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## SYLLABUS

### ARTS144A/SLAV144A: THE RUSSIAN AVANTGARDE

#### COURSE DESCRIPTION

#### LECTURES

The primary material for which you are responsible in this course is presented in lecture and through the assigned readings (see below). All lectures are based on the assigned readings, but they do not repeat these readings. It is therefore essential not to miss class, not to arrive late, and to stay until the end of the class. This class is not a repetition of the class I taught two years ago, therefore it should not be assumed that lectures and/or readings or exams will be the same.

Please note that three or more absences will definitely affect your grade (=one half letter grade down per absence).

#### READINGS

Readings are assigned for each lecture. The readings are drawn from the Reader or from books you can purchase at the UCSB bookstore (see below). The readings are necessary background for the lectures and must be completed before you come to class. Remember that I will not always repeat material from the reading in lecture. Our interpretations and discussions are based on a thorough knowledge of the assigned material.

#### FILM SCREENINGS

A number of films may be assigned for this class. These can be viewed about a week in advance of the class where they are discussed. Please go to the second floor of Kerr Hall to view the assigned films. Alternatively, you may view them at home or elsewhere. Please remember that even if you already know a movie it will be absolutely necessary to see it again. Taking notes while watching a movie can be fun and will deepen your appreciation of the film and the issues it raises.

#### FINAL PAPER

You will write one final paper in this course. In order to fulfill the writing requirement, your paper must be no shorter than 1800 words. The paper has to be properly footnoted and it must include a bibliography. You will be given a list of paper topics from which you may choose. Your paper is due **on Tuesday, December 12, in class**. Please note that papers will not be accepted after that time. Please note that papers cannot be delivered to the instructor's office or his departmental mail box.

#### FINAL PROJECT

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Instead of writing a final paper you may, with the explicit permission of the instructor, opt for a project. If you are interested in doing a project instead of writing a final paper, you have to turn in a TYPED statement of intent to the instructor (no e-mail) by **December 1, 5pm**. The statement may be placed in the instructor's mailbox (Dept. of Germanic, Slavic, Semitic Studies, Phelps Hall, 6th floor). The statement should include your name and a brief description of the project. The final project has to reflect the material covered in class. A project may include the production of a video, a set of photographs, a constructivist object, or some other type of creative reflection on the Russian Avantgarde. Paintings or drawings will not be accepted as final projects. Projects have to be accompanied by a four-page narrative explaining the project in detail. All projects are due on **Tuesday December 12**, in class. Please see previous section (FINAL PAPER) for further instructions.

### EXAMINATIONS

The midterm exam will take place on Thursday, **November 1** [subject to change] and will cover material presented during the first half of the course. The final is scheduled for **Wednesday, December 12, 4-7pm**, and will be cumulative. Both exams will include short-answer question, film or slide recognition, and essays.

You must bring two blue books and pens (no pencils) to the midterm and final. **No make-ups will be given.**

### GRADING

Your grade will be determined as follows: 25% midterm; 15% attendance and class participation; 30% final exam; 30% final paper/final project. Credit will be given for demonstrated improvement in the course. You must complete all assignments to pass the course.

### TEXTS AND OTHER RESOURCES

Our primary textbook for this course is the **Course Reader**, to be purchased at Graphic Art in Isla Vista (next to police station), and Camilla Gray's *The Russian Experiment in Art: 1863-1922*, to be purchased from the UCSB bookstore at the UCen.

Additionally, the following books have been placed on reserve in the Arts Library (these books can be used for browsing as well as for papers and other assignments):

*Art Into Life. Russian Constructivism 1914-1932* [exhib. catalogue]. Henry Art Gallery. University of Washington, 1990

*The Avantgarde in Russia 1910-1930* [exhib. cat. LA County Museum of Art]. New York Perspectives. Cambridge/Mass.: MIT Press, 1980.

Caroline Tisdall/Angelo Bozzola. *Futurism*. London: Thames and Hudson, 1972

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G. H. Hamilton. *Painting and Sculpture in Europe 1880-1940*. New Haven: Yale UP, 1993

John M. Thompson, *Russia and the Soviet Union. An Historical Introduction*. Boulder: Westview Press, 1990/ DK40.T48.1986

Ronald R. Hingley. *Russia. A Concise History*. ...

Boris Groys. *The Total Art of Stalin*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1990(?).

Camilla Gray. *The Russian Experiment in Art. 1863-1922*. London: Thames and Hudson, 1986. N6988.G7

Peter Buerger. *Theory of the Avantgarde*. Minneapolis: University of Minnesota Press, 1984. BH301.A94.B8313.1984

*The Tradition of Constructivism*. Ed. Stephen Bann. New York: Viking, 1974. N6494.C64.B36.1974

*Russian Art of the Avantgarde. Theory and Criticism. 1902-1934*. Ed. John Bowlt. London: Thames and Hudson, 1976.

