

Anthropology of Russia and East Europe
ANTH E412/E612 (Sections 24926/24931)
Meets in Main Library Rm. 851, Tues/Thurs 9:30-11:45am

Instructor: Sarah D. Phillips
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In this course, we will explore these contradictory effects of socialism's "fall" as we examine new ethnographies of postsocialism. We will connect our inquiries to broad intellectual questions in anthropology and related disciplines, including globalization; social suffering; commodification, power, and identity; nation building and ethnicity; religious identity and conflict; and gender inequalities. Geographically, we will focus on the Newly Independent States (NIS) of the Former Soviet Union, as well as Central and Eastern European countries.

The course emphasizes a "from-below" view of postsocialism by grounding the processes of nation building, commodification, democratization, Westernization, and globalization in people's everyday lives. Therefore, methodologically, the emphasis will be on ethnographic approaches. We will also take up considerations of reflexivity in fieldwork, and pay close attention to the relevance of the researcher's own background and academic position for the scholarly claims made.

The following books will be required reading. All the books will be on reserve in Kent Cooper Room of the Main Library, and are available for purchase at campus bookstores.

Hermine DeSoto and Nora Dudwick, 2000. Fieldwork Dilemmas: Anthropologists in Postsocialist States (U of Wisconsin Press).

Alexia Bloch and Laurel Kendall, 2004. The Museum at the End of the World: Encounters in the Russian Far East (U of Penn Press).

Daphne Berdahl, 1999. Where the World Ended: Re-Unification and Identity in the German Borderland (U of California Press).

Adriana Petryna, 2002. Life Exposed: Biological Citizens after Chernobyl (Princeton U Press).

Sascha Goluboff, 2002. Jewish Russians: Upheavals in a Moscow Synagogue (U of Penn Press).

Other readings for the course are available as e-reserves. If you have any trouble accessing the e-reserves, please contact the Geography and Map Library (in the basement of the Student Building). I also have hard copies of many of the articles in my office.

All videos listed in the syllabus will be viewed in class. Students may view missed videos on their own, but formal make up sessions will not be offered.

Course Requirements

Students will be graded based on their attendance, general participation in class discussions, seminar leadership, a mid-term essay, and a final research paper. The research paper replaces the final exam.

Grading criteria are as follows:

Attendance (10%)

General participation in class discussions (25%)

Seminar leadership (20%)

Mid-term essay (20%)

Research paper (15%)

Class presentation (10%)

Grading Scale:

This course will use a 10-point grading scale, with pluses and minuses.

A+	100	B	83-86	C-	70-72	F	0-59
A	93-99	B-	80-82	D+	67-69		
A-	90-92	C+	77-79	D	63-66		
B+	87-89	C	73-76	D-	60-62		

Attendance

Attendance will not be formally "taken," but frequent and unexplained absences will reflect negatively on students' grades.

General Class Participation

Students are expected to actively engage in class discussions. Students should come to class having done all the readings for that day, and with their questions and ideas. I also encourage students to bring in "outside" sources to share with the class. This includes bringing up related readings, citing relevant discussions from your other courses, reporting on your own experiences, and mentioning other relevant resources.

Seminar Leadership

Each student is expected (with a partner) to lead class discussions two times during the semester. A sign-up sheet will be passed around during the first class meeting. Students

should do the readings for the classes they will lead extra carefully. The two leaders should post discussion questions and critical comments for the next day's class **not later than 8pm the night before**, to allow all of us to better prepare for the seminar.

Mid-Term Essay

This essay will be in the form of a take-home exam. Undergraduate papers should be 6-8 pages in length; graduate papers should be 8-10 pages. I will hand out the essay question one week before it is due. The essay will not require outside reading or library research (though such "outside" work is encouraged), but should be based on students' critical reflections on the course material.

Final Research Paper

The research paper will allow students to pursue their personal interests, to delve more deeply into a subject we have brought up only briefly, and/or to explore geographical regions outside the main focus of this course. Students should decide on their paper topic very early in the semester, and consult with me about it. Students are free to undertake collaborative projects with classmates (as long as it is clear that both students have put in equal effort), and to pursue creative approaches to the paper and presentation. Students are encouraged to write creatively and to try a variety of methods of expression.

