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 Petrushevskaia, 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/rukbd.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

Людмила Улицкая «Дар Нерукотворный»
Handout

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

Галина Щербакова «Три любви Маши Передреевой»

Людмила Петрушевская «Морские помойные рассказы»

Владимер Маканин «Кавказский 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

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 presentation 4

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 Caucuses,” Introduction, context

WEEK 7
Tuesday, 13 October: No Class (Fall Break)

Thursday, 15 October
Short story: “Prisoner of the Caucuses,” discussion, analysis. **Oral presentation 5:

WEEK 8
Tuesday, 20 October
Short story: “Prisoner of the Caucuses” (cont)

Thursday, 22 October
Film: “Prisoner of the Caucuses,” context, discussion, analysis.
**Oral presentation 6.

WEEK 9
Tuesday, 27 October
Short story: “Prisoner of the Caucuses” (conclusion). **Reflection paper 3

Thursday, 29 October
**Midterm exam

WEEK 10
Tuesday, 3 November
Short story: Liudmila Petrushevskiaia “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

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
Thursday, 26 November: No Class (Thanksgiving)

WEEK 14
Tuesday, 1 December

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