Office Information:
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MWF 9:45-10:05; Th 10:00-12:00; by appt.

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Tu 12:00-12:50; by appt

Course Description:
This course explores the role of Russian women in the world by carefully examining the significance of their contributions. Diverse perspectives are explored (Russian and Russian National). Students examine and analyze texts written by and about women struggling with questions regarding patriarchal and male-based society. The fact that these women have remained hidden from Russia and the world at large will also be addressed, using feminist methodologies. This course provides students with the opportunity to pursue their own questions in dialogue.

Course Goals:
The primary goal of the Frontiers seminar program is to immerse first-semester students in the pleasures and demands of a liberal arts education during the first semester at Goucher College. The foremost grade is that students learn the material and see the enjoyment that can be had from learning about a topic in a fun, exciting way that utilizes multimedia and platforms. More specifically, Frontiers seminars are designed to teach students to recognize, define, describe, and engage in:

1. **Deep, focused, and analytic thinking**: thorough, sustained investigation of and reflection upon an individual idea, text, object, or experience in all its complexity;

2. **Broad, connective, synthetic thinking**: recognizing and developing relationships between and among disparate ideas, texts, objects, and/or experiences;

3. **Effective communication** of ideas, beliefs, observations, and/or analysis resulting from such focused and connective thinking.

Learning Outcomes:
Students who successfully complete this course will be able to:

- Explore a variety of assignments and analyze them for accuracy and bias
- Respond thoughtfully to assignments, offering opinions based on the research
- Learn how to research through interaction with a non-first-year mentor
- Produce a short biographical paper with his/her mentor that will explore a woman with an impact on Russian history, and provide the exercises to go with that biography that will eventually be published as a book

Assignments:
This is a very different course, in that the grading system has been “flipped”. Instead of the student focusing on what s/he have not learned, the idea is for the student to focus on what s/he has learned. Therefore, grades will be given as strictly as “+” numbers. If a student would
traditionally be given an 8/10, this number will now appear as a “+8”. In addition, students can earn more than an assignment is worth, as well as earning points for making an extra effort beyond the assignment (see below). Mentorees are expected to meet with mentors for an hour a week.

Your Grade:
Your grade will be a series of scores earned on homework, tests, quizzes, and projects. You can see the score that you will need to achieve by a certain date at the beginning of that 3-4 week time period. You may see where you are in relation to where you need to be by looking at the score you have versus the final number you need. Grades are based on straight percentages.

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<th>OVERALL</th>
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<th>B-</th>
<th>C-</th>
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As typical in a class, assignments carry a certain average completion grade. You can earn more than 100% of the grade by being exemplary and showing me real effort. You may also earn up to 40 points a semester by setting up an appointment with me and discussing your progress. You can earn up to 100 points after each test by evaluating how you are doing in the class and coming up with a plan to improve, then following your plan and reporting in on the results. You can earn up to 15 points back on a test by correcting the test and explaining your mistakes. You can also earn points by correcting batches of homework.

No work given before the midterm will be able to be made up even for partial credit after the midterm; No work given after the midterm will be able to be made up even for partial credit after the last class day- even with administrative intercession.

Homework:
Homework is deemed essential to the functioning of this class, as the first half hour will be a discussion concept. It is not necessarily about always “getting the right answer”, but more about thinking and learning from the material and our perceptions of it as a group. Here are the guidelines for homework:

- Homework is expected to be complete. Students must turn in typed answers to the Guide Questions. However, part of the grade on the Guide Questions will be the participation in the discussion the following day. Students may earn points as a combination on the written portion and/or on the oral classroom portion. So, if a student does not like to participate, s/he should focus more on the written homework portion. On the other hand, if the student excels at oral discussion, s/he should still turn in a written answer, but should be mindful of being in the classroom and making sure that s/he is heard in the classroom.
- Written assignments cannot be turned in late. Once the deadline on the written portion has passed (8:30 the day of class), the student may only gain points through answering the guide question in class.
• If a student is absent, s/he should focus on the written portion of the assignment. Since the assignment is not due until class, the student will know whether s/he is not feeling well or needs to miss class, and should focus solely on the written portion.

Attendance: Judgment of legitimate absence is made at the instructor’s discretion. Punctual attendance at all scheduled classes is required. You may bring a drink to class, but **food and gum are strictly forbidden** (standing in line to purchase items is not an excuse for lateness). **Cell phones must be turned to vibrate** during class (do not answer/text unless granted permission). Contact by e-mail before the day ends is requested when absent. In the event class is cancelled, assignments will appear in MyGoucher.
  - You will add points to your grade for each day that you are on time.
  - A total of 7 absences (excused or unexcused) will result in an automatic grade of F.

