# Postcommunist Fiction

| SUBJECT: | SLAV / CWL / REES 477 | DATE: | Spring, Thurs. 12:30-2:20 |
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**Prof Cooper**
3 cr. (ugrad) CRN: 52331 ; 4 cr. (grad) CRN: 52332



Students will read a number of novels published after 1989 in formerly communist countries. Through background readings and discussion of the novels, they will learn about the social and economic changes that were occurring in these societies in the "transition" to democratic forms of government and capitalist economies. More centrally, students will learn how some of the most critically acclaimed writers of this period have chosen to represent this period in fiction. Students will be able to discuss recurrent themes in this multinational literature (such as paranoia, carnival, dislocation, corporeal experience, crime and mafia, nostalgia) and the varied literary techniques employed (palimpsest texts, unreliable narrators, misdirection and mystification, use of popular genres, metanarrative). Students will gain understanding of theories of postmodernism and engage with debates on their relevance for these literatures.

Jergović: *Sarajevo Marlboro;* Topol: *City, Sister, Silver;* Andrukhovych: *Perversion;* Gospodinov: *Natural Novel;* Tokarczuk: *House of Day, House of Night;* Stiazhkina: Cecil the Lion Had to Die

