Please include this form with the completed proposal. You may either send your proposal electronically as an email
attachment to seminars@fas.harvard.edu or as hard copy to:

  Freshman Seminars Program, 6 Prescott Street, Cambridge, MA 02138

The Faculty of the Committee on Freshman Seminars meets occasionally during the fall and regularly through the
spring. All proposals will be reviewed by the Committee as soon as possible after they have been received.

Instructor’s Name:  Stephanie Sandler

Title and Harvard Affiliation:  Professor of Slavic Languages and Literatures

Email:  Phone #:  Fax #:  

Mailing Address:  Dept of Slavic Languages and Literatures
                    Barker Center

Title of the Seminar:  Fear Itself

State the semester and year in which you would prefer to hold the seminar:  Fall 2009

Please attach to this cover sheet:

1) a 350-500 word course description

2) a draft syllabus outlining the structure, readings, and assignments of the course
   or, alternatively, a list of topics, required readings, and course assignments.

3) a list of projected course expenses (e.g., guest speakers, theater tickets, etc.);
   please list as well any course-related trips. A field trip proposal form must be submitted for any
   off-campus outing, once your seminar proposal has been approved

4) a C.V., if you are a lecturer in the Faculty of Arts and Sciences
Fear makes us who we are, some would say: it motivates many of our actions (and reactions) and we can generate fear in others to our own ends. Freud defined it as a key element in gendered identity formation, specifically a boy's fear of castration, a girl's terror at lack. Later theories have agreed that worries about exposure, ridicule, and confession shape the sexual self. Our course will begin by exploring the psychological origins and effects of fear, and we will try to differentiate among its different forms, comparing anxiety, obsession, dread, trauma, and phobia. Later in the term, we will concentrate on more public forms of fear, including the effects of war and terror. Course material includes theory (Freud, Warner, Winnicott, Taussig, Phillips, Ziek), fiction (P. D. James, Kenzaburo Oe, Toni Morrison, Lydia Chukovskaia), memoir (Jamaica Kincaid, Lidiya Ginzburg), poetry (Thom Gunn, Rita Dove, Elena Shvarts, Elizabeth Macklin, Jorie Graham) and film (Clint Eastwood, Andrei Tarkovsky, Todd Haynes, Tenghiz Abuladze, Roman Polanski, and Alfred Hitchcock). We will ask what cultural and psychological work fear performs. What thrills are required for liberation from social taboos? How do adults contain and repeat the fears that ruled childhood? How are children used in narratives about adult fears? And, fundamentally, what aesthetic responses are adequate to the felt experiences of anxiety, terror, and trauma? Our focus will be culturally broad and largely psychological, rather than narrowly tailored to current events in the US, but there will be occasions for us to consider the changing discourse about terror as it has emerged since September 11, 2001.

*Our class meets weekly for a two and one-half hour session in Barker 373. Classes are discussion-oriented, and class participation is essential.

*Film showings are on Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m., (add location), and all films are also on reserve in Lamont for viewing at other times

*Books are available for purchase at the Coop:
  - Elizabeth Macklin, *A Woman Kneeling in the Big City*
  - P. D. James, *A Certain Justice*
  - Adam Phillips, *Terrors and Experts*
  - Toni Morrison, *Jazz*
  - Lidiya Ginzburg, *Blockade Diary*
  - Rita Dove, *Mother Love*
  - Lydia Chukovskaia, *Sofia Petrovna*
  - Kenzaburo Oe, *A Quiet Life*
  - Thom Gunn, *The Man With Night Sweats*
  - Jamaica Kincaid, *My Brother*
  - Jorie Graham, *The Dream of the Unified Field*
  - Slavoj Zizek, *Welcome to the Desert of the Real*

*Readings marked R are available on reserve in Lamont. You may wish to make a copy of these readings for yourself. There is no course pack for sale. All other assignments are in the books for sale at the Coop; these books, too, are available on reserve.

*Some classes will begin with a short in-class writing exercise on the week’s reading; other writing assignments will include occasional short papers or notes which may be “handed in” via e-mail.

*A longish (10-15 pp.) seminar paper is due at the end of the term. You will define your own topic, in consultation with me.*
Thursday, 9/25

1  **Introduction: Where Does Fear Come From?**

  Wilhelm Grimm, *Dear Mili* (1816; illustrated by Maurice Sendak, 1988) R
The Brothers Grimm, “A Tale of a Boy Who Set Out to Learn Fear” in *One Hundred Favorite Folk Tales*, ed. Stith Thompson, pp. 48-55 R


film: Alfred Hitchcock, *Marnie* (1964)
   Film showing on Tuesday, 9/23/03, 7:00 p.m.