Research:
Students will join with a non-first-year mentor to conduct research on a topic, to be determined mainly by interest, but also by common personal interest. Each first-year student will be assigned to an upperclassman, who will serve as mentor for the class. Mentors are expected to meet outside of class with their mentoree(s) and lead cooperative research. Mentorees are expected to act as junior researchers, asking questions and contributing their own material to the project.

The instructions and rubric for the research project follow the syllabus plan. STAY ON TOP OF THE DATES. You may always hand a project in early, but not late. All projects will be graded on the day due, for return the next class day. All submissions are electronic.

**Missing Class** - You are expected in class every day on time- do not schedule break transport early.
Make-up tests/exams will be allowed only in extraordinary circumstances (death in the family, serious illness). You will be provided with a roster (phone and e-mails as each student permits). If you are absent, I suggest that you contact a reliable student for details about the class, as the plan for the day might have changed based on student needs. You may certainly contact me for clarification, but depending on the time that you initiate contact, I may not be able to respond in time for the required assignments to be completed. You are responsible for all assignments that were due that day, as well as for the following day (including homework, quizzes, and tests), so it is important to find out what you missed in class.

**Honor Code:**
The MLL department and the Academic Honor Board take plagiarism and other forms of cheating very seriously; ignorance is no excuse. All students are bound by the standards of their institution’s Academic Honor Code: [www.goucher.edu/documents/General/AcademicHonorCode.pdf](http://www.goucher.edu/documents/General/AcademicHonorCode.pdf) or [http://www.jhu.edu/~ethics/](http://www.jhu.edu/~ethics/)

**Student Assignments:**
Learning requires daily practice. You should be prepared to spend 1 ½ - 2 hours outside of class for every hour in class. This four-hour class represents a total commitment of **9 hours per week**.

**Additional Help:** If you find you need additional help completing the assigned work for this course, do take advantage of my office hours or make an appointment at a mutually-convenient time. When you come in, be sure to bring your text, workbook, notes, class notes, recent tests or quizzes, and/or any other material about which you might have questions. Office hours are NOT for completing your homework in my presence – you must have attempted it first. In addition,
please take advantage of ACE and its tutors, as well as the Supplemental Instructor sessions and Russian Table. This is the only extra credit available.

Classroom Etiquette:
1) I may be addressed as “Professor Czeczulina”, “Professor”, or “Annalisa Josefovna”. Russian etiquette demands respect, so this strict etiquette and use of «вы» will be enforced in and out of class, and especially on orals/tests.
2) If you wish to contact me, please e mail me at both e mail addresses. You should address the e mail respectfully to “Professor” or “Annalisa Josefovna”. It is also nice to open any requests with “I was wondering if you could” as opposed to “I need” or “Hey”. Response time is 24-48 hours – leave enough time!
3) If you need a recommendation, drop off all necessary forms or e mail links to the forms that you have already filled out (fill in your information and waive/do not waive the right to see the recommendation), an addressed and stamped envelope, and the deadlines two weeks prior. A short summary of your activities, academics, GPA, and interests, as well as a statement about the scholarship or opportunity you are applying for gives you the best chance for a thorough recommendation. I will try to do emergency requests. 
4) I do not accept phone calls at home/by cell. You may contact the faculty secretary (410-337-6230/6250 or VanMeterFacultySecretaries@goucher.edu or 410-516-4520 or cledu@jhu.edu and ask for your number to be left for me, but please do not call me yourself unless it is an extreme emergency. E MAIL is BEST CONTACT.

Syllabus: The syllabus plan follows, but is subject to change. I will make any corrections and post the new syllabus by date in place of the old should changes be made. The content of each class is designated under “C”; Homework is due the next class day by class start, and is designated “H”. Homework will be returned by the following class day’s start. Late homework is not accepted, but may be turned in for consideration and comments. GQ’s are guide questions, which should be turned in on GoucherLearn to the appropriate drop box. Any assignment not turned in on time must be e mailed to the professor by the start of the next class, but is not guaranteed for return the following day.
Syllabus

SEPTEMBER - СЕНТОЯБРЬ

**Woman to Goddess**

September 1, Tuesday
C: Syllabus and Expectations. [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=27wu2kflZfi](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=27wu2kflZfi), [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oaY6x7W9Kfk](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oaY6x7W9Kfk). Attitudes towards women in Russia and the US - Discussion.
H: Read “The Prettier Sex”, “Russian Women”, and “Women in Russia”. **GQ:** Which attitude toward women do you think is more accurate?

September 3, Thursday
C: Early women – toys, mermaids, and goddesses
H: Construct a set of study notes on the lecture. **Look over the women and their descriptions and submit your interest.**

**Women in Folklore**

September 8, Tuesday
C: Characteristics of women and men. Vasilisa – Woman to Man; Film Clips.
H: Compile the features of Vasilisa from the films that seem male and those that seem female.

