

East European Literature and Culture

CMLT 4400/6400 – Spring 2007

Dr. Katarzyna Jerzak – office hours: Tu. 9:30 – 10:45 and by appointment; 235 Brown Hall.

This course will take you to the Other Europe: not what we customarily mean when we say “Europe”, that is France, Germany, Italy, maybe England, but rather its less known eastern edge: countries such as Finland, Poland, Ukraine, Russia, and Hungary; cities of Prague, Drohobycz, Lvov, and Istanbul; languages that are recognizably Slavic or recognizably non-Indo-European. We will cover a great deal of geographical and cultural distance and read works of both poetry and prose that will show you the specificity of that part of the world as well as the aspects that make it universal. At the end of the course you should be changed by what you have read and seen, having gained an external perspective on the most vital and perplexing issues of the human experience: the relationship to others, memory, love, death, war, and art itself.

Jan. 9, Tu. Introduction

Jan. 11, Th. Martin Buber, *I and Thou* (Prologue by Walter Kaufmann and First Part)

Jan. 16, Tu. Martin Buber, *I and Thou* (Second Part)

Jan. 18, Th. Martin Buber, *I and Thou* (Third Part and Afterword)

Jan. 23, Tu. Franz Kafka, *The Zurau Aphorisms*

Jan. 25, Th. Franz Kafka, *The Zurau Aphorisms*

Jan. 30, Tu. Franz Kafka, *The Zurau Aphorisms*

Feb. 1, Th. Franz Kafka, *The Zurau Aphorisms*

Feb. 6, Tu. Bruno Schulz, *The Street of Crocodiles*

Feb. 8, Th. Bruno Schulz, *The Street of Crocodiles*

Feb. 13 Tu. Sandor Marai, *Embers*

Feb. 15, Th. Sandor Marai, *Embers*

Feb. 20, Tu. Zbigniew Herbert, *Selected Poems*

Feb. 22, Th. Zbigniew Herbert, *Selected Poems*

Feb. 23, Friday MIDTERM PAPER DUE BY 5 pm

Feb. 27, Tu. Imre Kertesz, *Fateless*

March 1, Th. Imre Kertesz, *Fateless*

March 6, Tu. Andrei Tarkovsky, *Nostalghia* (discussion -- film will be screened outside of class)

March 8, Th. Andrei Tarkovsky, *Nostalghia*

March 12-16 SPRING BREAK

March 20, Tu. Henryk Grynberg, *Drohobycz, Drohobycz*

March 22, Th. Henryk Grynberg, *Drohobycz, Drohobycz*

March 27, Tu. Henryk Grynberg, *Drohobycz, Drohobycz*

March 29, Henryk Grynberg/Pawel Lozinski: "Birthplace" (documentary shown in class plus two essays in handout: "Duty," "We, the Jews of Dobre")

April 3, Tu. NO CLASS – PASSOVER

April 5, Th. Wislawa Szymborska, *Poems New and Collected*

April 10, Tu. Wislawa Szymborska, *Poems New and Collected*

April 12, Th. Orhan Pamuk, *Istanbul: Memories and the City*

April 17, Tu. Orhan Pamuk, *Istanbul: Memories and the City*

April 19, Th. Tove Jansson *Summer Book*

April 24 Tu. Tove Jansson *Summer Book*

April 26, Th. Conclusion

Requirements: Frequent participation in discussions. Reasonable attendance (students who miss 5 or more classes will not get credit for the course). One short (2 pages) midterm paper. One oral presentation (10 minutes). Comparative final paper (7 pages). No plagiarism, please.