Research findings may be presented via media other than writing, such as a video or photo essay.

I am looking for critical analysis of the subject matter, effective comparisons, and good use of secondary and primary sources. You may draw on themes we cover in this class for your research project, but I will expect at least 7 outside sources for undergraduates, and at least 10 outside sources for graduates. Research papers should be 10-12 pages in length for undergraduates, and 15-20 pages for graduates. If you have conducted your own field research, feel free to include that material in your research paper.

Class Presentation

During the last class meeting (March 3), students will give class presentations to teach us about your research topic. **DO NOT** simply read your research paper to the class! Please let the instructor know what technology you will need for this presentation (Powerpoint, slide projector, VCR, etc.).

Other Important Information:

Running Bibliography

On Oncourse we will create a running bibliography of anthropological and related works that are relevant to this course. I have started this bibliography already, and encourage students to add to the bibliography whenever you run across useful sources. You may utilize this bibliography to get ideas for themes you would like to pursue in your final paper.

Course Ground Rules

As members of this class, each of us has a responsibility to help foster civility in the classroom. This means avoiding behaviors that are disruptive to other students and the professor. Please turn off cell phones before coming to class. Please do not hold conversations with classmates whenever the professor or another student is speaking. Please be respectful of peers and instructors at all times.

In your Schedule of Classes bulletin (also available online), there is important information on academic freedom, academic misconduct policies, the Code of Academic Ethics, and the campus calendar. Please read through these sections and any others that may concern you personally.

Originality of Written Work

I expect that all written work you turn in to me is authored by you and you alone, and has been written for this class alone. Any student found to be deliberately copying from the written work of someone else without acknowledgment (whether from a fellow student, a published author, or anyone else) will face all the repercussions of cheating as outlined in University policies. I will utilize TurnItIn.com to vet any questionable work. Adequate citations procedures are critical to demonstrating originality of your writing. If you have questions about appropriate citation or bibliography formats, or what constitutes legitimate paraphrasing vs. illegitimate plagiarism, please consult me—and/or consult a tutor at the campus Writing Center—right away.

Religious Holy Days and Holidays:

If you must miss a class or an assignment because of a religious holy day or holiday, please let the instructor know as early in the semester as possible, so I can make any necessary accommodations for you. You may view the University's policy on accommodations for religious holy days or holidays on the web at

<http://www.indiana.edu/~deanfac/holidays.html>

Forms are available for you to complete to request accommodation at

<http://www.indiana.edu/~deanfac/download/download.html#awnom>

Special Needs

If you have a physical or learning disability, or ADHD, or any other reason to request special consideration concerning tests, papers or any other aspect of the course, please see me to discuss your needs as early in the semester as possible.

The instructor reserves the right to make *minor* adjustments to this syllabus during the semester. Any changes will be announced in class.

Course Schedule

Tuesday, Jan. 11

Introductions to the Course and Each Other

Introductory Lecture/Discussion

Thursday, Jan. 13

Socialist Dreaming: Theory and Practice

Film: "Man with a Movie Camera" (Dziga Vertov, 1929),
or "Bed and Sofa" (Tret'ia Meshchanskaia) (Abram Room, 1927)

Richard Stites, "The Republic of Equals." In Stites, Revolutionary Dreams: Utopian Vision and Experimental Life in the Russian Revolution (New York: Oxford University Press, 1989):124-144.

M. Ilin's "New Russia Primer: The Story of the Five-Year Plan" (Chapter VIII: New People)
<http://www.marxists.org/subject/art/literature/children/texts/ilin/new/ch13.html>

Victor Buchli. 1998. "Moisei Ginzburg's Narkomfin Communal House in Moscow: Contesting the Social and Material World." Journal of the Society of Architectural Historians 57(2):160-181.

Svetlana Boym. "Living in Common Places." In Boym, Common Places: Mythologies of Everyday Life in Russia (Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1994):121-167.

Sheila Fitzpatrick, "Sex and Revolution." In Fitzpatrick, The Cultural Front: Power and Culture in Revolutionary Russia. (Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press, 1992):65-90.

Tuesday, Jan. 18

The State of the Field

Video: "Early on a Sunday"

Katherine Verdery. 1996. "What Was Socialism, and Why Did it Fall?" What Was Socialism and What Comes Next, pp. 19-38. Princeton: Princeton University Press.