**INFORMATION**

Lectures: Buchanan 1920, Tuesday and Thursday, 3.30-4.45

Professor Spieker's Office: Phelps Hall #6218. Voice mail ++893.7626 [emergencies only].

Email: [spieker@gss.ucsb.edu](mailto:spieker@gss.ucsb.edu)

Office hours: Tuesday 2-3 and by appointment (e-mail, please).

SLAVIC144A satisfies the following General Education Requirements: Writing; F

Students with disabilities are welcome to speak with the professor beforehand regarding any desired arrangements for examinations.

## PAPER ASSIGNMENTS

### REQUIREMENTS

One final paper is required for this course. The paper must be typed, double-spaced, in 12-font point, and with 1-inch margins.

### WHAT IS CHEATING (PLAGIARISM)?

The paper must be your own work. If you wish to use the words, or concepts of another person in your paper, then you must provide appropriate attribution. When using another person's written work, place all borrowed language in quotation marks and cite the source. Papers must contain a bibliography listing all sources used/quoted, including internet sites ("Miller, David. *Death in Europe*. New York: Macmillan Publishers, 1978"). Make sure that you acknowledge all sources used. This is particularly important with regard to internet sources. Do not copy material found on the internet without properly acknowledging your source. When paraphrasing another's work, whether it is from a book or from the World Wide Web, acknowledge that you are doing so and, again, cite the source.<sup>1</sup> The preceding footnote is an example of how you can acknowledge the use of someone else's work, in this case my paraphrasing of university regulations concerning plagiarism. If you are unsure what plagiarism is, and need help in knowing when and how to quote and/or cite sources, please contact the writing tutors at CLAS.

Do not use web-based paper writing services and/or download "ready to use" papers. The university has begun to screen papers electronically, using sophisticated computer software. Any instance of plagiarism will be reported to the university without fail and may lead to expulsion from the university.

Late papers will not under any circumstances be accepted.

### HOW TO DO RESEARCH FOR THE PAPER

Papers should be around 1800 words in length, double spaced, and typed. Your paper must feature your name and the title on the first page. At the end, there is a bibliography listing ALL sources you have quoted or paraphrased.

Find a suitable topic from an area covered in class that truly interests you. Then, formulate a topic. You may want the topic to take the form of a question (Example: "Are there any links between Russian constructivism and the German 'Bauhaus'?").

Begin your research by compiling your own thoughts on the subject in written form. Compile a list of useful texts written on the subject of your research. Do

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<sup>1</sup> These policies for paper-writing are adapted from *The University of California Santa Barbara Campus Regulations Applying to Campus Activities, Organizations, and Students* (Nov. 1997), chap. VII, Section A, paragr.2: Academic Conduct.

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not limit your search to the course reader. If you do not know where to start, you can consider the following possibilities:

- encyclopedias
- books on reserve for this class
- various types of reference material available in the library
- ask librarians or professors (including myself)

Copy useful quotations from the sources you have found. When writing your paper, you will then decide whether or not you want to make use of these quotes.

At least three outside sources—other than the class reader or other texts assigned for the class—must be quoted in your paper and fully listed in the bibliography at the end. Check your paper rigorously for spelling errors. Make sure your syntax is clear and unambiguous.

### **HELP WITH WRITING**

Begin your paper early so that you have as much time as you need to write, re-write, edit, and polish the final text. You can get help with writing your paper at Campus Learning Assistance Services (CLAS) in Building 300 (near the old gym). CLAS is open 9-9 Monday through Thursday, and 10-3 on Fridays. You may drop in, schedule an appointment, or sign up for a workshop. Students who work with CLAS tutors often write better papers!

<b>SCHEDULE OF CLASSES</b>
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## NOTES:

\* Text is in the Class Reader

\*\* Volume is on reserve

["Gray"] = Camilla Gray's *The Russian Experiment in Art* (to be purchased at UCSB bookstore, but also on reserve).

+ Written assignment. All written assignments are to be typed and need to be handed in at the end of the class when they are due. Put your name, date, and assignment title on top of the assignment. Please note that no special announcements will be made about these assignments in class. You are responsible for turning them in on time. Failure to turn them in on time **will affect your grade**. Hand-written assignments will not be read.