Thursday, 10/2

2  **Childhood Injuries**

  Elena Shvarts, “Kindergarten Thirty Years On” (1987) in Shvarts, ‘*Paradise*’ R


   Film showing on Tuesday, 9/30/03, 7:00 p.m.

Thursday, 10/9

3  **Fear and Justice**


film: Fritz Lang, *M* (1931)
   Film showing on Tuesday, 10/7/03, 7:00 p.m.

Thursday, 10/16

4  **Fear of Loss: Fear for the Other (Self-Loss)**


   Film showing on Tuesday, 10/14/03, 7:00 p.m.
Thursday, 10/23
5 Illness and Self-Knowledge I: Sexual Terror

Thom Gunn, The Man with Night Sweats (1992)

Film showing on Tuesday, 10/21/03, 7:00 p.m.

Thursday, 10/30
6 Illness and Self-Knowledge II: Fear of the Face of the Other

Jamaica Kincaid, My Brother (1997)

film: Ingmar Bergman, Persona (1966)
Film showing on Tuesday, 10/28/03, 7:00 p.m.

Thursday, 11/6
8 The Other Woman: Fear and the Big City

Toni Morrison, Jazz (1992)

Thursday, 11/13
9 Fear in Public: War and Terror

Lidiya Ginzburg, Blockade Diary (1989)

Film showing on Tuesday, 11/11/03, 7:00 p.m.

Thursday, 11/20
10 Fear in Public: Political Terror

Rita Dove, “Parsley” (1983) in Dove, Selected Poems, pp. 133-135
Lydia Chukovskaia, Sofia Petrovna (1936)
Recommended: Anna Akhmatova, “Requiem” (1936-1940), in Akhmatova, Complete Poems, pp. 384-394

film: Tengiz Abuladze, Repentance (1987)  
Film showing on Tuesday, 11/18/03, 7:00 p.m.

THANKSGIVING BREAK

Thursday, 12/4
11 The Quest for Other Worlds, Other Lives

Kenzaburo Oe, A Quiet Life (1990)

film: Andrei Tarkovsky, Stalker (1979)  
Film showing Tuesday, 12/2/03, 7:00 p.m.

Thursday, 12/11
12 Trauma and Terror

Jorie Graham, “Fission,” “From the New World,” and “The Phase After History” (1991)


Reserve List

(I’ve checked HOLLIS for holdings, and find a listing for every book title but one; if the item is held in a location that can’t let it easily be put onto reserve in Lamont (if it’s in Hilles, for example), please order a copy for Lamont.
Many of the films aren’t held at all, and should be ordered – I’ve got notes next to each title to show what I’ve found so far.

Wilhelm Grimm, Dear Mili (1988), illustrated by Maurice Sendak
One Hundred Favorite Folk Tales, ed. Stith Thompson (1968, 1974)
Jorie Graham, Never (2002)
Elena Shvarts, ‘Paradise’ tr. Michael Molnar. – this one will need to be ordered, London: Bloodaxe Press, 1993. – distributed formerly in the US by Dufour
Toni Morrison, *Jazz* (1992)
Kenzaburo Oe, *A Quiet Life* (1990)
*Sofia Petrovna* (1994)

**Films** – please order DVD whenever possible, otherwise VHS video
Alfred Hitchcock, *Marnie* (1964) – *not owned in any format*
Clint Eastwood, *A Perfect World* (1994) – *not owned in any format*
Fritz Lang, *M* (1931) *DVD in Hilles only, video in Lamont, please put DVD on reserve – the video of this movie is based on a terrible and impossible to watch print, Lamont should probably replace it, but as long as the DVD gets onto reserve for me one way or another, I’ll be happy*
Alfred Hitchcock, *Psycho* (1960) – *in video at Hilles only, need DVD*
Todd Haynes, *Far From Heaven* (2002) – *not owned in any format*
Ingmar Bergman, *Persona* (1966) – *video disc in Lamont, is this the same as DVD or is this a laser disk, an older format that is mostly not in use?*
Roman Polanski, *The Pianist* (2002) – *not owned in any format*
Tengiz Abuladze, *Repentance* (1987) – *video in Slavic collection, Widener: is this with subtitles? If not, needs to be ordered*
Andrei Tarkovsky, *Stalker* (1979) – *video owned, but order the excellent DVD released in 2000*

These films are not scheduled for screening, but they also need to be on reserve in Lamont, as we’ll refer to them and they will be recommended for viewing:

Alfred Hitchcock, *Vertigo* (1958) – *DVD is available, well worth the purchase*
Andrei Tarkovsky, *My Name is Ivan* (1963) – *it may only exist in video, but try for DVD*
Brian de Palma, *Carrie* (1976) – *not owned in any format*
Marleen Gorris, *Mrs. Dalloway* (1997) – *in Hilles on video*