Petra Rethmann. 1997. "Chto Delat'? Ethnography in the Post-Soviet Cultural Context." American Anthropologist 99(4):770-774.

Thomas C. Wolfe. 2000. "Cultures and Communities in the Anthropology of Eastern Europe and the Former Soviet Union." Annual Review of Anthropology 29:195-216.

Chris Hann, Caroline Humphrey, and Katherine Verdery, "Introduction: Postsocialism as a Topic of Anthropological Investigation." In Postsocialism: Ideals, Ideologies and Practices in Eurasia, ed. C.M. Hann (London: Routledge, 2002):1-28.

Introduction, Chapters 5, 6, 8, 10, and Afterword in Fieldwork Dilemmas.

Thursday, Jan. 20

Expeditions and Expositions, I

Video: "Sireniki Chronicle" (Asen Balikci)

Stanley A. Freed, Ruth S. Freed, and Laila Williamson, 1988. "Capitalist Philanthropy and Russian Revolutionaries: The Jesup North Pacific Expedition (1897-1902)." American Anthropologist 90(1):7-24.

Nikolai Vakhtin, "Franz Boas and the Shaping of the Jesup Expedition Siberian Research, 1895-1900." In Gateways, Exploring the Legacy of the Jesup North Pacific Expedition, 1897-1902, ed. Igor Krupnik and William W. Fitzhugh (Washington, D.C.: Arctic Studies Center, National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution, 2001):71-89.

Preface and Chapters 1-2 in Alexia Bloch and Laurel Kendall, 2004. The Museum at the End of the World: Encounters in the Russian Far East (U of Penn Press) (pp. ix-55).

Tuesday, Jan. 25

Expeditions and Expositions, II

Waldemar Bogoras, 1901. "The Chukchi of Northeastern Asia." American Anthropologist 3:80-108.

Waldemar Jochelson, 1926. "The Ethnological Problems of Bering Sea." Natural History 26(1):90-95.

Yuri Slezkine. 1992. "From Savages to Citizens: The Cultural Revolution in the Soviet Far North, 1928-1938." Slavic Review 51(1):52-76.

Chapters 3-6 in The Museum at the End of the World (pp. 56-153).

Thursday, Jan. 27

Expeditions and Expositions, III

Video: "Siberia through Siberian Eyes" (Asen Balikci, Mark Badger)

Chapters 7-9, and Epilogues in The Museum at the End of the World (pp. 154-217).

Anderson, David G. 2000. "Fieldwork and the 'Doctoring' of National Identities in Arctic Siberia." Chapter 7 in Fieldwork Dilemmas (pp. 130-148).

Mark Badger and Asen Balikci. 1992. "Siberian Seminar: In the Village of Kazim, Activists Learn to Portray Their Own Culture with Video." Cultural Survival Quarterly, Winter 1992, pp. 68-71.

Tuesday, Feb. 1

After the Fall: Borderlands and Boundaries, I

Mid-term essay question distributed

Introduction and Chapters 1-4 in Daphne Berdahl, 1999. Where the World Ended: Re-Unification and Identity in the German Borderland (U of California Press) (pp. 1-139).

Daphne Berdahl, "Mixed Devotions: Religion, Friendship, and Fieldwork in Postsocialist Eastern Germany." Chapter 9 in Fieldwork Dilemmas (pp. 172-194).

Thursday, Feb. 3

Borderlands and Boundaries, II

Chapters 5-7, and Epilogue in Where the World Ended (pp. 140 - 233).

Hermine G. De Soto, "Crossing Western Boundaries: How East Berlin Women Observed Women Researchers from the West after Socialism, 1991-1992." Chapter 4 in Fieldwork Dilemmas (pp. 73-99).

Michele Rivkin Fish, "Gender and Democracy: Strategies for Engagement and Dialogue on Women's Issues after Socialism in St. Petersburg." In Post-Soviet Women Encountering Transition: Nation Building, Economic Survival, and Civic Activism, ed. Kathleen Kuehnast and Carol Nechemias (Washington, D.C.: Woodrow Wilson Center Press, 2004):288-312.

