

SLAV 240: Introduction to the Languages & Peoples of Russia and East-Central Europe

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Office Hours MWF 10:00—11:00 AM or by appt.

Text:

Various: available on Blackboard website (<http://courseware.ku.edu>)

Description:

The course gives the student an overview of the languages and peoples of Russia and East-Central Europe, including the Slavic and Baltic languages, Romanian, and Albanian. Topics addressed will include language prehistory, writing systems, and the relationship between language and national identity. Emphasis will be on language issues as a background to current events in order to impart an appreciation of the area, its uniqueness and complexity.

Goals:

Understand the rise and formation of European nation-states as language communities.

Understand the notion of language communities as nations without states.

Become familiar with and understand the historical and cultural setting of Russia and East-Central Europe from the perspective of nations and languages groupings, including how European and American perspectives differ.

Become familiar with and understand current issues of national and regional conflicts in Russia and East-Central Europe.

Requirements:

Homework assignments, including attend guest lectures pertinent to the subject matter. Two mid-term exams and one final exam. Attendance is required: you are responsible for all material presented in lectures as well as the readings.

Resources:

Readings, assignments, grade tallies (unweighted), syllabus, supplemental materials available on the Blackboard website: <http://courseware.ku.edu>

Evaluation:

Attendance and class participation:	10%
Homework assignments	15%
Midterm I	20%
Midterm II	20%
Final exam	35%
Total	100%

SLAV 240/241/540: 2007 Calendar

Notes:

- (1) This semester there are many events pertinent to the subject matter of the course. While I encourage you to attend as many of them as you can (see the University Calendar), I will only require only three of them (marked **SPECIAL EVENT**).
- (2) Readings should be completed before the class section for which they are listed.

Date	Topic/Assignments			Readings for everyone
	240 (and topics for everyone)	241	540	
Fri., 19 Jan	Housekeeping			
Introduction				
Mon., 22 Jan	Basic concepts: geography, identity theories (primordialism vs. constructivism), comparative linguistics; language planning; sociolinguistics			
Wed., 24 Jan				Andrews
Fri., 26 Jan				Terrell 2001
Mon., 29 Jan	Historical background: Romanticism, historical comparativism			Buck
Tue., 30 Jan	SPECIAL EVENTS: (1) "A Conversation with Balkans Expert, Aleš Debeljak" Noon—1:00 PM, 318 Bailey Hall; (2) Lecture: Aleš Debeljak: "Representing the Balkans: Varieties of ex-Yugoslav pop cultures" 4:00—5:30 PM, Hall Center Conference Room. You must attend <i>at least one</i> of these events and write a one-half page synopsis, due Friday, 2 Feb. If you attend both, you will receive extra credit for one homework assignment.			
Wed., 31 Jan				
Fri., 2 Feb				
The languages of the former Yugoslavia				
Mon.,	Serbo-Croatian and the	Provisional paper	Provisional paper	

Date	Topic/Assignments			Readings for everyone
	240 (and topics for everyone)	241	540	
5 Feb	Yugoslav idea	topics due	topics due	
Wed., 7 Feb				
Fri., 9 Feb				
Mon., 12 Feb	Serbo-Croatian and the Yugoslav idea			Greenberg
Wed., 14 Feb				Fischer 2001
Fri., 16 Feb				Langston
Mon., 19 Feb	Case study: Slovene language and identity formation	Working title, outline and bibliography of research paper due to graduate-student mentors and Prof. Greenberg	Working title, outline and bibliography of research paper due	Roter, Debeljak 2001
Wed., 21 Feb				
Fri., 23 Feb				
Mon., 26 Feb	Albanian, Kosovo, Serbian; REVIEW FOR MIDTERM 2		Critiques on Honors-student papers due to student and Prof. Greenberg	Vermeer
Wed., 28 Feb				
Fri., 2 Mar	MIDTERM I	MIDTERM I		
Languages of the Former Soviet Union				
Mon., 5 Mar	Rus' and the Eastern Slavic languages; Russian imperial language policy; Soviet language policy			Laitin 1998: Part 1