September 10, Thursday
C: Baba Yaga – friendly foe or witchy helper. Koschey (the Deathless?).
H: **GQ:** How are Baba Yaga and Koschey the Deathless two sides of the same coin? How do they show the two possibilities of not only the two genders (male and female), but also potentially of the same female? **Fill out the student interest sheet.**

**Women in Religion**

September 15, Tuesday
C: Pagan to Christianity: Princess Olga; Film Clip
H: **GQ:** What are the characteristics of a paternalistic society? What are the typical gender roles? Does Princess Olga break these roles, or stay true to type?

September 17, Thursday
C: Alena Arzamasskaia: Russian Jeanne d’Arc
H: **GQ:** Research Jeanne d’Arc and explain how Arzamasskaia is identified with her.

September 22, Tuesday
C: Mother Maria Skobtsova: Canonized saint and French Resistance
H: **GQ:** Is it a paradox that a canonized saint is also a “war hero”? **Women in Politics:**

September 24, Thursday
C: Elena Glinskaya, Grand Princess Consort of Moscow; Regent of Moscow, 1533-38.
H: **GQ:** Research the Russian system of ruling in this period: is it odd that a woman held power?

**Test I.**
September 29, Tuesday
C: **Test I due.**
H: Assign groups.

**OCTOBER - ОКТЯБРЬ**

October 1, Thursday
Religion to Politics: Catherine (I) the Great, Empress of Russia
**GQ:** Research and compare Catherine I’s style of rule to that of Elizabeth I of England.

October 6, Tuesday
C: Ekaterina Dashkova: The Ultimate Sidekick?
H: **GQ:** Comment on the different facets of Dashkova: is she the victim of sexist prejudice, or does she have a deserved reputation?

October 8, Thursday
C: Anna Ioannovna, 1730-1740, Sofia Alexeevna 1682-1689
H: **GQ:** Describe the changes about to hit Russia with Peter the Great (I): how do these affect women?

October 13, Tuesday
C: Valentina Matviyenko, Governor of Saint Petersburg, Irina Khakamada, Miss Popularity of Russian politics
H: **GQ:** Comment on current women in the Russian government: percentages? power? Prepare for **Midterm.**

October 15, Thursday
C: **Midterm.**
H: Submit research proposal.

**Literature:**

October 20, Tuesday
C: Anna Akhmatova: the Poet and the Prophet; Marina Tsvetaeva: Original 20th c Poet
H: **GQ:** Select and analyze a poem: what does it say from a woman’s perspective?

October 22, Thursday
C: Sof'ya Tolstaya, Miss Legibility
H: **GQ:** Comment on Tolstaya’s family situation: was she lucky or unlucky in love?

**Ballet:**

October 27, Tuesday
C: Anna Pavlova, Ekaterina Maximova, Maya Plisetskaya
H: **GQ:** View a dance performance of one of these ballerinas and comment upon it.

**Art**

October 29, Thursday
C: Zinaida Serebryakova, Elisaveta Bem and the postcard, Vera Mukhina and sculpture.
H: Prepare a study guide for **Test II** and prepare.
November 3, Tuesday
C: Test II.
H: GQ: How did female artists impact Russian culture and history?

Music

November 5, Thursday
C: Zemfira, Alla Pugacheva, TATU, Pussy Riot
H: GQ: Describe the changes in the Russian music scene as expressions of feminist power.

November 10, Tuesday
C: Vera Kholodnaya, Lyubov Orlova, Renata Litvinova
H: GQ: Watch an opera piece by one of these women and comment.

Sports and Space

November 12, Thursday
C: Olga Korbut, Nadia Comeneci, Maria Sharapova, Anna Kournikova
H: GQ: Compare the past and present pressures on the Russian sportswoman.

November 17, Tuesday
C: Valentina Tereshkova – space pioneer. Select class choice for Thursday.
H: Look at the Russian space program over the years: what pressures did Tereshkova face?

November 19, Thursday
C: Class Choice.
H: GQ: Pose and answer a question that you find interesting.

November 25-27, Wednesday-Friday – No Classes – Thanksgiving Break

DECEMBER – ДЕКАБРЬ

December 1, Tuesday
C: Valentina Tereshkova, Svetlana Savitskaya, and Elena Kondakova
H: RESEARCH REPORTS DUE. Get ready to present reports.

December 3, Thursday
C: RESEARCH REPORTS,
H: Prepare reports.

December 8, Tuesday
C: RESEARCH REPORTS,
H: Prepare comments.

December 10, Thursday
C: Review for FINAL,
H: TAKE HOME FINAL.

TAKE HOME FINAL EXAM – Due December 17 at 8:30 AM Electronic Upload
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