Even though the COVID-19 pandemic developed extremely quickly, we nevertheless found time to seriously think about our student population and their needs. By the time we started, we had already been doing a lot of background work. We had been surveying our student population, and were familiar with the limitations of our fully in person instructional program for several years prior to launching the new program. We took into consideration a number of institutional factors, including speaking practice and the challenges of teaching a 5-day course in person when making decisions about the new program.

Also, the new program allowed us to address some of the issues that has been debated by instructors who have been using *Mezhdunami* for years. For example, insufficient grammar explanation, low level of reading skills as well as inability of activities in workbooks to promote communication leading learners towards speaking.

Likewise, we leveraged innovative practices, such as applying the principle

of scaffolding and programmed learning. The students' week work schedule that we developed is 1) consistent, 2) individualized (no immediate instructor supervision), 3) manageable (not overwhelming) and contained the three following components:

“Work Days” (Monday – Thursday, synchronously, fully individual), each day including:

- Teacher’s introduction (pre-recorded video, 3 min max)
- Practice assignments (listening, reading, speaking prompts) – 5-6 assignments
- “End-of-the day” three graded assignments:
 - (1) Comprehension Check (grammar and vocabulary questions, automatically graded);
 - (2) Writing assignment (manually graded by an instructor)
 - (3) Speaking Assignment (manually graded by an instructor).

“Summary Day” (Friday, synchronously, with the teacher)

“Russian Weekend” (Saturday and Sunday) – video or internet assignment meant to acquaint students with Russian culture.

How has the Synchronous Russians Course helped us during the pandemic? First, the new program has increased our enrollment to 40 students this year and the retention of students (almost all the students who enrolled, have stayed in the program versus 15 - 20% loss during the previous years). Secondly, the online development freed teaching resources and enabled us to launch a beginners' Russian group every semester (versus every Fall semester as we previously did). Thirdly, it has allowed us to apply the program to teaching Russian in Kansas high-schools. Recently, the Slavic department was awarded a US-Russia Foundation grant for \$120,000 to build a pipeline for the study of Russian in Kansas high schools. The new program enabled us to receive funding as one-year full GTA line and a half a year of a GRA position, as well as a series of outreach events that would culminate with Russian being taught online for free to Kansas high school students during the next academic year.

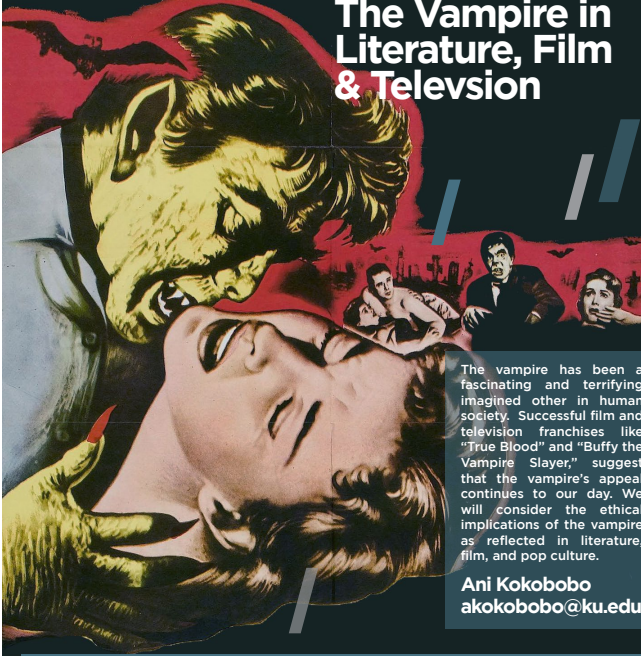
Currently, we are developing an online study program for the second semester of Russian and continue with asynchronous learning into second year Russian instruction as well. We are planning to grow our program to reach a wider audience. We will be expanding the program to military personnel who can't meet synchronously and need to be entirely flexible with the time they put into the class. They would benefit from asynchronous delivery.

Dr. Irina Six
Russian Program Coordinator
Slavic and Eurasian Languages & Literatures
University of Kansas
2128 Wescoe Hall, 1445 Jayhawk Blvd.,
Lawrence, Ks 66045 – 7594
(785) 864 1230, irinasix@ku.edu

Fall 2020 | TuTh 11:00 - 12:15 pm
Wescoe 4076 | Lawrence

SLAV 230

The Vampire in Literature, Film & Television



The vampire has been a fascinating and terrifying imagined other in human society. Successful film and television franchises like "True Blood" and "Buffy the Vampire Slayer," suggest that the vampire's appeal continues to our day. We will consider the ethical implications of the vampire as reflected in literature, film, and pop culture.

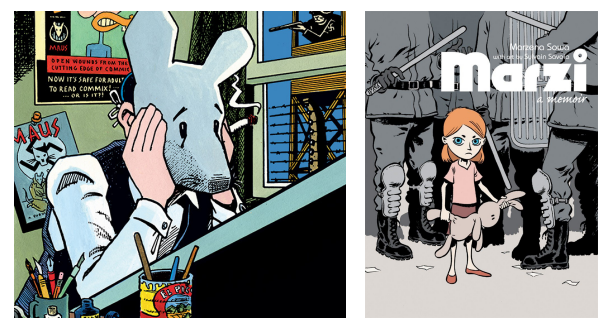
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Fall 2020
DEPARTMENT OF SLAVIC
LANGUAGES & LITERATURES

SLAV 320

GRAPHIC NOVELS AS MEMORY: REPRESENTATIONS OF THE HOLOCAUST AND COMMUNISM



In this course we will examine the interaction between literature and memory, in particular how authors have responded to major historical events and have contributed to the shaping of the collective memory of those events. Using several graphic novels as prompts, you will be writing for a variety of academic and non-academic audiences. Throughout the semester, you will produce writing in the following genres: journal entry, article summary, synthetic and analytical essay, and reflection essay/creative writing.

