

Course Syllabus  
Anthropology E 348  
Section 23971

Peoples and Cultures of Russia, Ukraine, and the New Independent States  
Meets T/R 1:00-2:15 pm, JH 239

Dr. Sarah D. Phillips  
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Office Hours: T 11-1, R 2:30-4  
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Course Description

This cultural anthropology course introduces students to the many fascinating peoples and cultures of Russia, Ukraine, and other parts of the Former Soviet Union. In addition to studying the region and its history broadly, we will have a special focus on native peoples of Siberia, several minority cultures in Russia and Ukraine, and Russian and Ukrainian popular cultures (consumer culture, rock music, and new monuments and architecture).

We will use case studies, ethnographies (detailed descriptions of groups by anthropologists), and videos to learn about the histories of specific regions and groups, and to discuss fundamental concepts in cultural anthropology such as religion and myth, music and dance, ethnicity, national identity and political power, historical memory and cultural heritage, formations of gender, and popular culture.

Assignments

Students will complete a mid-term essay exam, a final exam, and two 5-page reflection essays during the course of the semester. Each student will carry out an independent library research project on the topic of their choice, and post these projects on the course website for other students to view and comment on before they are due.

Students' grades will be calculated as follows:

Attendance and Class participation: 25%

Two reflection essays: 20% (10% each)

Mid-term exam: 15%

Final exam: 20%

Research project (and active commenting on others' papers): 20%

Course Readings

The following book is available at campus bookstores:

Anna M. Kerttula 2000. Antler on the Sea: The Yup'ik and Chukchi of the Russian Far East (Cornell University Press).

Other course readings will be on E-Reserves. The course password is "eastern400."

### Attendance

Attendance will be recorded for each class, and frequent and unexplained absences will reflect negatively on students' grades. Students will note that attendance and class participation count for 25% of the course grade, a reflection of the importance of coming to each class and actively taking part.

### 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. Please bring the readings to each class. 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.

### Reflection Essays

Students will write two 5-page reflection papers during the semester. These will be due Tuesday, February 7, and Tuesday, April 4.

### Final Research Paper

The research paper will allow students to pursue their personal interests, delve more deeply into a subject we have brought up only briefly, and/or 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. I will require each student to schedule an appointment with me during my office hours early in the semester. This will allow me to get to know students better in an informal setting, and we will discuss your initial ideas for your research paper during this meeting.

Students are free to pursue creative approaches to the paper and presentation. I encourage you to write creatively and try a variety of methods of expression in addition to 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. Research papers should be 8-10 pages in length.

### Class Presentation

During the last two class meetings, 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, if any, you will need for this presentation well ahead of time (Powerpoint, slide projector, VCR, etc.).

### 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, **Internet sources**, 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 Centers—right away. For guidance you may also see a pamphlet provided by the Campus Writing Centers at <http://www.indiana.edu/~wts/pamphlets/plagiarism.shtml>.

### 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 adjustments to this syllabus during the semester. Any changes will be announced in class. Please note that there will be no class the 9<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, and 16<sup>th</sup> of March due to spring break.

## Course Schedule

### **Tuesday, Jan. 10**

First class meeting: Introductions, Go over Syllabus, Quiz

### **Unit I: Russia and the Soviet Union—An Overview**

### **Thursday, Jan. 12**

Nancy Ries. 2001. "Russia." Countries and their Cultures, eds. Melvin Ember and Carol R. Ember, pp. 1850-1871. New York: MacMillan Reference USA.

### **Tuesday, Jan. 17**

Geoffrey Hosking. 1993. "The Making of the Soviet Union." In Hosking: The First Socialist Society: A History of the Soviet Union from Within (Cambridge: Harvard University Press), 93-118.

### **Unit II: Peoples of the North**

### **Thursday, Jan. 19**

R. Montgomery. "Chukchi." Worldmark Encyclopedia of Cultures and Daily Life, ed. Timothy L. Gall, pp. 100-104. Cleveland: Eastword.

Anna M. Kerttula 2000. Antler on the Sea: The Yup'ik and Chukchi of the Russian Far East (Cornell University Press), Prologue and Chapter 1 (pp. 1-31).

Video: "Sireniki Chronicle" (Asen Balikci, 55 min.)

### **Tuesday, Jan. 24**

Kerttula, Chapters 2 and 3 (pp. 32-80)

### **Thursday, Jan. 26**

Kerttula, Chapter 4 (pp. 81-120)

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.

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

### **Tuesday, Jan. 31**

Kerttula, Chapter 5 and Epilogue (pp. 121-162)

### **Unit III: Consumer Cultures, Social Difference and the "New Russians"**

#### **Thursday, February 2**

Jennifer Patco. 2001. "Globalization in the Postsocialist Marketplace: Consumer Readings of Difference and Development in Urban Russia." In Stryker and Patco, eds., The Paradoxes of Progress: Globalization and Postsocialist Cultures (Kroeber Anthropological Society Papers, no. 86:127-142.

Jennifer Patco. 2000. "'New Russian' Sightings and the Question of Social Difference in St. Petersburg." Anthropology of East Europe Review 18(2): 73-77.

#### **Tuesday, February 7**

First reflection essay due

Ries, Nancy. 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.

Michele Rivkin-Fish. 2005. "Bribes, Gifts, and Unofficial Payments: Towards an Anthropology of Corruption in Post-Soviet Russia." In Corruption: Anthropological Perspectives, ed. Cris Shore and Dieter Haer.

Optional movie night: "Brat" (Brother) (Sergei Balabanov)

### **Unit IV: Shamanism, Folk Healing, "New Age" Health Care**

#### **Thursday, February 9**

Guest Speaker: Brooke Swafford

Caroline Humphrey. 1999. "Shamans in the City." Anthropology Today 15(3):177-184.