Tuesday, Feb. 8

Mid-term essays due

Film: *Goodbye, Lenin!*

Thursday, Feb. 10

Nationalism, Community, and Ethnography –The Case(s) of the Balkans, I

Video: "We Are All Neighbors: Bosnia" (Tone Bringa, 1993)

Verdery, Katherine. 1996. "Nationalism and National Sentiment in Postsocialist Romania." What Was Socialism, and What Comes Next, pp. 83-103.

Tone Bringa, "The Peaceful Death of Tito and the Violent End of Yugoslavia." In Death of the Father: An Anthropology of the End in Political Authority, ed. John Borneman (New York and Oxford: Berghahn Books, 2004):148-200.

Nora Dudwick, "Postsocialism and the Fieldwork of War." Chapter 1 in Fieldwork Dilemmas (pp. 11-30).

Tuesday, Feb. 15

Nationalism, Community, and Ethnography —The Case(s) of the Balkans, II

Video: "Returning Home" (Tone Bringa)

Robert M. Hayden, 1996. "Imagined Communities and Real Victims: Self-Determination and Ethnic Cleansing in Yugoslavia." American Ethnologist 23(4):783-801.

Chapters 2 and 3 in Fieldwork Dilemmas (pp. 31-68).

Katherine Verdery, "Giving Proper Burial, Reconfiguring Space and Time." In Verdery's The Political Lives of Dead Bodies: Reburial and Postsocialist Change (New York: Columbia University Press, 1999):95-127.

Gerald W. Creed, 2004. "Constituted through Conflict: Images of Community (and Nation) in Bulgarian Rural Ritual." American Anthropologist 106(1):56-70.

Thursday, Feb. 17

Consumption and Popular Culture

Alena Ledeneva. "Blat: The Unknown Commonplace." In Ledeneva, Russia's Economy of Favours: Blat, Networking and Informal Exchange (Cambridge University Press, 1998):11-38.

Elizabeth Dunn, "Slick Salesmen and Simple People: Negotiated Capitalism in a Privatized Polish Firm." In Uncertain Transition: Ethnographies of Change in the Postsocialist World, ed. Michael Burawoy and Katherine Verdery (Lanham: Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, Inc., 1999):125-150.

Nancy Condee and Vladimir Padunov, "The ABC of Russian Consumer Culture: Readings, Ratings, and Real Estate." In Soviet Hieroglyphics, Visual Culture in Late Twentieth-Century Russia, ed. Nancy Condee (Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1995):130-172.

Nancy Ries, 2002. "'Honest Bandits' and 'Warped People': Russian Narratives about Money, Corruption, and Moral Decay." Ethnography in Unstable Places: Everyday Lives in Contexts

of Dramatic Political Change, ed. Carol J. Greenhouse, Elizabeth Mertz , and Kay B. Warren, pp. 276-315. Durham: Duke University Press.

Caroline Humphrey, "The Villas of the 'New Russians:' A Sketch of Consumption and Cultural Identity in Post-Soviet Landscapes." In Humphrey's The Unmaking of Soviet Life: Everyday Economies after Socialism (Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press, 2002):175-201.

Alexei Yurchak, "Gagarin and the Rave Kids," in Consuming Russia, pp. 76-109.

Tuesday, Feb. 22

Ukraine: Chernobyl and Biological Citizenship

Video: "Shapes in the Wax" (Phillips and Miller)

First half of Adriana Petryna, 2002. Life Exposed: Biological Citizens after Chernobyl (Princeton U Press) (pp. 1-114)

Thursday, Feb. 24

Chernobyl and Biological Citizenship, II

Video: "From Chechnya to Chernobyl"

Second half of Life Exposed (pp. 115-220)

Tuesday, Mar. 1

Ethnic Communities(?) in Russia: Jews in Moscow

Sascha Goluboff. 2002. Jewish Russians: Upheavals in a Moscow Synagogue,

Philip V. Bohlman, "To Hear the Voices Still Heard: On Synagogue Restoration in Eastern Europe." In Altering States: Ethnographies of Transition in Eastern Europe and the Former Soviet Union, ed. Daphne Berdahl, Matti Bunzl, and Martha Lampland (Ann Arbor: The University of Michigan Press, 2000):40-69.

Thursday, Mar. 3

Student Presentations of final research projects

Saturday, Mar. 5

Students' final research papers due