Online Course
 October 26- December 18, 2020
 Satisfies Goal 2.1 and Elective Requirement for
 Slavic-Jewish and Slavic-Polish Minor and Polish BA

Get in Touch!
 Molly Godwin-Jones
 megojones@ku.edu
 slavic.ku.edu

SPRING 2021
 SLAV 322, FMS 322

Soviet and Post-Soviet Russian Cinema

Wednesdays
 3:00 - 6:30 pm
 Online!



A comprehensive introduction to Soviet cinema and its legacies in post-Soviet Russia. The course examines what distinguished Soviet film industry from those in other countries and the ways in which it impacted the development of cinema worldwide. Films are analyzed both as artistic works (with attention to formal qualities, cinematic styles, and influences) and as documents that provide insight into the socio-political contexts of the times when they were made. We also discuss influential contributions by Soviet filmmakers to our understanding of what makes film unique as an art form. The course is offered at the undergraduate level.

Get in touch!
 Ekaterina Chelpanova
 chelpanovae@ku.edu

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SLAV 330 Spring 2021

RUSSIAN BUSINESS CULTURE

Dr. Irina Six
 8 week course
 Taught online in English
 March 22 - May 14

Course Highlights:

- Project learning with the focus on Russian cultural realities
- Participation in a virtual interview for a managerial position in Russia
- Practical applications of job interview skills
- Scrutiny of Russian business environment
- Evaluation of mass media representation of Russia's business
- Assessment of factors that influence business decision making in Russia



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IN MEMORY OF DR. REBECCA ANN STAKUN

I first met Becky in the Spring of 2009 when she visited KU as a prospective graduate student in the Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures. I picked her up at the airport and by the time I dropped her off and got her checked in to Halcyon House I felt like we already had inside jokes between us. We had great conversation the whole way, and she fit right in with the rest of my cohort during our other activities scheduled for her visit. We were all happy when she picked KU, joined us, and began her Kansas adventure.

Becky sought adventure. Born August 16, 1984 in Illinois, Becky grew up in Doylestown, PA with her younger brother Joe. She attended George Washington University for her undergraduate degree (a double major in Russian Language and Literature and International Affairs). In 2008 she joined the Peace Corps to travel and serve. Her Russian language skills took her to At-Bashi, Kyrgyzstan. She was unable to complete her entire tour due to health reasons, but she always remembered her experience fondly and kept in touch with her host family as best she could. While studying at KU she travelled abroad extensively; she was constantly trying to further her education and experience. Someone else's summer abroad may have focused on visiting heritage sites and studying in cool cafes. But Becky picked an experience in Ufa, Russia that included spelunking and tending to goats. In 2015 she took on a leadership role to help others enjoy travelling abroad and worked as the resident director for the KU Russian Language Internship Program in Almaty, Kazakhstan. She also travelled within the U.S. professionally. Becky presented at ASEES in Philadelphia, PA and San Antonio, TX, and at AATSEEL in Boston, MA and Chicago, IL. She organized and chaired a panel at the 2014 AATSEEL conference in Chicago.

When I found out that before KU Becky was working for Lionbridge Federal as an independent contractor, I asked her what on earth she was doing in grad school. Why would she walk away from an adult life with a 401K to be a stressed-out, living-on-fellowships student? She told me that she wanted to do something with her degree from GW, and that meant continuing her education. She absolutely did something with her education. When she was home in Lawrence, KU's Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures benefited from Becky's involvement. She presented and guest-lectured. She earned a FLAS (Foreign Language Area Study) Fellowship four times (Summer, 2010; AY 2010-11; Summer 2011; AY 2011-2012), the Critical Language Scholarship (Summer 2010), and the Richard and Jeanette Sias Graduate Fellowship in Humanities (Fall 2015). Becky helped entice new students into the SLL Department, whether by meeting with interested students or through her work as a Graduate

Teaching Assistant for Elementary Russian and Intro. to Slavic Folklore. She chaired the Graduate Student Committee and served as vice president (2009-2011) and president (2012-2014) of the Slavic Graduate Student Organization. She started as an assistant editor for this newsletter in 2011 and was editor of *The Lawrencean Chronicle* in 2014. Becky expected a lot of herself, and growing as an academic came naturally to her. As a colleague Becky set a good example and challenged people to keep making progress of their own.

Becky pushed the people around her to be better just with the workings of her mind. She was the most cultured person I've ever met. She had a firm grounding in the classics, but her main interest was pop culture. She could reference music, literature, paintings, architecture, movies, TV shows—a little bit of everything, from across the continents and through the centuries. If there was ever a topic she didn't already know about, she'd learn about it and genuinely enjoy it (think listening to Motown and watching all of *Top Gear*). If she ever referenced something and you had no idea what she was talking about, she never made you feel stupid for not having the same breadth and depth she had. Instead she'd show you or explain it to you and then warmly invite you into her joke.

There is no denying how fun and funny Becky was. Becky liked to go all out for Halloween and never needed an excuse for a big celebration with people she enjoyed. She took advantage of whatever was going on nearby—whether it be a midget wrestling expo at the Granada, a karaoke party, a visit to the pumpkin patch in the fall, a tractor pull at the state fair, a Mystery Science Theater 3000 showing, a Baltika Challenge while camping in Missouri, a road-trip to Branson. It was impossible not to laugh at her clever observations. Every brewery tour and trip to a museum was more fun with Becky. Just getting a cup of coffee was fun with Becky.

Her Kansas adventure continued when she met and fell for a Kansas native, Garrett Stults. Several of us in the department were already friends with Garrett through Howard Ballard, Becky's Elementary Russian student. But friendship quickly turned to affection, and then love between Becky and Garrett. I remember going out to a restaurant and having to find a different seat because Garrett had quite deliberately taken the seat next to Becky. They got together at a party we had to celebrate a birthday and the end of our 2008 cohort's Master's exams. They married four years later on July 6, 2014 while all the flowers were in bloom in South Park.

