

University of Pittsburgh
Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures

Russian 0430: Readings in Russian Literature
Spring Semester 2010
Tuesdays and Thursdays, 11:00 – 12:15
CL 137

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Office Hours: Mondays 11:00—12:00; Tuesdays 1:00—2:00; Wednesdays 12:00—1:00;
and by appointment

I. REQUIRED TEXT:

Rosengrant, Sandra F. and Elena D. Lifschitz, eds. *The Golden Age: Readings in Russian Literature of the Nineteenth Century*. NY: John Wiley & Sons, 1996.

II. READING ASSIGNMENTS:

All reading assignments must be completed prior to the date indicated in the Provisional Schedule of Assignments. Until the instructor can gauge the language skills of students enrolled in the course, the Schedule of Assignments is designated “Provisional.” Should the amount of reading per session prove insufficient, the Schedule will be revised, and additional stories will be assigned and distributed,

Students are responsible not only for the physical act of reading the words contained in the assigned texts, memorizing new vocabulary, and identifying new grammatical constructions. They are also obligated to reflect on and summarize the parts of the text assigned for the next meeting of the class, as well as to be able to discuss the ideas (and events) the words signify. Students who have not prepared the assigned readings for the class meeting receive an automatic grade of “F” for that day’s meeting.

III. ATTENDANCE:

Students are expected to attend all 29 scheduled meetings of the class beginning on Thursday 7 January 2010. Attendance will be taken at each class meeting and students will receive a grade each meeting for participation in the discussions. Excused absence due to illness—personal or in the family—must be documented and absent students are responsible for acquiring relevant class notes. All unexcused absences will receive an automatic grade of “UA” for that session. Five such “UA” grades (that is, more than two weeks of classes) will result in an “F” for the course.

IV. COURSE METHODOLOGY:

The course will consist principally of discussions and dialogues in Russian between students and the instructor. Each meeting of the class will begin with students raising questions about problems they encountered in the assigned reading text for that meeting (whether grammatical or in content). Students are encouraged to meet with the instructor during scheduled office hours (or by appointment) to discuss their daily participation grades and work in the course (reading, participation, and homework). There will be written assignments throughout the semester. These assignments will be brief (one to two paragraphs) and will focus on the specific author and portion of the text that is to be examined in class.

V. QUIZZES:

There will be five unannounced quizzes during the semester. Each quiz will last a maximum of 15 minutes. Quizzes will consist of some of the following: vocabulary, identification, narrative developments and/or summary, and interpretative commentary. Students who are absent on the day of a quiz receive no grade on the quiz. No quiz will be re-scheduled and no make-up quizzes are permitted.

VI. EXAMINATIONS:

There will be three in-class examinations during the semester, the dates for which are indicated in the Provisional Schedule of Assignments at the end of this syllabus. No make-up examinations will be administered unless students can provide proof of medical incapacitation. The examinations will cover only the materials discussed in class (and supplemented by assignments) for the scheduled period. There will not be a cumulative final examination. Instead, students will be evaluated on the basis of the on-going consistency of their work and participation. Each examination will consist of a series of identifications (names, years, titles, events, etc.) and two essay-answers (out of four assigned topic-questions). All questions on the examinations will be in Russian and all examination answers must be written in Russian in the booklets provided by the instructor. Answers must be written on alternate lines and must be legible.

VII. PRESENTATIONS:

Each student will have to introduce one of the authors to the other members of the class. The presentations cannot be written out in advance and will last no longer than 15 minutes. Presentations cannot be limited to the information contained in the introduction of the author in the textbook. Grades will be awarded on the basis of content and grammar

VIII. EVALUATION:

Students will be evaluated on the basis of their participation in class discussion and analysis, the five quizzes, the written homework assignments, the presentation, and the three in-class examinations. Students are encouraged to consult with the instructor during office hours concerning their work in the course. Grades will be calculated using the following formula: participation (20%), written homework (10%), quizzes (15%), presentation (10%), and three examinations (45%—that is, 15% each).

IX. PROVISIONAL SCHEDULE OF ASSIGNMENTS:

week 1:

Thursday, 7 January: Distribution of syllabus; student introductions (brief biography, interests, reading preferences, why studying Russian, etc.)

week 2:

Tuesday, 12 January: Александр Пушкин: «Выстрел» 1 (11-19)
Thursday, 14 January: Александр Пушкин: «Выстрел» 2 (20-26)

week 3:

Tuesday, 19 January: Александр Пушкин: «Метель» 1 (30-36)
Thursday, 21 January: Александр Пушкин: «Метель» 2 (37-38)

week 4:

Tuesday, 26 January: Александр Пушкин: «Метель» 3 (38-45)
Thursday, 28 January: Михаил Лермонтов: «Фаталист» 1 (88-94)

week 5:

Tuesday, 2 February: Михаил Лермонтов: «Фаталист» 2 (94-100)

Thursday, 3 February: **EXAMINATION # 1**

week 6:

Tuesday, 9 February: Николай Гоголь: «Нос» 1 (50-59)

Thursday, 11 February: Николай Гоголь: «Нос» 2 (60-68)

week 7:

Tuesday, 16 February: Николай Гоголь: «Нос» 3 (68-76)

Thursday, 18 February: Николай Гоголь: «Нос» 4 (77-83)

week 8:

Tuesday, 23 February: Фёдор Достоевский: *Преступление и наказание* 1 (225-232)

Thursday, 25 February: Фёдор Достоевский: *Преступление и наказание* 2 (232-238)

week 9:

Tuesday, 2 March: Фёдор Достоевский: *Преступление и наказание* 3 (239-248)

Thursday, 4 March: Лев Толстой: *Анна Каренина* 1 (251-255)

week 10: SPRING BREAK

week 11:

Tuesday, 16 March: Лев Толстой: *Анна Каренина* 2 (255-258)

Thursday, 18 March: **EXAMINATION # 2**

week 12:

Tuesday, 23 March: Иван Тургенев: «Бурмистр» 1 (105-114)

Thursday, 25 March: Иван Тургенев: «Бурмистр» 2 (115-123)

week 13:

Tuesday, 30 March: Иван Тургенев: *Отцы и дети* 1 (201-213)

Thursday, 1 April: Иван Тургенев: *Отцы и дети* 2 (213-221)

week 14:

Tuesday, 6 April: Антон Чехов: «Анна на шее» 1 (262-268)

Thursday, 8 April: Антон Чехов: «Анна на шее» 2 (268-278)

week 15:

Tuesday, 13 April: Антон Чехов: «Дама с собачкой» 1 (282-288)

Thursday, 15 April: Антон Чехов: «Дама с собачкой» 2 (289-296)

week 16:

Tuesday, 20 April: Антон Чехов: «Дама с собачкой» 3 (296-302)

Thursday 22 April: **EXAMINATION # 3**