Course Syllabus
Anthropology E 614 (26747)
Post-Socialist Gender Formations
Fridays 9:30-11:45am, SB 138

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Course Description
This graduate seminar focuses on questions of gender, sexuality, and power during and after socialism in the post-socialist countries of Eastern Europe. Readings and seminar discussions will begin by centering on the project(s) to emancipate women, and various “feminizing” and “masculinizing” projects throughout the region. Most attention will be given to recent developments in gender formations as socialist projects have given way to capitalism, globalization, and in some cases, EU accession. We will read theoretical works as well as case studies and ethnographies to understand shifting and diverse gender ideologies in the post-socialist countries.

Assignments
Students will take turns leading the weekly seminar, complete several short essays, and carry out an independent library research project on the topic of their choice. Another exciting activity we will collaborate on is the publication of a special issue of the journal Anthropology of East Europe Review (gender theme).

Students’ grades will be calculated as follows:
Attendance and Seminar participation: 25%
Seminar leadership: 10%
Participation in AEER special issue: 15%
Short essays: 25%
Final research project: 25%

Format of the seminar
One student will be responsible for leading each seminar discussion. You should begin the seminar session with a 15 to 20 minute presentation in which you
summarize each of the readings, explore how the readings relate to or contradict one another, and pose key questions for discussion. The following guidelines will help you organize the presentation:

What are the author’s key arguments or points? What empirical evidence supports these? What unites the various authors’ approaches and arguments, and how are they different?

What is the theoretical approach being used? Does the theory work well?

If discussing a book, start with the fundamental question: What are the author’s stated goals for the book? Does the author achieve these goals?

How does the material we read for this week relate to previous weeks’ readings and discussions?

The seminar leader should post discussion questions for the next day’s seminar meeting by 7pm on the evening before. If other students have specific issues they want to discuss, they should feel free to make suggestions to the seminar leader.

**Short Essays**

Students will turn in a short essay/reflection (4-5 pages) in response to three of the units of your choice. This gives students an opportunity to synthesize and reflect upon the material on their own.

**Final Research Paper**

The final research paper is in lieu of a final exam. 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. I am looking for critical and original analysis of the subject matter, effective comparisons, and good use of sources. You may draw on themes we cover in this class for your research project, but I will expect at least 10 outside sources. Students are strongly encouraged to utilize foreign-language sources in their papers. Research papers should be 15-20 pages. If you have conducted your own field research, feel free to include that material in your research paper.

Note: The instructor reserves the right to make changes to this syllabus. Any changes will be announced in class.
Course Schedule

January 15
Introductions to the Course and to Each Other

January 22
Establishing some common starting points


January 29
Feminism and Socialism, the Soviet Man and the Soviet Woman—contradictions in terms?


*Aspasia* Vol. 1, debates about feminism and communism as contradiction in terms (8 short responses by Miroiu, Novikova, Psarra, Daskalova, Evans, Gapova, Slaughter, and Boxer).

**February 5**

**The Collapse of Socialism (?) and the Re-Politicization of Gender**


**February 12**

**Gender and Nation, Reproduction and/as Politics**


Zhurzhenko, Tatiana. n.d. “Gender, Nation, and Reproduction: Demographic Discourses and Politics in Ukraine after the Orange Revolution.”

**February 19**  
*Citizenship, Civil Society, and Political Power*


Regulska, Joanna, Jasmina Lukic, and Darja Zavirsek, 2006. “Introduction” (pp. 1-10) to *Women and Citizenship in Central and Eastern Europe*.


Rueschemeyer and Wolchik, "Women in Power: The Issues." (Intro to *Women in Power in Post-Communist Parliaments*),

+ Case Studies

**February 26**  
*Traveling Feminisms*

Film: “Twenty Years Forward”


March 5

Masculinities

Film: “Who Will Sing a Lullaby?” (from Gender Montage series)


Optional:

**March 12**
**Gender, Labor, Markets, and Class**


Ghodsee, Kristen. Podcast of talk about her *Red Riviera: Gender, Tourism, and Postsocialism on the Black Sea*.
[http://www.international.ucla.edu/euro/podcasts/article.asp?parentid=72033](http://www.international.ucla.edu/euro/podcasts/article.asp?parentid=72033)


Fedyuk, Olena. n.d. "Images of Transnational Parenthood. The Role of Photographs in Measuring Time and Maintaining Connections between Ukraine and Italy."

Solari, Cinzia. n.d. "Resource Drain and Constitutive Circularity: Unpacking the Effects of Post-Soviet Emigration Patterns on Ukraine."


**March 19**
**No Class—Spring Break**

**March 26**
Gender, Bodies, and Sexualities, (cont.)


April 2
Gender and Religion

TBA

April 9
Gender and Sexualities in Public: Art, Mass Media, Literature, Internet, and Popular Culture

Aleksejunaite, pp. 231-244. Vilnius: Vilnius Academy of Fine Arts and Center for Equality Advancement.


Optional:

April 16
Gender in the Margins


Ryabchuk, Anastasiya. n.d. "Homeless Men and Masculinity Crisis in Contemporary Ukraine."

TBA

**April 23**

**What Comes Next?**


TBA

**April 30**

Last day of the seminar—students will give a brief presentation to the class about their research papers.

**Wednesday, May 5**

Final papers are due by 12 noon.