Their family grew on September 24, 2016, when their daughter, June Elizabeth Stults, was born. Before her first birthday, their Kansas baby moved with them to Maryland. Becky had earned her Ph.D. after defending her dissertation on *Terror and Transcendence in the Void: Viktor Pelevin's Philosophy of Emptiness* in 2017. Then they moved to Maryland where she worked as a Russian Language Analyst for the Department of Defense. She was happy there because her work was challenging and meaningful. And I know she was a beloved colleague there, too, because, when she got sick, there was an outpouring of support and concern for her, Garrett, and June.

In late 2018 Becky was diagnosed with a grade 4 glioblastoma multiforme. She continued to work and make professional gains. As a Slavist, she was recognized as an authority on Viktor Pelevin and was asked to contribute a chapter to an upcoming book about the writer. She chose not to devote attention to that chapter, though, because she wanted to spend all of her time with Garrett and June and her friends and family.

Becky's adventure concluded on October 5, 2020. After a fight, nothing short of valiant, she passed away at her husband's parents' home in Newton, KS.

A tribute is meant to highlight someone's superlatives. But Becky will be missed not only for her accomplishments and contributions, but also for her everyday life. You could find Becky in the kitchen making a huge salad or trying out a new vegetarian recipe. You could find her on the couch playing LEGO games on her Nintendo DS or listening to a podcast. You could find her ordering nachos and a margarita at any Mexican restaurant. I loved getting snaps of her crafting or coloring with June, helping her ride her bike in a parking lot, or spending time together working on her letters and just playing. I regret not getting to spend more time with her after June was born because I know Becky enjoyed every second she got to be her mom. I'm thankful I got to spend so many days with Becky. As soon as I'm able, I want to go to the Red Lyon, put some of her jams on the jukebox, play a game of Yahtzee, and pour out a Tank 7 in memory of my friend.

– Mylisa Zacharof

Becky was an original. She was a multilingual scholar with an unparalleled work ethic, but we spent most of our time talking about the Golden Girls, celebrity gossip, and reality television, bonding over shared love of food, pop culture, comedy, and animals. She had a razor-sharp wit but would always take the extra time to be kind to everyone even in times when others might not. Her personality lives on in Becky and Garrett's daughter June who is already whip-smart and so funny. I feel so lucky I was close to such a brilliant, hilarious, accomplished, and warm-hearted person, and I'll miss her forever.

– Alison Wade

I am sure my other faculty colleagues will remember Becky's best moments in graduate school and in classes and exams. I could add to those, but when I think of Becky, this particular story stands out in my mind. Sometime around the start of her graduate studies at KU, I had to conduct an Oral Proficiency Interview with her in Russian. In those interviews a tester has two contradictory tasks to perform—first, find topics that students will open up and talk about; and second, find the places where students run out of language, where they can't finish the story that they've started. With Becky, we got into a conversation about her time studying abroad in Saint Petersburg, and I was pressing to see if I could get a good sample past-tense narrative out of her. She hesitated at first about whether to tell this story, but then she courageously launched into it. I won't go into all the details that I can recall, but suffice it to say that the story involved a

beer festival (Baltika, if I'm not mistaken) and a talk with a Russian police officer. Although the episode was an embarrassing moment in her time abroad, she had clearly learned to see the humor in it, and linguistically, she had mastered the words and phrases to tell it effectively. For me, that story and her willingness to tell it point to deeper truths: Becky loved adventure, linguistic and otherwise, and she possessed the good humor and deep self-awareness to learn from those adventures. Those qualities made her a terrific graduate student and added so much to the sense of comradery in the Slavic program at KU. RIP.

– Prof. William Comer

Not only was Becky my cousin, but she was my best friend. We spent many weekends together in Kennebunk, Maine at the beach and in the campground when we were kids and had many sleepovers in Massachusetts and Pennsylvania where we each lived. We were each other's confidants. As we grew older we always made time to visit each other in whatever state we happened to be in at the time. We shared in all the big milestones in our lives. She gave a genuine, heartfelt speech at my wedding as the maid of honor, in a way that only she could. I tried to do the same at her wedding six years ago, but there's no way I could do her complete justice in just five minutes! She was a beautiful, smart, kind and caring person. I always admired her intellect and ambition. Becky never fell short of any of the goals she set for herself. I always told Becky she was the bravest person I know and that she was a rock star. She faced her diagnosis head on and had such an amazing attitude while battling the disease. My heart is broken that she is no longer with us but the memories and her spirit will always live on in our hearts. I love and miss her every day.

– Kelly Kelly

Becky always brought humor and enthusiasm to a conversation, whether it was discussing Russian culture, grad school, or, even, canines on social media. Her kindness and curiosity will be missed.

– John Biersack

Prof. Marc L. Greenberg remembers Becky when she made her first visit to the department when she was shopping for Slavic graduate programs. He mentioned that he was chair at the time and was very eager for Becky to join the program: he recalls that his colleagues knew from the first meeting that Becky was a perfect fit for the KU Slavic Department and as it turned out, she became a leader among the graduate students, an outstanding graduate student, and a treasured friend to both faculty and students. She had many interests, from language teaching and linguistics to Russian literature. Along the way, she even developed her interest in Turkic languages, building on her earlier experience as a Peace Corps volunteer in Osh, Kyrgyzstan. During her tenure as a prestigious Critical Languages Scholarship holder, she worked on a project on language attitudes towards the Bashkir language in Ufa, and in 2015 she served as the resident director of KU's Russian-language internship in Almaty with the partnership of the Gabriel Al-Salem Foundation, where her knowledge of Central Asia and her Russian language skills were put to expert use. Prof. Greenberg adds

that “Becky was not only one of the most multi-talented students in our graduate program, but also one of the kindest people to inhabit the Slavic Department. She was central to the life of the department for the years she was with us and she will be greatly missed.”