Required reading for the Midterm: \*\*Hingley, pp. 134-155 [detailed questions from this text may be asked]

Required reading for the Final: \*\*Hingley pp. 134-176 [detailed questions from this text may be asked]

W	LECTURE	READINGS
<b>0</b>	<p><b>TUESDAY 09/25/01</b> What is the Avantgarde? The <i>Ballets russes</i> in Paris</p> <p><b>THURSDAY 09/27/01</b> The painterly language of Larionov and Goncharova</p>	<p>+Look up the word avantgarde in an encyclopedia</p> <p>Gray, pp. 97-109; +Describe the geographical location of Kiev, Moscow, St. Petersburg</p>
<b>1</b>	<p><b>TUESDAY 10/02/01</b> The <i>Jack of Diamonds</i> (1910)</p> <p><b>THURSDAY 10/04/01</b> The <i>Donkey's Tail</i> (1912) and <i>Target</i> (1913)</p>	<p>+Look up the term "cubism" in **Hamilton</p> <p>Larionov/Goncharova: **"Rayonists and Futurists" **"Rayonist Painting" **"Pictorial Rayonism"</p> <p>+Look up the following names in Gray: Vl. Tatlin, K. Malevich. Produce a brief bio for each of them.</p>
<b>2</b>	<p><b>TUESDAY 10/09/01</b> The <i>Union of Youth</i></p> <p><b>THURSDAY 10/11/01</b> Russian and European Futurism</p>	<p>Gray, pp. 189-193 **"Filonov"</p> <p>*L. Folgore, "Electricity" *F. T. Marinetti, "Bombardment" **"The Founding Manifesto of Futurism"</p>

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	( <i>Tramway V</i> )	<p>*M. Larionov, "Why We Paint Ourselves"</p> <p><u>Assigned film:</u> <i>Victory Over the Sun</i> [Kerr Hall]</p> <p><u>Optional film</u> [Kerr Hall] <i>The Shock of the New</i>, vol.1, "Futurism" [Kerr Hall]</p>
<b>3</b>	<p><b>TUESDAY 10/16/01</b> The Media of Futurism</p> <p><b>THURSDAY 10/18/00</b> Kazimir Malevich</p>	<p>*Tisdall, "Photodynamism and Futurist Cinema"</p> <p>*D. Burljuk et al., "A Slap in the Face of Public Taste"</p> <p>**"A Trap for Judges, 2"</p> <p>*A. Kruchenykh, V. Khlebnikov, "The Word as Such", "The Letter as Such"</p> <p>*V. Khlebnikov, "Conjuration by Laughter"</p> <p>*K. Malevich, "The Non-Objective World"; "Suprematism"</p> <p><u>*Optional Reading:</u> "L. Russolo, "The Art of Noises"</p>
<b>4</b>	<p><b>TUESDAY 10/23/01</b> [To be announced]</p> <p><b>THURSDAY 10/25/01</b> Tatlin and the "Culture of Materials"</p>	<p>Please catch-up on all previous assignments!</p> <p>*C. Lodder, "Le Tatlin" "Letatlin"</p> <p>*Leonardo da Vinci, from the Notebooks</p> <p>*L. Altomare, "To an Aviator"</p>
<b>5</b>	<p><b>TUESDAY 10/30/01</b> Constructivist Design and the Revcolution of 1917 (Tatlin, Klucis)</p> <p><b>THURSDAY 11/01/01</b></p>	<p>Vladimir Mayakovsky, "Ode to the Revolution" and other poems</p> <p><u>Assigned Film:</u> "The Shock of the New", vol. II: Constructivism [Kerr Hall]</p> <p>MIDTERM</p>
<b>6</b>	<b>TUESDAY 11/06/01</b>	Gray, pp. 219-243

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	Constructivist Design and Mass Production  <b>THURSDAY 11/08/01</b> Clothing the New Woman	*Pertsov, "At the Junction of Art and Production" **A. Rodchenko"  *A. Strizenova, "Constructivist Design"
7	<b>TUESDAY 11/13/01</b> <i>Vkhutemas and Inchuk</i>  <b>THURSDAY 11/15/01</b> Constructivist Book Design	Gray, pp. 244-276  *El Lissitzky, "Topography of Typography" *El Lissitzky, "Typographical Facts" *El Lissitzky, "Our Book"
8	<b>TUESDAY 11/20/01</b> Constructivism in Architecture (El Lissitzky, Sternberg)  <b>THURSDAY 11/22/01</b> Constructivist Photomontage	+Compile a biography of El Lissitzky, using the books kept on reserve for this class  *A. Rodchenko, "Against the Synthetic Portrait..." +Produce a photomontage or paper collage with material of your choice
9	<b>TUESDAY 11/27/01</b> [To be announced]  <b>THURSDAY 11/29/01</b> Constructivism in film	Please catch-up on all previous assignments!  *D. Vertov, "On the Significance of Newsreel" *D. Vertov, "Kinopravda"  Assigned film: Dziga Vertov, "The Man With the Movie Camera" [Kerr Hall]  +Take at least 1pp of notes (typed) on constructivist elements in Vertov's film "The Man With the Movie Camera"
10	<b>TUESDAY 12/04/01</b> Constructivist sculpture: Naum Gabo	Please catch-up on all previous assignments!  <b>Final papers/projects due in class. No later time or date.</b>