I. Course description and requirements:

This seminar (1) introduces students to feminist theory and gender studies via representative visual and verbal texts in a historical perspective; (2) examines the principles governing the construction of Russian womanhood during the last thirty-five years; (3) analyzes Russian women’s own cultural production (film, literature, art, etc.) during approximately the same period; (4) glances briefly at notions of masculinity and their relevance to recent Russian culture.

Course requirements: regular attendance; reading and viewing of all assigned materials by the specified dates; regular, intelligent participation in discussions (35% of grade); three 15-minute class presentations (15% of grade); weekly one-page commentaries (15% of grade); one 15-20-page paper, to be submitted by date specified (35% of grade). NOTE: no late work accepted. Students will be evaluated on the quality of their work in each of these categories.

Though students in the Slavic Dept. should read as many texts as possible in the original Russian, owing to the enrollment in the seminar of students outside Slavic, in class we shall be discussing texts translated into English.

II. Course Goals and Logistics:

This course is designed (1) to initiate graduate students into the mysteries of gender studies and feminism from both conceptual and historical perspectives; (2) to acquaint them with official and anomalous or subversive concepts of womanhood in Russia during the last thirty-five or so years as inscribed in political programs and pronouncements, diverse verbal and visual forms; and (3) to train them to respond, in scholarly mode, to Russian women's works in various cultural genres during approximately the same period.

Accordingly, the seminar entails (1) introductory readings in feminist and gender theory, as well as theories of masculinity, plus criticism; (2) verbal and visual texts (prose, film, art, ads, pornography) by contemporary Russian authors; and (3) Russian and Western reception of these texts.

III. Reading List:

Readings for the course comprise (1) English-language theoretical and critical studies; (2) xeroxes deposited in the Slavic Dept. (with Christine Metil as the Cerberus of texts) that will be treated as library material: i.e., they may be signed out for several hours (and xeroxed by whoever wishes to have her/his own copy).

Since our group is small, I have not placed any texts on reserve in Hillman Library, assuming that we can negotiate the sharing of volumes and the practical aspects of several people on one
The required readings are so wide-ranging that purchasing them through the Pitt bookstore would cost several hundred dollars, since many appear either in out-of-print publications or in "Selected/Collected Works." I therefore advise everyone to buy books that we shall be reading in their entirety on half.com or amazon.com. I am sure that all of us shall be willing to lend, pass on, etc. volumes to class members if the need arises. Anyone wishing to order Russian texts will find it most economical and efficient to do so through such Internet sites as www.petropol.com, www.russianbeat.com, www.russianthings.com, etc. We shall iron out questions of texts and their accessibility at the first class meeting.

Theory & criticism:

Moi, Toril. Sexual/Textual Politics (1985)
Sundry critical articles (see below, under Syllabus)

BUY THE THREE VOLUMES LISTED ABOVE

Primary texts:

FILM:

Men=shov, V. Moskva slezam ne verit [Moscow Doesn=t Believe in Tears] (1979)
Muratova, K. Korotkie vstrechi [Brief Encounters] (1967/87)
Sadilova, L. S dnem rozhdenia! [Happy Birthday!] (1998)
Shepit=ko, L. Kryli=ta [Wings] (1966)

PROSE:

Baranskaia, N. A Nedelia kak nedelia” [AA Week Like Any Other®] (xerox)
Greko, I. "Vdovii parokhod," [Ship of Widows] (Northwestern UP: BUY)
"Otdelenie propashchikh" [The Losers= Division®] (Lives in Transit)
Kabiriiia s Obvodnogo kanala [Cabiria from the Obvodny Canal] (xerox)
Petrushchevskiaia, L. "Svoi krug" [AOur Crowd®] (xerox)
Vremia noch=[The Time: Night] (xerox available, but worth buying)
Sadur, N. Pronikshie [Touched] (xerox)
Shcherbakova, G. A Tri >liubvi= Mashi Peredreevoi® [A The Three >Loves= of Masha Peredreeva®] (xerox)
Tokareva, V. A Pervaia popytka® [AA First Try® aka AA First Attempt®] (Lives in Transit)
Tolstaia, T.  Selected stories (xerox)
Ulitskaia, L.   "Izbrannyi narod" [AChosen People@] (Lives in Transit)
                      Sonechka (BUY)
                      A Gulia@ (Lives in Transit)
Vasilenko, S., ed. "Khrusha" [APiggy@] (in Shamara and Other Stories, Northwestern UP: BUY)
                      "Shamara" (Shamara and Other Stories)
                      Durochka [Little Fool] (Shamara and Other Stories)