Terrible news about Becky, I didn’t know her as well as others in the department did, but all the other students looked to her for any advice or problems in the department. We all looked up to her, and she was a steadying influence for us when things were especially stressful. She was the one to organize get-togethers, checking in on us in our offices even when she was insanely busy herself.

It’s a small thing, but whenever my (then-girlfriend) wife was hanging out with me with the other Slavic students at bars or apartments or whatever, we would always get caught up talking about whatever Russia topic we were on about. My wife didn’t/doesn’t care at all about Russia, but Becky would always go out of her way to include her and involve her in discussions when I was (as usual) too rude or forgetful to notice that she was bored out of her mind. Or, in other words, Becky was crazy thoughtful to everyone around her, in any setting.

– *Aric Toler*

I first met Becky in August of 2009; she was my Elementary Russian teacher. From the first day of class Becky’s enthusiasm for the Russian language, sophisticated sense of humor, and truly astonishing intellect were quite apparent. She had a way of teaching that felt more like a social club than a class, it was fun and engaging, and never did it feel like work. As the class got to know her better, Becky’s background both personally and professionally was revealed and we better understood how someone could have such a sound technical understanding and passion for the language. As I was tutored by other TAs and taught by others, I am amazed at the depth of talent and IQ in the KU Slavic department. Such a small group compared to the University as a whole but concentrate in strength when compared. I was graced by many people within the department during instruction at KU but I can say that Becky’s effortless teaching style is one of my fondest memories at KU. Every student she taught looks back on her class with a fondness that could only be created by having such an amazing person as a teacher. After my time in her class I maintained contact with Becky and can have the distinct privilege to be able to call her my friend. It is with the heaviest of hearts that I write this message and keep her family in my thoughts. It is not often that you meet someone that has made so many people better through their direct actions but I can say with the upmost certainty that everyone who had the privilege of spending time with Becky would agree.

– *Howard Ballard*

Becky was such a great friend—bright, funny, and kind. She somehow always had something clever up her sleeve and I feel so fortunate to have spent time with her.

– *Tim Kenny*

I went to graduate school with Becky, and we were lucky to have a great cohort. Becky was smart, witty, and had a great sense of humor. She also had a very, very extensive and well-curated music collection. I burned at least a dozen discs of music data from her, which makes me feel very old already!

Becky and her husband, Garrett, met at a party at my house. We were celebrating something, perhaps the end of a semester, and everyone was quite jolly. I remember a few of us thinking they may just go out on a few dates. Little did we know that it was the start of a long, loving relationship! So many of my memories with Becky are filled with great friends and much laughter, often in the face of endless amounts of reading and stressful exams. Even though we hadn’t seen each other in quite some time, I hope Garret and June know we are thinking of them and sending all our love.

– *Anne Kerscmar & Casey Rubin*

Becky was a student in my BCS courses in 2010-12 and one of the most gifted and dedicated language learners I ever had. Not only was she talented, but she also possessed rare grit and patience for the detail that one needs to learn the subtle differences between similar languages. The results were always near perfect. She understood the importance of learning in a community, and with great patience, empathy, and humor thrived both years in a group of learners with very different backgrounds than her own—nearly everyone was a novice to language learning. And they thrived with her: it was the most successful and collaborative group in my long career that was at the end of the language sequence capable of completing a community-based research and writing project, resulting in two published articles. Becky was its main driving force. She led and influenced her peers in such an unimposing way that brought out the best in every student. I will always feel extremely fortunate and grateful that I knew and had an opportunity to work with Becky and I am sure that I speak for the entire BCS class that began learning in fall 2010.

– *Marta Pirnat-Greenberg*

Years ago, my friend and colleague Sidney and I took a prospective grad student to eat at Aladdin Café to tell her more about the Slavic program at KU. I was immediately floored by Becky, not only because she was brilliant, but because she was just a delightful human being. I was supposed to be welcoming her, and I instead felt her making me feel welcome in my own home. She so quickly became a beloved part of our community. Her loss is unbearable for so many people.

– *Erin Moulton*

When I arrived at KU, Becky was already an advanced graduate student in the early stages of working on her dissertation project. I was thrilled that at my new academic home I found a colleague who shared my enthusiasm for the postmodernist mind games Viktor Pelevin was playing with Soviet culture. It was great to have Becky audit my contemporary Russian literature class—her perspective was always refreshing and helpful. Pelevin was not the only writer we both enjoyed; I was similarly excited that she shared my enthusiasm for the unjustly little-known experimental writer who briefly became popular in the early 1990s, Egor Radov. Becky delivered a brilliant paper about him at the ASEES convention. I was glad to join Becky’s dissertation committee, eventually becoming its chair and thus overseeing the final steps of her completing this project, which was very much a labor of love for her. With her enthusiasm, warmth, and impeccable work ethic, the process of steering her to successful defense was a pleasure. I treasure the memories of working with her, and I miss her greatly.