Date	Topic/Assignments			Readings for everyone
	240 (and topics for everyone)	241	540	
Wed., 7 Mar				Lindstrom
Fri., 9 Mar				
Mon., 12 Mar	Russians in the near abroad			Laitin 1998: Part 2
Wed., 14 Mar	No class today Suggestion: 241 and 540 students should use this time for collaboration on their research papers			
Fri., 16 Mar		First draft of re- search papers due to Graduate Stu- dent mentor and Prof. Greenberg	First draft of re- search papers due	
Mon., 19 Mar	SPRING BREAK			
Wed., 21 Mar				
Fri., 23 Mar				
Mon., 26 Mar	Russians in the near abroad			Laitin 1998: Parts 3, 4
Wed., 28 Mar				Haarman 2002
Fri., 30 Mar			Critiques of first draft of Honors- student papers due to students and to Prof. Greenberg	
Mon., 2 Apr	Case studies: Baltics; So- viet Karelian			Austin
Wed., 4 Apr				
Fri., 6 Apr				
Mon., 9 Apr	Case study: Yiddish: his-			Herzog, Peltz

Date	Topic/Assignments			Readings for everyone
	240 (and topics for everyone)	241	540	
	tory of multi-state settlement; origin theories; Soviet language planning and sociolinguistic developments			
Tue., 10 Apr	SPECIAL EVENT: Lecture: Humanities Lecture Series - Maria Carlson, "Culture and History Matter: Russia's Search for Identity after the Fall," 7:30PM - 9:00PM, Kansas Union, Woodruff Auditorium. Write a one-half page synopsis, due Fri., 13 Apr.			
Wed., 11 Apr				
Fri., 13 Apr	MIDTERM II	MIDTERM II		
The EU and its languages and the problem of globalization				
Mon., 16 Apr	Eastern Europe in the European Union			Beck 2003
Mon., 16 Apr.	SPECIAL EVENT: Lecture: "The End of the Balkans," Andrew Baruch Wachtel, 4:00PM - 05:00PM, Location: Kansas Union, Malott Room. Write a one-half page synopsis, due Fri., 20 Apr.			
Wed., 18 Apr				
Fri., 20 Apr				Laitin 2002
Mon., 23 Apr				
Wed., 25 Apr				
Fri., 27 Apr				
Mon., 30 Apr	Graduate student research presentations		Graduate student research presentations (15 min. synopsis)	
Wed., 2 May				
Fri., 4 May				
Mon.,	Discussion, retrospective,			

Date	Topic/Assignments			Readings for everyone
	240 (and topics for everyone)	241	540	
7 May	review			
Wed., 9 May		Research paper due	Research paper due	
Fri., 11 May	STOP DAY			
Fri., 18 May	7:30—10:00AM FINAL		7:30—10:00AM FINAL	

Required readings

- Andrews, David R. 2003. Gender Effects in a Russian and American Matched-Guise Study: A Sociolinguistic Comparison. *Russian Linguistics* 27/3: 287–311.
- Austin, Paul M. 1992. Soviet Karelian. The Language that Failed. *Slavic Review* 51/1: 16-35.
- Beck, Ulrich. 2003. Understanding the Real Europe. *Dissent Magazine*, Summer 2003.
<http://www.dissentmagazine.org/menutest/articles/su03/beck.htm>
- Buck, Carl Darling. 1916. Language and the Sentiment of Nationality. *The American Political Science Review* 10: 44–69.
- Debeljak, Aleš. 2001. Varieties of National Experience: Resistance and Accommodation in Contemporary Slovenian Identity. *Spaces of Identity*, vol. 1, issue 3.
http://www.univie.ac.at/spacesofidentity/Vol_1/_PDF/Debeljak.pdf
- Fischer, Wladimir. 2001. The Role of Dositej Obradovic in the Construction of Serbian Identities During the 19th Century. *Spaces of Identity*, vol. 3, issue 1.
http://www.univie.ac.at/spacesofidentity/Vol_3/_HTML/Fischer.html
- Greenberg, Marc L. 1996. The Role of Language in the Creation of Identity: Myths in Linguistics among the Peoples of the Former Yugoslavia. Paper for KU International Programs Faculty Seminar “The Reinvention of Tradition.” Unpublished seminar paper.
- Haarmann, Harald. 2002. Identity in Transition. Cultural Memory, Language and Symbolic Russianness. [In] Paul Gubbins and Mike Holt, eds. *Beyond Boundaries. Language and Identity in Contemporary Europe*. 59—72. Clevedon, Toronto, Buffalo, Sydney: Multilingual Matters.
- Herzog, Marvin I. 1979. Origins and Evolution of the Yiddish Language. *Genetic Diseases Among Ashkenazi Jews*, ed. by R. M. Goodman and A. G. Motulsky: 47–57. New York: Raven Press.
- Järve, Priit. 2003. Language Battles in the Baltic States: 1989 to 2002. In Daftary and Grin: 75–105.
- Laitin, David D. 1998. *Identity in Formation. The Russian-Speaking Populations in the Near Abroad*. Ithaca and London: Cornell University Press.
- Laitin, David D. 2002. Culture and National Identity: ‘The East’ and European Integration” *West European Politics* 25, 2 (April 2002): 55—80 [Reprinted in Peter Mair and Jan Zielonka, eds. *The Enlarged European Union: Diversity and Adaptation*. (London: Frank Cass, 2002)].
- Langston, Keith. 1999. Linguistic Cleansing: Language Purism in Croatia after the Yugoslav Break-up. *International Politics* 36: 179–201.
- Lindstrom, Richard W. 2001. Soviet Ethnogenetic Theory and the Interpretation of the Past. [In] John Edward Terrell, ed., *Archaeology, Language, and History. Essays on Culture and Ethnicity*: 57—78. Westport, London: Bergin & Garvey.
- Peltz, Rakhmiel and Mark W. Kiel. 1985. Di Yiddish-Imperye: The Dashed Hopes for a Yiddish Cultural Empire in the Soviet Union. [In] Kreindler, I., ed., *Sociolinguistic Perspectives on Soviet National Languages. Their Past, Present and Future*: 277—309. Berlin: Mouton.