Translations:

English translations of many relevant Russian texts have appeared in several collections or as
individual publications:

Gessen, M.  Half a Revolution (Cleis Press, 1995)
                      ______.  Lives in Transit (Ardis, 1995)*
Goscilo & B. Lindsey, eds.  Glasnost (Ardis, 1990)
                      Women=s View, No. 3 of GLAS; A Will and a Way, No. 13 of GLAS
Baranskaya, N.  A Week Like Any Other (Seal Press, 1989)
Greкова, I.  The Ship of Widows (Northwestern UP, 1994)*
Petrushevskaya, L.  Immortal Love (Virago, 1995)
                      ______.  The Time: Night (Pantheon, 1994; Northwestern UP 2001)
Tokareva, V.  The Talisman and Other Tales (Picador, 1993)
Tolstaya, T.  On the Golden Porch (Knopf, 1989); Sleepwalker in a Fog (Knopf, 1992)
Ulitskaya, L.  Sonechka (Northwestern UP)*
Vasilenko, S.  Shamara and Other Stories (Northwestern UP, 2000)*

Among critical works, the following brief list provides a useful start, but merely touches the
tip of the iceberg:  * Indicates works not focused specifically on things Russian.

                      ______.  Red Women on the Silver Screen (Pandora, 1993)
Baigell, Renee & Matthew Baigell.   Soviet Dissident Artists (Rutgers UP, 1995)
                      ______.  Peeling Potatoes, Painting Pictures: Women Artists in Post-Soviet Russia, Estonia, and
                      Latvia (Rutgers UP, 2001)
Butler, Judith.   Gender Trouble: Feminism and the Subversion of Identity (Routledge, 1990)*
                      ______.  Bodies that Matter: On the Discursive Limits of ASex@ (Routledge, 1993)*


de Plessix Gray, F. *Soviet Women Walking the Tightrope* (Doubleday, 1990)


Draine, Betsy. *Refusing the Wisdom of Solomon: Some Recent Feminist Literary Theory,* @ *Signs* 15.1 (Autumn 1989): 144-70*


Goscilo, Helena, ed. *Fruits of Her Plume* (M.E. Sharpe, 1993)


Heldt, B. *Terrible Perfection* (Indiana UP, 1987)

Hoisington, Sona. *A Plot of Her Own: The Female Protagonist in Russian Literature* (Northwestern UP, 1995)

Holland, Barbara, ed. *Soviet Sisterhood* (Indiana UP, 1985)


Hubbs, Joanna. *Mother Russia* (Indiana UP, 1988)

Irigaray, Luce. *This Sex Which Is Not One* (Cornell UP, 1985)*

Isaak, Jo Anna. *Reflections of Resistance: Women Artists on the Other Side of the Mir.* @ *In Jo Anna Isaak, Feminism and Contemporary Art* (Routledge, 1996)

Iskusstvo kino 5 (1997) Eissue devoted to gender


Penley, Constance, ed. *Feminism and Film Theory* (Routledge/BFI Pub., 1988)*

Perry, Gill. *Gender and Art* (Yale UP, 1999)*


Rich, Adrienne. *Of Woman Born: Motherhood as Experience and Institution* (W.W. Norton & Co., 19861995)*


Richard, A. *The Antifeminist Woman,* @ *Motherhood in Bondage,* @ *Motherhood: The Contemporary Emergency and the Quantum Leap.* @ *In On Lies, Secrets, and Silence: Selected Prose 1966-
Syllabus:

HISTORY AND THEORY
T. Moi, Sexual/Textual Politics
Judith Butler (xerox)

Sept. 7 Critical tendencies: Archeological documentation vs feminist theory
Moi (cont.)
Betsy Draine, The Wisdom of Solomon (xerox)
H. Cixous, Sorties, The Newly Born Woman: 63-134

