EURR 4202/5202 HIST 5212

History and Politics of Gender in Modern Eastern Europe

Tuesdays 6-9pm in Rm 3302, Richcraft Hall

Dr. Ivan Simic

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- Office hours: Tuesdays 5-6pm
- Email: ivan.simic@carleton.ca

Objectives

Throughout the course, students will critically examine sources and literature for some of the crucial issues that marked the gender history of Eastern Europe in the 20th century. We will observe gender history from a transnational perspective, bringing together different regions and exploring the topics such as the interwar feminist movements, the Second World War and its impacts, the communist revolutions and gender policies, queer cultures, the collapse of socialism and post-socialist gender policies. The focus will be on the movement of ideas and people, asking questions about how gender informed broader policies and social interventions, but also how understandings about gender and sexuality were changing during the 20th Century. By investigating these far-reaching questions, we will try to uncover the lives of ordinary people discussing their agency and the shared gendered experiences across the region.

Readings

Readings will be available through CULearn. Bear in mind that they might change.

Requirements and Grading

Undergraduate Students
Class Participation: 10%
Presentation: 15%
Book Review: 25%
Final Paper (3000 words +5%, due April 7): 50%

Graduate Students

Class Participation: 10%
Presentation: 10%
Leading 1 Class Discussion: 5%
Critical Review: 25%
Final Paper (4000 words +5%, due April 21): 50%

Participation is evaluated on the following criteria: (a) providing meaningful discussion questions; (b) contribution to the weekly seminar discussions.

All students have to send 3-5 discussion questions based on the readings 2 hours before every class.

Presentation: each student is required to have a class presentation for one of the weekly seminars of their choice.

Book Review (Undergraduate): each student will write one book review. The selected book must be approved by the instructor. The length of the review is 1000 words, +−5%

Critical Review (Graduate): each graduate student will write a critical review on a topic of their choice. The critical review usually discusses 3-5 books or crucial articles on the theme. The length is 1500 words, +−5%

Leading a Class Discussion (Graduate): each graduate student will assume the role of an instructor, and lead one seminar discussion of their choice.

Final paper: The final paper discusses one question, provided by the instructor or chosen by a student in consultation with the instructor. It is based on primary sources (most likely in translation) or secondary sources (in this case, you are expected to engage the historiography of the issue). The length of the paper is 3000 words for undergraduate and 4000 words for graduate students.

Experiential Learning:

During the discussions, we will aim to combine direct experience with focused reflection on the course readings. We will build on past knowledge and experiences, always striving to foster critical thinking. Besides the required readings from this outline, we will listen to oral history accounts, read (translated) primary sources, watch films (with subtitles), and analyse other sources such as images and posters.

The final paper should be seen as a research project, discussing a question/problem in an original way. The question and the primary and secondary sources must be analysed critically, focusing on your arguments. Please feel free to consult the instructor during the entire process.

Aiming to maximise the student’s learning outcomes, graduate students can also suggest alternative tasks that could contribute to their final dissertation.
*Besides these readings, we will also watch (short) films and documentaries, and read selected primary sources. No prior preparation is required for that. The texts listed below, however, are mandatory, whilst the background readings are optional.

**January 8 - Week 1**

**Introduction and the Basics of Gender History Research**


**January 15 - Week 2**

**Gender and the First World War**

a. **War and gender**

b. **War, masculinity and disability**

c. **New states in Eastern Europe**

Pages to read: 105

**Background reading on social and cultural history:**

**Background reading on political history:**

**January 22 - Week 3**

**The Bolshevik Revolution and Early Soviet Period**


Pages to read: 184

**Background reading on social and cultural history:**

**Background reading on political history:**

**January 29 - Week 4**

**The Interwar Feminisms in Eastern Europe**

a. Feminist Organisations – similarities and differences
  b. Relations with Communism

Total pages to read: 81

February 5 - Week 5

Stalinist Gender Policies – The Great Retreat?


Pages to read: 122

Background reading on social and cultural history:
• Sheila Fitzpatrick, Ch. 8, “Culture,” in Stalin’s Peasants: Resistance & Survival in the Russian Village after Collectivization (Oxford UP, 1994), 204-32

Background reading on political history:

February 12 - Week 6

The Second World War – Stalinism goes abroad

• Fidelis, Malgorzata, Renata Jambrešic´ Kirin, Jill Massino, and Libora Oates-Indruchova. “Gendering the Cold War in the Region.” Aspasia 8, no. 1 (January 1, 2014): 162-190
  o Poland
  o The Balkans

Pages to read: 124

Background reading on social and cultural history:

Background reading on political history:

February 26 - Week 7

New Family Policies

a. Socialist Family and Marital Relations
  b. Abortion

Pages to read: 124
March 5 - Week 8

Double Burden? Gender, Labour Policies and Childcare

a. Labour policies

b. Welfare

Pages to read: 122

Background reading on social and cultural history:

Background reading on political history:

March 12 - Week 9

Gender and Religion

a. Muslim women in the Balkans

b. Gender and Secularisation
Background reading on social and cultural history:


March 19 - Week 10

Sex Culture in Real Socialism

a. Youth Sexuality


b. Queer Culture – Hiding from the Party’s Gaze


March 26 - Week 11

Breaking with Socialism - New Waves of Feminism

- Popa, Raluca Maria. “Translating Equality between Women and Men across Cold War Divides: Women Activists from Hungary and Romania and the Creation of International Women’s Year.” In

Pages to read: 68

Pages to read: 90

Background reading on social and cultural history:


Pages to read: 88

April 2 - Week 12

**Postsocialist Gender Policies**


Pages to read: 62

**Background reading on social and cultural history:**

ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION

Requests for Academic Accommodation

You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term. For an accommodation request, the processes are as follows:

Pregnancy obligation

Please contact your instructor with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details, visit the Equity Services website: carleton.ca/equity/wp-content/uploads/Student-Guide-to-Academic-Accommodation.pdf

Religious obligation

Please contact your instructor with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details, visit the Equity Services website: carleton.ca/equity/wp-content/uploads/Student-Guide-to-Academic-Accommodation.pdf

Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

If you have a documented disability requiring academic accommodations in this course, please contact the Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) at 613-520-6608 or pmc@carleton.ca for a formal evaluation or contact your PMC coordinator to send your instructor your Letter of Accommodation at the beginning of the term. You must also contact the PMC no later than two weeks before the first in-class scheduled test or exam requiring accommodation (if applicable). After requesting accommodation from PMC, meet with your instructor as soon as possible to ensure accommodation arrangements are made. carleton.ca/pmc

Survivors of Sexual Violence

As a community, Carleton University is committed to maintaining a positive learning, working and living environment where sexual violence will not be tolerated, and is survivors are supported through academic accommodations as per Carleton’s Sexual Violence Policy. For more information about the services available at the university and to obtain information about sexual violence and/or support, visit: carleton.ca/sexual-violence-support

Accommodation for Student Activities

Carleton University recognizes the substantial benefits, both to the individual student and for the university, that result from a student participating in activities beyond the classroom experience. Reasonable accommodation must be provided to students who compete or perform at the national or international level. Please contact your instructor with any requests for academic accommodation
during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. [https://carleton.ca/senate/wp-content/uploads/Accommodation-for-Student-Activities-1.pdf](https://carleton.ca/senate/wp-content/uploads/Accommodation-for-Student-Activities-1.pdf)

For more information on academic accommodation, please contact the departmental administrator or visit: [students.carleton.ca/course-outline](http://students.carleton.ca/course-outline)

**PLAGIARISM**

The University Senate defines plagiarism as “presenting, whether intentional or not, the ideas, expression of ideas or work of others as one’s own”. This can include:

- reproducing or paraphrasing portions of someone else’s published or unpublished material, regardless of the source, and presenting these as one’s own without proper citation or reference to the original source;
- submitting a take-home examination, essay, laboratory report or other assignment written, in whole or in part, by someone else;
- using ideas or direct, verbatim quotations, or paraphrased material, concepts, or ideas without appropriate acknowledgment in any academic assignment;
- using another’s data or research findings;
- failing to acknowledge sources through the use of proper citations when using another’s works and/or failing to use quotation marks;
- handing in substantially the same piece of work for academic credit more than once without prior written permission of the course instructor in which the submission occurs.

All suspicions of plagiarism will be dealt with according to the Carleton’s Academic Integrity Policy ([http://carleton.ca/studentaffairs/academic-integrity/](http://carleton.ca/studentaffairs/academic-integrity/)). The Associate Dean of the Faculty will conduct a rigorous investigation, including an interview with the student. Penalties are not trivial. They may include a mark of zero for the plagiarized work or a final grade of F for the course.

Student or professor materials created for this course (including presentations and posted notes, labs, case studies, assignments and exams) remain the intellectual property of the author(s). They are intended for personal use and may not be reproduced or redistributed without prior written consent of the author(s).

**SUBMISSION, RETURN, AND GRADING OF TERM WORK**

Written assignments must be submitted directly to the instructor(s) according to the instructions in the course outline. If permitted in the course outline, late assignments may be submitted to the drop box in the corridor outside room 3305 Richcraft Hall. Assignments will be retrieved every business day at 4 p.m., stamped with that day’s date, and then distributed to the instructors. For written assignments not returned in class please attach a stamped, self-addressed envelope if you
wished to have your assignment returned by mail. Final exams are intended solely for the purpose of evaluation and will not be returned.

Final standing in courses will be shown by alphabetical grades. The system of grades used, with corresponding grade points is:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Letter grade</th>
<th>12-point scale</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Letter grade</th>
<th>12-point scale</th>
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<tr>
<td>90-100</td>
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<td>12</td>
<td>67-69</td>
<td>C+</td>
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<tr>
<td>85-89</td>
<td>A</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>63-66</td>
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<tr>
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Standing in a course is determined by the course instructor subject to the approval of the Faculty Dean. This means that grades submitted by an instructor may be subject to revision. No grades are final until they have been approved by the Dean.

**CARLETON E-MAIL ACCOUNTS**: All email communication to students from the Institute of European, Russian and Eurasian Studies will be via official Carleton university e-mail accounts and/or cuLearn. As important course and university information is distributed this way, it is the student’s responsibility to monitor their Carleton and cuLearn accounts.

**OFFICIAL COURSE OUTLINE**: The course outline posted to EURUS website is the official course outline.