- Stepanenko, Viktor. 2003. Identities and Language Politics in Ukraine: The Challenges of Nation-State Building. In Daftary and Grin 2003.
- Roter, Petra. 2003. Language Issues in the Context of ‘Slovenian Smallness’. In Daftary and Grin 2003.
- Terrell, John Edward. 2001. The Uncommon Sense of Race, Language, and Culture. [In] John Edward Terrell, ed., *Archaeology, Language, and History. Essays on Culture and Ethnicity*: 11—30. Westport, London: Bergin & Garvey.
- Vermeer, Willem. 1992. Albanians and Serbs in Kosovo. *Yearbook of European Studies 5: The Disintegration of Kosovo*: 101-124.

For further reading

General/theoretical works

- Anderson, Benedict. 1983. *Imagined Communities*. London/New York: Verso. [Seminal work on the construction of identity. Deals in passing with Eastern Europe. Other key writers in this vein are Anthony D. Smith, Ernest Gellner, Eric J. Hobsbawn.]
- Eley, Geoff and Ronald Grigor Suny, eds. 1996. *Becoming National. A Reader*. New York, Oxford: Oxford University Press. [Not focused on language, but a good overview of current American and European scholarship on European nationalism.]
- Fishman, Joshua (ed.). 1999. *Handbook of Language and Ethnic Identity*. Oxford: Oxford University Press. [Includes a concise, if superficial chapter on “The Slavic World” by Miroslav Hroch.]
- Gellner, Ernest. 1983. *Nations and Nationalism*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press. [Classic work with Central Europe as main point of reference.]
- Hall, Edward T. 1976. *Beyond Culture*. New York: Doubleday. [Not about Eastern Europe nor language *per se*, but a fundamental work of cultural anthropology that proceeds from Sapir’s insights on language and thought. Introduces the key concepts of high- and low-context cultures.]
- Lakoff, George and Mark Johnson. 2003. *Metaphors We Live By*. Chicago: Chicago University Press. [Not at all about Eastern Europe, but a seminal work supporting the view that language shapes world-view.]
- Olender, Maurice. 2002. *The Languages of Paradise. Aryans and Semites. A Match Made in Heaven* (trans. by Arthur Goldhammer). New York: Other Press. [Discusses the intellectual history of the linguistic arguments (ab)used in the 19th c. to mythologize the superiority of Western languages and civilization.]
- Phillipson, Robert. 2003. *English-Only Europe? Challenging Language Policy*. London/New York: Routledge.
- de Swaan, Abram. 2001. *Words of the World. The Global Language System*. Cambridge: Polity.
- Woolard, Kathryn and Bambi B. Shieffelin. 1994. Language Ideology. *Annual Review of Anthropology* 23: 55–82. [Bibliographic essay on language politics, literacy, language and colonialism. Good place to start for people interested in launching a serious research project and want to get a sense of the landscape of theoretical issues. Available through e-journals at KU.]