– Prof. Vitaly Chernetsky



Becky Stakun and Professor Greenberg showing their Jayhawk loyalty in Almaty, KZ June 2015



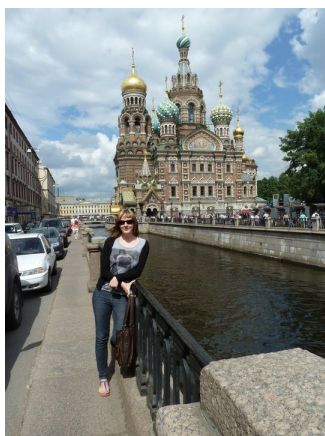
Becky Stakun 2017 Defense



Becky and June



Becky dressed as David Bowie for a karaoke party at Zhulieta Kaludova's c. 2011



Becky in St. Petersburg 2011



Becky with Karlygash Makatova, Kazakhstan

ETHEM MANDIĆ



In 2021 I will be fortunate to visit the University of Kansas under the auspices of a Fulbright Fellowship, where I look forward to collaborating with colleagues in the Department of Slavic and Eurasian Languages & Literatures as well as in other departments at KU. I was born in 1986 and grew up in Podgorica, the capital of Montenegro. After earning my BA at the

Faculty of Philosophy in Nikšić, I spent one year of study at the Faculty of Philosophy in Zagreb with a scholarship from the Ministry of Science, Education and Sports of Croatia and then earned my MA at the Faculty of Philosophy in Sarajevo, Department of Literature of the Peoples of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Bosnian Language. Currently I am completing my final year as a PhD student at the Philosophical faculty in Zagreb. I have been fortunate to win the prestigious prizes Danubius Young Scientist Award (2019) and a “A Sea of Words” International Award for a short story.

My research work includes papers for several journals. I am the author of three books, and I have been a participant and organizer of several important international scientific symposiums. I work as a teaching associate at the Faculty for Montenegrin Language and Literature and was a former Vice Dean for science and international exchange. As a Vice Dean I have conducted several scientific projects that ended up with important digital and international results.

Aside from my scholarship and writing, I am a passionate drummer and a music lover.

My research on Western South Slavic literature in the period of socialism takes the perspective of intercultural literary scholarship, presenting common thematic, formal or structural features of novels written in Yugoslavia between 1950 and 1992. The assumption is that superordinate stylistic formations of protomodernism and postmodernism provide a shared framework of interpretation, while the intercultural approach enables the political novel genre to be viewed as supranational. The writers that are in my scope of general interest and doctoral research include Miroslav Krleža, Ivo Andrić, Meša Selimović, Mihailo Lalić, Oskar Davičo, Miodrag Bulatović, Danilo Kiš, and Borislav Pekić.

This research suggests that the novels that are the subject of work are to be read as the key to the opposition of social realism and the political modernist and the postmodernist novel. I examine the work of these writers through the focus of theories of political discourse by theorists such as Jacques Rancière, Fredric Jameson, Michel Foucault, Antonio Gramsci, Terry Eagleton, Louis Althusser, as well as critical scholars of political literature such as Irving Howe, Lennard Davis, and Stuart Scheingold.

My thesis is that every novel written by the modernist and postmodernist generations of Yugoslav writers in their cultural environment seeks to create a system of political novels, each describing their own way and pugnacious ideological thought and ideologies, and ultimately creating their own literary belief system.

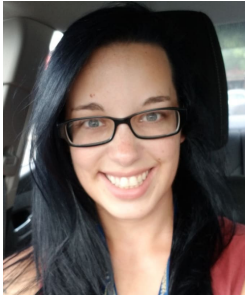
The research that I intend to undertake during my stay at the University of Kansas continues my dissertation. Its working title is “Intercultural Political Novel.” Having completed most of the dissertation, including the fundamental research and writing, the time at the University of Kansas will allow me to finish the project, including new writing and refinement of the argumentation.

My intention is to study the roots of political novel as a genre during my stay at the University of Kansas. My work at the University of Kansas will benefit from consultation with leading scholars in South Slavic literature, including Profs. Kokobobo, Vassileva-Karagyozeva, and Dickey, as well as other leading faculty members specializing in comparative literature (e.g., Profs. Chernetsky, Janzen, and Tosta). I am also looking forward to working with the bibliographer Geoff Husić, an expert on the languages and cultures of the former Yugoslavia and the Balkans.

I plan to research with the aid of the most comprehensive collections of Yugoslav literature at the University of Kansas, as detailed the History of the South Slavic & Balkan Collections (1962-1994) by Michael Biggins; updated in 2008 by Geoff Husić.

During my stay, I hope to present selections of my work in public forums and receive feedback from colleagues and students. Additionally, I hope to make a brief side trip to Kenyon College in Ohio to consult with Prof. Jesse Metz. The collaborative work and consultation planned during my stay at the University of Kansas will not only help me to gain further insight into my topic, but also contribute to the exchange of ideas among faculty, students, and the community in and around the university.

NICOLE EVANS



My name is Nicole Evans and I am the advisor for SLAV, amongst five other departments. I have been working as an advisor for almost a year here at KU, though I worked as a librarian assistant at KU for four years, after graduating from KU with a degree in Creative Writing. My role is helping SLAV students get enrolled in the right classes, keeping their DPRs up

to date and helping guide them through the college process, connecting them with different resources. I really love working with SLAV students because they are learning such interesting material that I love to hear about and helping connect them with faculty and opportunities like study abroad is such a rewarding experience.

Endangered Languages

SLAV 379
SPRING 2021



In Person!

When
Tu/Th 1:00 - 2:15 PM

Where
BURG 1020A

Get in touch!
Dr. Esra Predolac
esrap@ku.edu

Linguists estimate that about half of the world's 7000 languages are endangered and will disappear by the end of this century if nothing is done. In fact, we know that the endangered languages crisis is much greater in magnitude than the threat to endangered biological species. So, how and why do languages become extinct and why is this threat to the world's linguistic diversity a concern? Other questions we will explore in this course are: What do we lose when a language dies? Does a culture disappear when a language dies? What are the links between *language and thought*, *language and culture*, and *language and identity*? We will also address the issues involved in language revitalization, language attitudes and policies, as well as language documentation. Although the course is on endangered languages in general, special emphasis will be given to endangered languages of Eastern Europe & Eurasia.

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War and Violence in Russian Literature

Stalingrad: Fiction of Both Sides
In Person!