#### **Tuesday, February 14**

Hanna Chumachenko. "Ukraine." Encyclopedia of Countries and Their Cultures, ed. Melvin and Carol Ember, pp. 2307-2324. Kluwer.

Sarah D. Phillips. 2004. "Waxing Like the Moon: Women Folk Healers in Rural Western Ukraine." Folklorica 9(1):13-45.

Video: Shapes in the Wax: Tradition and Faith among Folk Medicine Practitioners in Rural Ukraine (Sarah Phillips and Tim Miller, 55 min.)

## **Unit V: Gender and Sexuality: From "Iron Ladies" to Verka Serdiuchka**

### **Thursday, February 16**

Kollontai, A. [1990] "The Family and the Communist State." In Bolshevik Visions: First Phase of the Cultural Revolution in Soviet Russia, ed. William Rosenberg, pp. 67-76. Ann Arbor: The University of Michigan Press.

Gray, Francine du Plessix. 1991. "The Women's Century," and "Growing Up Powerful." In her Soviet Women Walking the Tightrope, pp. 28-39, 40-49. London: Virago Press.

### **Tuesday, February 21**

Kay, Rebecca. 1997. "Images of an Ideal Woman: Perceptions of Russian Womanhood through the Media, Education and Women's Own Eyes." In Post-Soviet Women: From the Baltic to Central Asia, ed. Mary Buckley, pp. 77-98. Cambridge University Press.

Verka Serdiuchka

Optional movie night: "In the Name of Love: Modern Day Mail Order Brides"

## **Unit VI: Jewish Communities in the Former Soviet Union**

### **Thursday, February 23**

Sascha Goluboff. 2001. "Fist Fights at the Moscow Choral Synagogue: Ritual and Ethnicity in Post-Soviet Russia." Anthropological Quarterly 74(2):55-71.

## **Unit VII: Culture and Performance in the Republic of Adygeia**

### **Tuesday, February 28**

Guest speaker: Julie Fairbanks

### **Thursday, March 2**

Mid-term Exam

## **Unit VIII: Monuments and Memory after Socialism**

### **Tuesday, March 7**

Bruce Grant. 2001. "New Moscow Monuments, or, States of Innocence." American Ethnologist 28(2): 332-362.

**NO CLASS March 9, 14, 16: Spring Break**

## **Unit IX: Chernobyl, Symbolism, and Daily Life**

**Tuesday, March 21**

Sarah D. Phillips. 2002. "Half-Lives and Healthy Bodies: Discourses on 'Contaminated' Foods and Healing in Post-Chernobyl Ukraine." Food and Foodways 10(1-2):27-53.

Sarah D. Phillips. 2004. "Chernobyl's Sixth Sense: The Symbolism of an Ever-Present Awareness." Anthropology and Humanism 29(2):159-185.

**Thursday, March 23**

Video: Chernobyl Heart

**Unit X: Roma in Russia**

**Tuesday, March 28**

Alexander Pushkin. 1965. "The Gypsies." Translated by Walter D. Arndt in Slavic Review 24(2):273-290.

Alaina Lemon. 1995. "'What Are They Writing About Us Blacks?' Roma and Race in Russia." Anthropology of East Europe Review 13(2):34-39.

**Thursday, March 30**

Video: T'an Bakhtale! Roma in Russia (1996, Alaina Lemon, 75 min.)

**Unit XI: Crimean Tatars**

**Tuesday, April 4**

Second reflection essay due

Guest speaker: Dr. Ed Lazzerini

Ed Lazzerini, "Crimean Tatars." The Nationalities Question in the Post-Soviet States, ed. Graham Smith, pp. 412-435.

Greta Uehling. 2000. "Squatting, Self-Immolation, and the Repatriation of the Crimean Tatars." Nationalities Papers 28(2):317-341.

**Unit XII: Popular Music and Cultural Heritage: Case Study of the Singer Ruslana**

**Thursday, April 6**

Anthony Potoczniak, "Fluctuations of Cultural Heritage in Post-Soviet Ukraine." Paper Presented at the 2005 conference of SOYUZ, the Post-Communist Cultural Studies Interest Group, Indiana University, March 4-5.

### **Unit XIII: Youth Cultures**

**Tuesday, April 11**

Fran Markowitz. 2000. "Leisure: Sex, Drugs, and Rock and Roll," and "What Teenagers Want from Life—and How to Get It." Coming of Age in Post-Soviet Russia, pp. 123-141, 194-208. Urbana-Champaign: University of Illinois Press.

### **Unit XIV: Body Cultures**

**Thursday, April 13 (Passover)**

Nancy Condee. 1999. "Body Graphics: Tattooing the Fall of Communism." Consuming Russia: Popular Culture, Sex, and Society Since Gorbachev, ed. Adele Marie Barker, pp. 339-361. Durham: Duke University Press.

### **Unit XV: Koreans in Central Asia and Sakhalin**

**Tuesday, April 18**

Guest speaker: Wu Jung Cho

Michael Gelb. 1995. "An Early Soviet Ethnic Deportation: The Far Eastern Koreans." Russian Review 54(3):389-412.

Sophie Quinn-Judge. "Looking Homeward: Soviet Koreans Can Finally Visit South Korea." Far Eastern Economic Review 145(32):27 (Aug. 10, 1989).

### **Unit XVI: Post-Soviet Ritual and the Folklore of Political Action**

**Thursday, April 20**

Rough drafts of final papers due

O. Britsyna and I. Golovakha. 2005. "The Folklore of the Orange Revolution." Folklorica 10(1):3-17.

**Tuesday, April 25**

Student presentations

**Thursday, April 27**

Student presentations, **final papers due**.

**Final Exam:**

Thursday, May 4, 2:45-4:45