Area/case studies

- Andrews, David R. 1998. *Sociocultural Perspectives on Language Change in Diaspora*. Amsterdam/Philadelphia: John Benjamins.
- Bartlett, Robert. 1993. *The Making of Europe: Conquest, Colonization and Cultural Change, 950—1350*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.
- Bremmer, Ian and Ray Taras, eds. 1993. *Nations and Politics in the Soviet Successor States*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. [Articles on individual republics, minority issues, with some focusing or touching on language. Includes useful maps, tables and charts.]
- Curta, Florin. 2006. *Southeastern Europe in the Middle Age, 500—1250*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. [Written by a medieval archaeologist with polemical consideration of linguistic data.]
- Filipovic, Rudolf and Damir Kalogjera, eds. 2001. *Sociolinguistics in Croatia* (= *International Journal of the Sociology of Language* 147).
- Franklin, Simon and Emma Widdis. 2004. *National Identity in Russian Culture*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. [As of Nov. 04 I haven't had a chance to read the book, but have read other things by Franklin that are good. The publisher's blurb says it is "designed for students of Russian literature, culture and history."]
- Geraci, Robert. 2001. *Window on the East. National and Imperial Identities in Late Tsarist Russia*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press. [Important study of pre-Revolutionary attempts at Empire building through the religious and linguistic assimilation of minorities, using the Volga region and the figure of Il'minskij. Counter-intuitively, the assimilation project, preceding Lenin, began with the building up of literacy in illiterate communities.]
- Gorham, Michael S. 2003. *Speaking in Soviet Tongues. Language Culture and the Politics of Voice in Revolutionary Russia*. DeKalb: Northern Illinois University Press. [Literary and discourse analysis of Soviet culture.]
- Greenberg, Marc L., ed. 1997. *The Sociolinguistics of Slovene* (= *International Journal of the Sociology of Language* 124).
- Greenberg, Robert D. 2004. *Language and Identity in the Balkans. Serbo-Croatian and its Disintegration*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Grenoble, Lenore A. 2003. *Language Policy in the Soviet Union*. Dordrecht/Boston/London: Kluwer Academic Publishers. [Rigorous survey of Soviet language policy.]
- Harshav, Benjamin. 1993. *Language in Time of Revolution*. Stanford: Stanford University Press. [About Hebrew language revival as a reaction to the 1917 Revolution.]
- Hennoste, Tiit, L. Keevallik and K. Pajusalu, eds. 1999. *Estonian Sociolinguistics* (= *International Journal of the Sociology of Language* 139).
- Hirsch, Francine. 2005. *Empire of Nations. Ethnographic Knowledge and the Making of the Soviet Union*. Ithaca and London: Cornell University Press.
- Jelavich, Charles. 1990. *South Slavic Nationalisms – Textbooks and Yugoslav Union before 1914*. Columbus: Ohio State University Press. [Not primarily about language, though language plays a critical role in national education, ideological inculcation and, by extension, state formation.]