SLAV 370/570
HIST 389/PCS 329
Spring 2021



When/Where
M/W
3:00 - 4:15 PM
SUM 427

Get in touch!
Dr. Stephen Dickey
smd@ku.edu

This run of SLAV 370/570 focuses on Russian and German fictional accounts of the Battle of Stalingrad in World War II. Readings include Vassily Grossman's posthumously published masterpiece *Life and Fate* and Theodor Plievier's anti-war juggernaut *Stalingrad*.

We will consider works in their historical context, with regard to the question of realism in war literature and as artifacts bearing witness to traumatic histories.

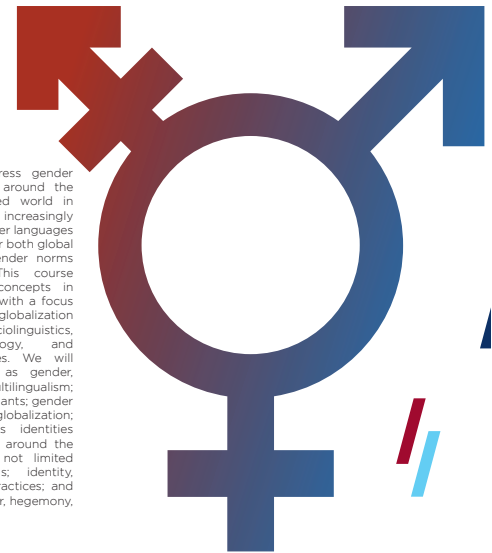
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FALL 2020
MW 12:30 - 1:45 PM
LIN 412, Lawrence
Dr. Renee Perelmutter
rperel@ku.edu

Language, Gender & Sexuality

How do people express gender in diverse languages around the world? In a globalized world in which English is increasingly prominent, how are other languages changing to account for both global and local shifts in gender norms and expectations? This course will examine basic concepts in language and gender, with a focus on multilingualism and globalization using approaches of sociolinguistics, linguistic anthropology, and communication studies. We will explore such topics as gender, sexuality, and multilingualism; gendered language variants; gender norms, politeness, and globalization; non-binary and trans identities encoded in languages around the world, including but not limited to gender pronouns; identity, body, and linguistic practices; and considerations of power, hegemony, and colonialism.



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FACULTY UPDATES



teaching elementary, intermediate and advanced-level Persian language and a content-based course *Iran through Literature and Film* in spring 2020. He organized various activities for his language students outside the class during the academic year 2019-2020. He also developed online Persian language course PERS 110: Iranian, Dari and Tajik Persian in spring 2020, a course that began

to be offered this fall semester.

Dr. Ahmad delivered a presentation entitled “Digital Storytelling and Augmented Reality Experiences in L2 Classrooms,” at The Midwest Association for Language Learning Technology (MWALLT) on February 8, 2020. He reviewed Persian language applications for American Council’s Eurasian Regional Language Program in Dushanbe, Tajikistan. He also continued to serve as a faculty advisor to the KU Persian Language Club.



ed in June his five-year term as Director of KU’s Center for Russian, East European, and Eurasian Studies and is happy to be back full time in the department. As CREES director, he was glad to establish over the course of 2019 a working relationship with the U.S.-Russia Foundation (USRf) and develop a successful application for a nearly \$100,000 grant on behalf of KU

CREES, “A Comprehensive Plan for Strengthening Russian Studies in the Heartland,” which began in January 2020. Originally intended as a one-year project, the grant has been extended through the summer of 2021 to accommodate travel-related programming. In September, he was overjoyed to learn that thanks to the U.S. Congress restoring previously cut Title VI funding to the Department of Education, KU CREES was awarded the Title VI grant the CREES team he led originally applied for in 2018. The award funds the National Resource Center portion of the grant for two academic years, 2020-2022. On behalf of our department, he successfully applied to CEC ArtsLink to host a residency by the Ukrainian artist Alevtyna Kakhidze. It is currently taking place virtually, with the in-person part postponed to Fall 2021. She is the fourth CEC ArtsLink-funded visitor our department is hosting on behalf of KU.

This year Prof. Chernetsky published two articles in edited volumes, one journal article, and a preface to an edited volume. The pandemic delayed the publication of his Ukrainian-language book, but it is expected to be out soon. Before COVID-19 stopped travel, he presented a paper at the conference *Political Performativity of Contemporary Russian-Language Poetry* at the University of Giessen in Germany and the keynote at a

Ukrainian Studies conference at Indiana. The international conference at Yale University he co-organized with Prof. Edyta Bojanowska, *The Other Europe: Changes and Challenges since 1989*, planned for April, was postponed to September and took place online. Prof. Chernetsky also presented at several other online forums, including a Ukrainian Studies conference at Charles University in Prague and a keynote at a Memory Studies conference in Chişinău. This fall, Prof. Chernetsky has been named head of the editorial board of the Ukrainian journal *Shevchenkoznavchi studii*, the world’s only journal focused on Ukraine’s national poet Taras Shevchenko, and member of the editorial board of Ukraine’s leading literary scholarship journal, *Slovo i chas*. As a guest expert, he was frequently interviewed on U.S.-related topics by Ukraine’s public radio, Hromads’ke. Prof. Chernetsky is also proud of the many awards recently won by books in the Ukrainian Studies series he edits for Academic Studies Press.

Stephen M. Dickey presented “A Discourse Analysis of *sobirat’sja/sobrat’sja uxodit’* vs. *sobirat’sja/sobrat’sja ujtj*” together with Pavlo Popov at the Fifteenth Meeting of the Slavic Linguistics Society in September. He published “Time Out of Tense: Russian Aspect in the Imperative,” a detailed analysis of Russian aspectual usage in imperatives, in *Journal of Linguistics* 56, as well as a first brief comparison of aspect in Russian and



Mandarin Chinese in *Взаимодействие аспекта со смежными категориями. Материалы VII Международной конференции Комиссии по аспектологии Международного комитета славистов*. This semester Prof. Dickey is continuing research on Mandarin Chinese Aspect on a Keeler Fellowship. He is in his second year as Academic Director of the KU Language Training Center, which has taken over foreign language instruction at the College and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth. KU LTC language offerings have expanded to eight languages, including Russian.

