

UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH
Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures
RUSS 1420: Contemporary Short Story (Fourth-Year Russian I)

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Tuesdays/Thursdays 11.00-12.15
CL 312
Office hours: Tuesdays/*Thursdays 1.00-2.00*

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This fourth-year Russian course centers on contemporary short stories by such authors as Vladimir Makanin, Victor Pelevin, Liudmila Petrushevskaja, Tatiana Tolstaia, and Liudmila Ulitskaia. The theme of the course is “The Old and the New: Soviet Past and Post-Soviet Realities,” focusing on the authors’ attempts to come to terms with Soviet history and the period of post-Soviet transition. The course provides extensive practice in oral communication and development of writing skills at the advanced level. Relevant Grammar and Syntax at the advanced level will accompany discussions of short stories.

ATTENDANCE

Students are expected to attend all classes. More than three unexcused absences will affect the final grade. More than five will result in failure, regardless of the student's prior standing. Excused absences, such as illness or death in the immediate family, must be documented. Absent students are responsible for acquiring relevant class notes and handouts from fellow students. Work assigned in a student's absence will not be given a later deadline without prior agreement with the instructor.

EVALUATION AND GRADES:

Class participation, homework, and quizzes:	20%
2 Oral presentations (10% each):	20%
4 Reflection essays (1-2 pages):	15%
Midterm exam:	10%
Final Exam:	15%
Final paper (4-5 pages):	20%

ASSIGNMENTS

All papers should be e-mailed to me as an e-mail attachment
Presentation 1 (10/15 minutes) will consist of 5-6 discussion questions posed to the class.
Presentation 2 (15 minutes) will focus on your final paper.
Quizzes on the assigned reading may be given without notice.

SETTING UP CYRILLIC ON YOUR COMPUTER

If you are using XP / VISTA, go to >SETTINGS, >CONTROL PANEL, REGIONAL and LANGUAGE OPTIONS. In the drop-down menu go to LANGUAGE and click DETAILS. Click >ADD. In the language list find RUSSIAN and click >OK. When the

panel closes, click OK again. You have Cyrillic using the Russian keyboard. The screen TRAY will now show an EN, RU, or Rt. Be sure to tell the system how you wish to toggle between EN and RU. The Standard is SHIFDT + ALT. Change the language by clicking in the tray or toggle with SHIFT + ALT. VISTA requires its own phonetic keyboard driver, the FIRST item on the page
[@http://web.wm.edu/modlang/tech_notes/ruskbd.php?svr=www](http://web.wm.edu/modlang/tech_notes/ruskbd.php?svr=www)

DISABILITY POLICY

If you have a disability for which you are or may be requesting an accommodation, you are encouraged to contact both your instructor and Disability Resources and Services, 140 William Pitt Union, 412-648-7890 or 412-383-7355 (TTY) as early as possible in the term. DRS will verify your disability and determine reasonable accommodations for this course.

REQUIRED TEXTS

Sandra Freels Rosengrant, Russian in Use: An Interactive Approach to Advanced Communicative Competence. Yale University Press, 2007. ISBN9-300-10943-1

Людмила Улицкая «Дар Нерукотворный»
Handout

Татьяна Толстая «Соня»
http://www.lib.ru/PROZA/TOLSTAYA/r_night.txt

Галина Щербакова «Три любви Маши Передреевой»
<http://readr.ru/galina-scherbakova-tri-lyubvi-mashi-peredreevoy.html?page=1>

Людмила Петрушевская «Морские помойные рассказы»
<http://magazines.russ.ru/october/2001/11/pet.html>

Владимер Маканин «Кавказкий пленный»
<http://www.lib.ru/PROZA/MAKANIN/makanin.txt>

Виктор Пелевин «Девятый сон Веры Павловны»
http://www.pelevin.info/pelevin_24_0.html

Виктор Пелевин «Акико»
http://www.pelevin.info/pelevin_1_0.html

SCHEDULE (assignments due on the date indicated)

WEEK 1

Tuesday, 1 September
Syllabus, introduction

Thursday, 3 September

Short story: Tatiana Tolstaia "Sonia," introduction, context

WEEK 2

Tuesday, 8 September

Short story: "Sonia" (cont), discussion, analysis, **oral presentation 1

Thursday, 10 September

Short story: "Sonia" (conclusion). **Reflection paper 1

WEEK 3

Tuesday, 15 September

Short story: Liudmila Ulitskaia "The Non-Handmade Gift," introduction, context.

Thursday, 17 September

Short story: "The Non-Handmade Gift" (cont), discussion, analysis, **oral presentation 2

WEEK 4

Tuesday, 22 September

Galina Shcherbakova "Three loves of Masha Peredreeva," introduction, context.

Thursday, 24 September

Short story: "Three loves of Masha Peredreeva" (cont), discussion, analysis.
**Oral presentation 3

WEEK 5

Tuesday, 29 September

Short story: "Three loves of Masha Peredreeva" (cont)

Thursday, 1 October

Film: Interdevochka, context, discussion, analysis. **Oral presentation4

WEEK 6

Tuesday, 6 October

Short story: "Three loves of Masha Peredreeva" (conclusion). **Reflection Paper 2

Thursday, 8 October

Short story: Vladimir Makanin "Prisoner of the Caucasus," Introduction, context

WEEK 7

Tuesday, 13 October: No Class (Fall Break)

Thursday, 15 October

5: Short story: "Prisoner of the Caucasus," discussion, analysis. **Oral presentation

WEEK 8

Tuesday, 20 October

Short story: "Prisoner of the Caucasus" (cont)

Thursday, 22 October

Film: "Prisoner of the Caucasus," context, discussion, analysis.

**Oral presentation 6.

WEEK 9

Tuesday, 27 October

Short story: "Prisoner of the Caucasus" (conclusion). **Reflection paper 3

Thursday, 29 October

**Midterm exam

WEEK 10

Tuesday, 3 November

Short story: Liudmila Petrushevskaia "Marine Trashy Stories," introduction, context. **Oral presentation 7

Thursday, 5 November

Short story: "Marine Trashy Stories" (cont), discussion, analysis

WEEK 11

Tuesday, 10 November

Short story: "Marine Trashy Stories" (conclusion). **Oral presentation 8

Thursday, 12 November

Short story: Viktor Pelevin "The Ninth Dream of Vera Pavlovna," introduction, context.

WEEK 12

Tuesday, 17 November

Short story: "Ninth Dream of Vera Pavlovna" (cont), discussion, analysis. **Oral presentation 9

Thursday, 19 November

Short story: "Ninth Dream of Vera Pavlovna" (cont)

WEEK 13

Tuesday, 24 November

Short story: "Ninth Dream of Vera Pavlovna" (conclusion). **Oral Presentation 10. **Reflection paper 4

Thursday, 26 November: No Class (Thanksgiving)

WEEK 14

Tuesday, 1 December

Short story: Viktor Pelevin "Akiko," introduction, context.

Thursday, 3 December

Short story: "Akiko," discussion, analysis. **Oral presentation 11

WEEK 15

Tuesday, 8 December

Oral Presentations part 1

Thursday, 10 December

Oral presentations part 2 **final paper due

Final exam