

**HONR 206: HONORS SEMINAR
WOMEN OF CENTRAL AND EASTERN EUROPE:
CONTRIBUTIONS TO LIFE, LITERATURE, AND CULTURE**

Fall 2013

Class: TR 11:30-12:45

Office Hours: MW 10 – 11

Dr. Cynthia Klima, Department of Languages and Literatures

Classroom: Welles 132

Office: Welles 206 C

Course Summary:

This course will explore the development of the education of women in Central and Eastern Europe, from the age of textiles/women in commerce to the present day. From these beginnings, the course will move forth to include literary and cultural influence of women. From early times, women in this area of Europe were expected to be much more self-sufficient than their western counterparts. But why was this the case? And when did they begin to have a larger influence on the advancement of literature and culture in their respective countries using their educated background? We will use texts and excerpts from various works that will aid the student in advancing his/her knowledge of the development of women's education and how they assisted in advancing culture in Central and Eastern Europe. The course will include background information on countries such as Russia, Ukraine, Poland, Hungary, Czech and Slovak Republics, Austria and Germany. How do each of these countries differ in women's education? How do literary themes vary from country to country? What made some groups of women more educated, i.e. why did they have access to certain areas of education that were more often than not reserved for men? Via reflections, class discussion, group work and a final paper, students will gain an understanding of the advances women have made in an area of the world that is not commonly explored in the area of women's studies.

Intended Learning Outcomes:

The successful student will:

- Demonstrate knowledge of the major events that have shaped the education and cultural contributions of women in Central and Eastern Europe
- Demonstrate a knowledge of the major women authors and historical figures who have contributed to the bodies of national literatures and cultures
- Demonstrate the ability to critically reflect and relate his/her opinions in discussion and in writing.
- Produce a research paper on a topic of choice, using the knowledge garnered from background texts, literature, articles, film and class discussions.

Required Texts:

- Anne's Bohemia : Czech Literature and Society, 1310 - 1420
- Bitter Freedom Memoir of A Holocaust Survivor.
- Catherine the Great: Portrait of a Woman
- Malina : A Novel
- Nine of Russia's Foremost Women Writers
- The Piano Teacher
- Women of Prague: Ethnic Diversity and Social Change From the Eighteenth Century to the Present.

Course Assessment:

2 reflective statements (approx. 2-3 pages each): 20%

2 course exams: 20%

Group Presentation/Project: 10%

Seminar discussion/participation: 25%

1 research paper: (approx.10-12 pages): 25%

Reflective Statements:

Students will do 2 reflective statements during the course of the semester. These should be REFLECTIVE, NOT RESEARCHED STATEMENTS. They should be indicative of your thoughts on a topic that has been discussed in class or on our works in class. I will use the INTD 105 rubric (see myCourses for the rubric that I have posted for your convenience.)

Course Exams:

Please see the calendar for the course exams. They will be about 1 hour in length and can be a combination of essay and identification. Also note our departmental statement on make-up exams at the end of this document.

Group Presentation/Project:

Each person will be a part of a group of no more than about 3-4 people, working on a project of the group's choice. This project could be a skit, an investigation of a topic that the group is interested in pursuing, or an archival inquiry that might involve some investigation outside of our college confines (interviews come to mind here.) It's your project, so you might all come up with something highly creative.

Seminar Discussion and Participation:

It is imperative that the student be in class each and every day, though it is understood that one can be quite ill and unable to make it to class. The student is allowed 2 "free pass" days during the course of the semester. It is expected that the student use his/her "free passes" wisely, i.e. in case of illness or unforeseen circumstance. "Free pass" days cannot be used when there is a test, a group project or other important element of class due (free pass EXCLUDES the final examination period when the final paper is due as well.) Translation: These are 2 days you are allowed to "drop" during the semester, no questions asked, no explanations needed. All students should sign into the instructor's book at the BEGINNING of class. If a student comes late to class by 15 minutes or more, that is one of the "free pass" days. In other words, "don't come late to class and waste a free pass."

Final Research Paper:

The final research paper will be 3000-3500 words in length (minus the title page, bibliography and endnotes.) These are research papers and proper citation is required