Since stepping down as Director of the erstwhile School of Languages,



Literatures and Cultures, **Prof. Marc L. Greenberg** has returned full time to teaching and research in the department. In May 2020 he was [interviewed by Blaž Mazi of Radio-Television Slovenia \(in Slovene\)](#) for a program about language issues, the topic of which was the Brill *Encyclopedia of Slavic Languages and Linguistics*, of which he is the editor-in-chief. He was also

interviewed for [Brill’s Humanities Matter series in August in which he also talked about the Encyclopedia](#). In Fall 2020 he is teaching undergraduate, Honors, and graduate sections of The Language Landscape of Eastern Europe, a course in sociolinguistics, which has included guests from

Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, and Montenegro.

He has overseen major updates on the online edition of the Brill [Encyclopedia of Slavic Languages and Linguistics](#). On 15 October 2020 the ebook and print edition of his [Prekmurje Slovene Grammar, August Pavel's Vend nyelvian \(1942\)](#) were published as volume 47 in the prestigious series *Studies in Slavic and General Linguistics* (also published by Brill), edited by Janneke Kalsbeek and Peter Houtzagers, who (coincidentally) served as informal mentors as he prepared for his dissertation fieldwork in Yugoslavia in the 1980s. The work is an annotated translation from Hungarian of this important grammar of Prekmurje Slovene that had been intended for a region annexed by Hungary. The grammar gives a snapshot of an old version of a highly divergent dialect of Slovene that has unique features in the Slavic world. Though the pandemic led to cancellation of the tenth anniversary conference celebrating the founding of the Faculty of Montenegrin Language and Literature, at which he was scheduled to be a keynote speaker, he published an [essay on the importance of the Faculty in the context of contemporary education](#) in Montenegro's national daily *Pobjeda*. The essay, despite the title added by the newspaper's editors "Nenaučni i zlonamjerni napadi na FCJK i crnogorski jezik" (Unscientific and malicious attacks on the Faculty and the Montenegrin language), responds in a constructive manner to illiberal attacks on ethnically inclusive and civic-focused higher education in Montenegro. On 15 October he participated in the second meeting of the Commission on Language Contact, International Congress of Slavists, in Bautzen/Budyšin, Germany with his paper on "Peripheral Phenomena in South Slavic: Inheritance or Contact?" The 2-1/2-day conference was held virtually due to the pandemic.

Prof. Ani Kokobobo worked as interim director of CREES in addition to her SELL appointment in fall of 2020. She organized a lecture series on Russia and race for the fall, and also applied for and was awarded a grant for \$120,000 from the U.S. Russia Foundation to develop Russian language pipelines in Kansas high schools. Working in conjunction with Jennifer Raff, she also launched a project on public scholarship at the university level. Beyond



this work, she has been mainly preoccupied with finalizing her book manuscript on Tolstoy and gender. She wrote an op-ed on Russian Studies for the Kennan institute blog, as well as an article with Devin McFadden on Ivan Goncharov and the queer nihilist. She finalized an article that has been in the pipeline for a while on digital mapping and Tolstoy. She misses traveling but has given a number of talks via Zoom, and when not busy with academic work is homeschooling her 6-year-old.



In 2020, **Dr. Renee Perelmutter** tackled the many challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic in higher education - as a faculty member in SELL and Jewish Studies, as the Director of the Jewish Studies program, as a mentor, and perhaps especially, as a parent. Despite these challenges, 2020 was also a year of many highlights. This summer, Dr. Perelmutter and Cecilia King jointly applied for and won the

USRF course development grant offered through CREES, to develop a Russia module in Dr. Perelmutter's new course SLAV 379: Language, Gender, and Sexuality (LGS). The module was successfully developed during the summer, and the whole course was retooled to be offered entirely online via a combination of zoom lectures and online learning modules. The Fall 2020 LGS course enjoyed a robust enrollment of students from SELL, Jewish Studies, Linguistics, Anthropology, and Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies; the course has recently been approved for the Core Goal 3, and is on the books again for next Fall. Prof. Perelmutter enjoyed offering SLAV 148: Slavic Folklore again in the summer, and supervising it during the year. Prof. Perelmutter is very proud of the accomplishments of their graduate students: Olga Savchenko, who submitted an article to *Journal of Pragmatics* this Fall, and passed her portfolio exam with honors; Cecilia King, for the Russia module development and for successfully teaching SLAV 148: Slavic Folklore in the Fall; and Chul Hyun Hwang, for his work as a GTA in Language, Gender, and Sexuality. In terms of research, Prof. Perelmutter continued working on their monograph on Jewish multilingualism and multiglossia. This December marks Prof. Perelmutter's first year as Division Chair of Jewish Languages and Linguistics division at the Association for Jewish Studies annual conference, which will be offered entirely online for the first time. This year, Dr. Perelmutter was also the recipient of the prestigious Le Guin Feminist Fellowship from the University of Oregon, to research Le Guin's poetry and translation work. Dr. Perelmutter also completed their first article on translation studies focusing on language and gender, which will be published under their byline R.B. Lemberg. In the domain of fiction, Lemberg's debut novella *The Four Profound Weaves* came out this Fall to strong critical attention, and a new book set in the same world is scheduled to come out in early 2022, again from Tachyon Press.