- Kontra, Miklós, Robert Phillipson, Tove Skutnabb-Kangas, and Tibor Várady (eds.). 1999. *Language: A Right and a Resource. Approaching Linguistic Human Rights*. Budapest: Central European University Press. [Collection of articles by linguist-activists. Topics include international languages and human rights, legal aspects of language rights, Hungarian, Slovak, Baltic states, Romani.]
- Laitin, David D. 2002. Culture and National Identity: 'The East' and European Integration. *West European Politics* 25/2: 55–80.
- Lampe, John and Mark Mazower, eds. 2004. *Ideologies and National Identities*. Budapest, New York: Central European University Press.
- Language Issues = Transition. Events and Issues in the Former Soviet Union and East-Central and Southeastern Europe* 2/24 (November 29, 1996). Prague: Open Media Research Institute. [A number of articles give a good, if brief, overview of language politics in the region as of the mid-1990s.]
- Martin, Terry. 2001. *The Affirmative Action Empire. Nations and Nationalism in the Soviet Union, 1923–1939*. Ithaca and London: Cornell University Press.
- Nekvapil, Jiří and S. Cmejreková. 2003. *Languages and Language Communities in the Czech Republic* (= *International Journal of the Sociology of Language* 162)
- Radovanovic, Milorad and Randall A. Major, eds. 2001. *Serbian Sociolinguistics* (= *International Journal of the Sociology of Language* 151).
- Sayer, Derek. 1998. *The Coasts of Bohemia. A Czech History*. Princeton: Princeton University Press. [A well-reasoned and detailed cultural-studies approach with emphasis on art, language, and literature. This book nearly made the required-reading list for this course, except that its focus was not squarely enough on language issues.]
- Shneer, David. 2004. *Yiddish and the Creation of Soviet Jewish Culture, 1918–1930*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Slezkine, Yuri. 2004. *The Jewish Century*. Princeton and Oxford: Princeton University Press. [Discusses language in the broader context of national identity with the thesis that the West has become “Jewish” in the sense that the earmarks of modernity, notable in the trajectory of Russian Jews, are to be found throughout western society.]
- Smith, Michael G. 1998. *Language and Power in the Creation of the USSR 1917–1953*. Berlin/New York: Mouton de Gruyter. [Good treatment of the history of language policy in the formative years of the Soviet Union.]
- Todorova, Maria. 1997. *Imagining the Balkans*. Oxford: Oxford University Press. [A constructivist approach to the Balkans on the model of Said's *Orientalism*.]
- Topolinjska, Zuzanna, ed. 1998. *The Sociolinguistic Situation of the Macedonian Language* (= *International Journal of the Sociology of Language* 131).
- Videnov, Michail and Angel G. Angelov. 1999. *Sociolinguistics in Bulgaria* (= *International Journal of the Sociology of Language* 135).
- Wachtel, Andrew B. 1998. *Making a Nation, Breaking a Nation: Literature and Cultural Politics in Yugoslavia*. Stanford: Stanford University Press. [Literary and linguistic analysis of the rise and fall of the Yugoslav idea.]
- Wexler, P. 1974. *Purism and Language: A Study in Modern Belorussian and Ukrainian Nationalism (1840-1967)* (= *Language Science Monographs*, v. 11). Bloomington: Indiana University.

Wolff, Larry. 1994. *Inventing Eastern Europe. The Map of Civilization on the Mind of the Enlightenment*. Stanford: Stanford University Press. [Not primarily about language. Treats the Western reception of Eastern Europe and its construction and an exotic “other” in the eighteenth century. Well written.]

Handbooks

- Abondolo, Daniel. 1998. *The Uralic Languages*. London and New York: Routledge.
- Alekseev, M. E. et al., eds. 1999. *Jazyki mira: Kavkazskie jazyki*. Moscow: Indrik.
- Comrie, Bernard. 1981. *The Languages of the Soviet Union*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Comrie, Bernard and Greville G. Corbett, eds. 1993. *The Slavonic Languages*. London and New York: Routledge.
- Eliseev, Ju. S. et al., eds. 1993. *Jazyki mira: Ural'skie jazyki*. Moscow: Nauka.
- Johanson, Lars and Éva Ágnes Csató, eds. 1998. *The Turkic Languages*. London and New York: Routledge.
- Neroznak, V. P. 1995. *Gosudarstvennye jazyki v Rossijskoj federacii. Ėnciklopedičeskij slovar'-spravočnik*. Moscow: Academia.
- Ramat, Anna Giacalone and Paolo Ramat. 1998. *The Indo-European Languages*. London and New York: Routledge.
- Stankiewicz, Edward and Alexander Schenker. 1980. *The Slavic Literary Languages: Formation and Development* (= *Yale Russian and East European Publications*, 1). New Haven: Yale Concilium on International and Area Studies. [Useful collection of articles on the history of each of the Slavic standard languages.]
- Tenišev, Ė. R. et al., eds. 1997. *Jazyki mira: Tjurkskie jazyki*. Moscow: Indrik.
- Volodin, A. P. et al., eds. 1996. *Jazyki mira: Paleoaziatskie jazyki*. Moscow: Indrik.

Periodicals

- International Journal of the Sociology of Language*. Berlin: Mouton de Gruyter.
- Nationalities Papers*. Oxfordshire: Taylor and Francis. [Frequently publishes language-related articles concerning national and ethnic identity issues connected with Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union.]
- Spaces of Identity*. <http://www.spacesofidentity.net/> [“A multidisciplinary international web-journal dedicated to issues of tradition, cultural boundaries and identity formation in Central and Eastern Europe.”]