Sept. 14 Agency; Private vs public/Double burden
Video: Samuel Rachlin, Women in Russia (1986) (60 mins.)
N. Baranskaia, AA Week Like Any Other (1969) (xerox)
Thomas Lahusen, Leaving Paradise and Perestroika, Fruits of Her Plume: 205-224
Larisa Shepitko, Wings (1966)
Maya Turovskaya, Woman and the Woman Question in the USSR, etc., in L. Attwood, Red Women on the Silver Screen: 133-48 (xerox)
Dodona Kiziria, Death of the Heroine, in Indiana Slavic Studies 5 (1990): 131-43 (xerox)

Sept. 21 Kira Muratova, Brief Encounters (1968/1988) video in Hillman

Sept. 28 Maternity (Nationhood, Nurture, and Madness):
Goscilo, Dehexing Sex: 31-55

Oct. 5 Maternity (cont.):
Goscilo, Mother as Mothra: Totalizing Narrative and Nurture in Petrushevskaiia, in Hoisington, A Plot of Her Own: 102-113, 157-61 (xerox)
Oct. 12  Maternity (cont.):
S. Vasilenko, "Piggy" (xerox)

Oct. 19  The Body: Sexuality, Pregnancy, Abortion, Sickness, Prostitution
L. Ulitskaia, "Gulia," *Lives in Transit*
S. Vasilenko, "Shamara," *Shamara and Other Stories*
M. Palei, "The Losers= Division," *Lives in Transit*
V. Tokareva, "First Try," *Lives in Transit*
Goscilo, Introduction to Svetlana Vasilenko, *Shamara and Other Stories: xi-xxii; Dehexing Sex*: 87-116; *Skirted Issues*

Oct. 26  The Body (cont.)
*Prostitutki* (documentary video)
G. Shcherbakova, "The Three >Loves= of Masha Peredreeva" (xerox)
M. Palei, "Cabiria from the Obvodny canal," (1991) (xerox)
L. Ulitskaia, "The Chosen People," *Lives in Transit*
Goscilo, *Dehexing Sex*: 117-34

Nov. 2  RESCHEDULE: AAASS in Salt Lake City
Woman and Hysteria/Insight/Prophecy/Madness:

Nov. 9  Woman as Witch, Seducress, Muse, Visual Pleasure
N. Sadur, Selections from *Touched* (xerox)
T. Tolstaia, "Fire and Dust," *Sonia,* *The Okkerville River* (xerox)
L. Ulitskaia, *Sonechka*
M. Palei, "Rendezvous," *Lives in Transit*
John Berger, Chapter 3 of *Ways of Seeing* (xerox)
L. Mulvey, "Visual Pleasure and Narrative Cinema" (1975) (xerox)
Mary Ann Doane, *Film and the Masquerade: Theorising the Female Spectator*, @ *Screen* 23, 3. & 4. (1982) 74-87 (xerox)

Nov. 16
Masculinities
Selections from A. Easthope, R.W. Connell (xerox)
T. Tolstaia, *Peters* @ (xerox)

Nov. 23
RESSCHEDULE? THANKSGIVING BREAK
The Cinderella model: romance, fairy tale
A. Men’šov, *Moscow Doesn’t Believe in Tears* (1979)
T. Tolstaya, *Hunting the Wooly Mammoth*, @ *Poet and the Muse*, @ *Fakir*, @ *Rendezvous/Date with a Bird* @ (xerox)

Nov. 30
Women’s art
*IdiomA/Heresies*
Alison Hilton, *Feminism and Gender Values in Soviet Art*, @ *Gender Restructuring in Russian Studies* 99-116 (xerox)
Jo Anna Isaak, *Reflections of Resistance* @: 77-138 (xerox)
R. & M. Baigell, *Peeling Potatoes, Painting Pictures* (passim)
Helena Goscilo, *Canvassing Gender* @ (xerox)

Dec. 7
Women’s magazines: *Krest’ianka, Rabotnitsa*, post-Soviet glossies

Women in advertising:
American and Russian ads

Pornography
Russian & Anglophone samples
Helena Goscilo, *Dehexing Sex*: 135-70
Dec. 14  Queerness (texts to be decided, probably from Butler, Fuss, Tuller, plus a film)
Dec. 16  LONG PAPER DUE