led a roundtable at the 54th annual meeting of the Middle East Studies Association (MESA) on the topic of “Materials Development & Design.” At this roundtable, she gave a presentation on “How to Design a Turkish Language Textbook” together with her co-author S. Ebru Ergül (Stanford), with whom she is working on a third-year Turkish language

textbook through a grant from KU’s Open Language Resource Center (OLRC). She also co-presented a paper titled “Teaching Turkish Language Classes Online—Strategies for Keeping Learners Engaged” at the annual meeting of the American Association of Teachers of Turkic Languages (AATT) in October 2020.



aragyozyova published the article “Body, Sexuality and Passive Victimhood in the post-1989 Reimagining of the Polish City of Wałbrzych” in *East European Politics and Societies: and Cultures*. Her article “Post-German Objects in Stefan Chwin’s *Death in Danzig* and Joanna Bator’s *Sandy hill* and *Dark, almost night*” is under consideration at *Slavic Review*. She

continues to make progress on her book project and will present a paper titled “Wałbrzych as a Film Set: New Possibilities for Urban Reinvention” based on the third chapter of the book at the upcoming ASEES conference. Prof. Vassileva-Karagyozyova developed and taught in fall 2020 a fully online version of Elementary Polish I and is currently preparing the second part of the course. She will speak about her experience developing online Polish courses at a round-table at AATSEEL in 2021.



Prof. Oleksandra Wallo has had a busy 2019-2020 academic year. Her book, *Ukrainian Women Writers and the National Imaginary: From the Collapse of the USSR to the Euromaidan*, was published by the University of Toronto Press at the end of 2019. In early 2020, working with KU’s Open Language Resource Center, Prof. Wallo launched the website for her

open-access online textbook of basic Ukrainian grammar, *Dobra Forma* (<https://dobraforma.ku.edu/>). She gave a poster presentation on this project at the AATSEEL Conference in San Diego, California, in February 2020. An article by Prof. Wallo on Serhiy Loznytsia’s acclaimed documentary film, *Maidan*, came out in a volume dedicated to the memory of Dmytro Shtohryn, a professor at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and a lifelong champion of Ukrainian studies. Prof. Wallo also enjoyed developing and teaching an upper-level course on East European theater and drama and working with Slavic graduate students as the Director of Graduate Studies.

TURK 310 / SLAV 310 / GIST 310 Modern Turkey: Culture & Society

SPRING 2021

Online!

When
MAR-22 / MAY-14

Get in touch!
Dr. Esra Predolac
esrap@ku.edu

As a country that is geographically in the middle of a strategic global region, a key NATO ally, a candidate for EU membership, and representing a mix of democratic traditions, military coups, and authoritarian leaders combined with periods of rapid and drastic socioeconomic transformation, for one reason or another, Turkey seems to always be a country under the spotlight. Topics covered in this course include ethnic and religious minorities, religion and secularism, music, cuisine, women, gender and sexuality, religious and national holidays, Cinema and TV, among others. **No former knowledge of Turkey or the Turkish language is required.**



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STUDENT & ALUMNI UPDATES

Over the summer, SLL and Linguistics double major **Reagan Kanter** authored an entry for the *Encyclopedia of Slavic Languages and Linguistics*, published by Brill. The ESLL, edited by Marc L. Greenberg and Lenore A. Grenoble, provides a broad overview of topics relating to Slavic languages, including entries on historical and social issues, as well as language contact and other linguistic phenomena as they pertain to Slavic languages. To date, she is the youngest contributor to the reference work, and the entry will be her first publication. The article, titled *Язычје* (Jazyčje), will appear in 2021. She has also contributed to *Dobra Forma*, an open-access online textbook that teaches Ukrainian grammar through interactive activities. The program is directed by Dr. Oleksandra Wallo, who provided the opportunity for Reagan to author a module for her senior capstone project in Spring 2020. She has continued to work on *Dobra Forma* as an employee of the Open Language Resource Center through the summer and fall. After graduation, she intends to continue her study of Ukrainian, Russian, and Slavic linguistics, and hopes to put her knowledge of SLA and language pedagogy to use as a language instructor.

Nicole-Marie Konopelko, a SLL and Journalism double major, received a grant from the Jim Mielke Humanities, Social, and Behavioral Science Mentorship Fund; she translated Aleksei Shmelev's «Широта русской души» under Prof. Dickey's guidance this summer. The translation has been accepted for publication in the *Russian Language Journal*, vol. 71.

McKinsey Manes, a SLL B.A. alumna (2017), has been accepted to the class of 2021 of the U.S. Global Leadership Coalition's Next Gen Global Leaders Network.

Post-Soviet Communication SLAV/COMS 503

Spring 2021 | 8 Week Online Course January 25 - March 19



GET IN TOUCH!
Dr. Irina Six
irinasix@ku.edu

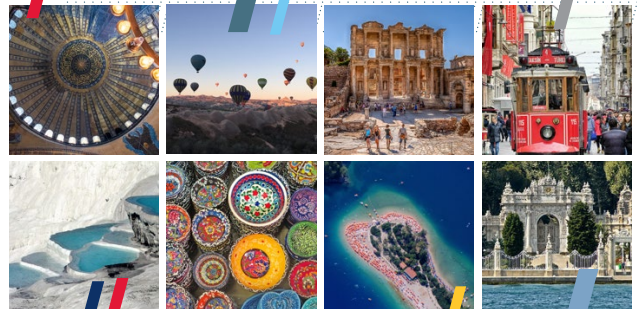
The course contributes to requirements in journalism, communication and to the major/minor in Slavic.

- Students do not need to know Russian to take this course.
- Students will examine Russian political, societal and interpersonal communication strategies.
- Students will explore Russian mass media, propaganda tactics, and Internet communication

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TURK 104 Elementary Turkish I

FALL 2020
5 credit hours | Online



GET IN TOUCH!
Dr. Esra Predolac
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Basic language acquisition, including essentials of grammar, speaking, and writing standard Turkish.

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