

University of Pittsburgh
Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures

Russian 2110 (2120): Proseminar: Methods and Materials
Fall Semester 2004 (05-1)
Mondays and Wednesdays 3:00 — 4:15
CL 1221

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Office Hours: Mondays and Wednesdays 12:00—1:00; Tuesdays and Thursdays 12:15—1:00;
and by appointment

I. REQUIRED TEXTS:

Gibaldi, Joseph. *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers*. 6th ed. NY: MLA, 2003.
Photocopies of classroom handouts.
Shaw, J. Thomas. *The Transliteration of Modern Russian for English-Language Publications*.
NY: MLA, 1979.
Strongly Recommended Texts in Hillman Library.
Wellek, René and Austin Warren. *Theory of Literature*. 3rd ed. San Diego: Harcourt, 1984.

Гоголь, Николай. "Невский проспект", "Нос" и "Шинель".

II. STRONGLY RECOMMENDED TEXTS:

Bennett, Tony. *Formalism and Marxism*. London: Methuen, 1979.
Brang, Peter. "Sociological Methods in Twentieth-Century Russian Criticism." *Literary Criticism and Sociology*. Ed. Joseph P. Strelka. Yearbook of Comparative Criticism: V. University Park: The Pennsylvania State UP, 1973. 209-51.
Ehrlich, Victor. *Russian Formalism: History—Doctrine*. 2nd ed. New Haven: Yale UP, 1975.
—, ed. *Twentieth Century Russian Literary Criticism*. New Haven: Yale UP, 1975.
Grossman, Joan. "Feminine Images in Old Russian Literature and Art." *California Slavic Studies* XI (1980): 33-70.
Heldt, Barbara. *Terrible Perfection: Women and Russian Literature*. Bloomington: Indiana UP, 1987.
Jakobson, Roman. "Concluding Statement: Linguistics and Poetics." *Style in Language*. Ed. Thomas A. Sebeok. Cambridge: The MIT P, 1960. 350-77.
Karlinsky, Simon. *The Sexual Labyrinth of Nikolai Gogol*. Cambridge: Harvard UP, 1976.
Lane, Michael, ed. *Introduction to Structuralism*. NY: Basic Books, 1970.
Lemon, Lee T. and Marion J. Reis, eds. *Russian Formalist Criticism: Four Essays*. Lincoln: U of Nebraska P, 1965.
Lotman, Jurij M., et al. *Theses for the Semiotic Study of Culture*. Semiotics of Culture 2. Lisse: The Peter de Ridder P, 1975.
Maguire, Robert A., ed. *Gogol from the Twentieth Century*. Princeton: Princeton UP, 1974.
Matejka, Ladislav and Krystyna Pomorska, eds. *Readings in Russian Poetics: Formalist and Structuralist Views*. Ann Arbor: Michigan Slavic Publications, 1978.
Match, Olga. "A Typology of Fallen Women in Nineteenth-Century Russian Literature."

- American Contributions to the Ninth International Congress of Slavists*. Vol. 2. Ed. Paul Debreczeny. Columbus: Slavic, 1983. 325-43.
- Mukařovský, Jan. *Aesthetic Function, Norm and Value as Social Facts*. Trans. Mark E. Suino. Ann Arbor: Michigan Slavic Contributions, 1970.
- Rancour-Laferriere, Daniel. *Out from Gogol's Undercoat: A Psychoanalytic Study*. Ann Arbor: Ardis, 1982.
- Stacy, R.H. *Russian Literary Criticism: A Short History*. Syracuse: Syracuse UP, 1974.
- Shukman, Ann. *Literature and Semiotics: A Study of the Writings of Yu. M. Lotman*. Amsterdam: North Holland Pub. Co., 1977.
- Spitzer, Leo. *Representative Essays*. Ed. Alban K. Forcione, et al. Stanford: Stanford UP, 1988.
- Steiner, Peter. *Russian Formalism: A Metapoetics*. Ithaca: Cornell UP, 1984.
- Terras, Victor. *Belinskij and Russian Literary Criticism: The Heritage of Organic Aesthetics*. Madison: The U of Wisconsin P, 1974.
- Trotsky, Leon. *Literature and Revolution*. Ann Arbor: U of Michigan P, 1960.
- Uspensky, Boris. *A Poetics of Composition: The Structure of the Artistic Text and Typology of a Compositional Form*. Trans. Valentina Zavarin and Susan Wittig. Berkeley: U of CA P, 1973.
- Vološinov, Valentin. *Marxism and the Philosophy of Language*. Trans. Ladislav Matejka and I.R. Titunik. NY: Seminar P, 1973.
- Vygotsky, Lev. *The Psychology of Art*. Trans. Scripta Technica, Inc. Cambridge: The MIT P, 1971.
- Бахтин, Михаил [Валентин Волошинов]. *Фрейдизм: критический очерк*. [1927]. NY: Chalidze Publications, 1983.
- [Павел Медведев]. *Формальный метод в литературоведении*. [1928]. NY: Silver Age Publishers, 1982.
- Белинский, Виссарион. "Взгляд на русскую литературу 1847-ого года". *Полное собрание Сочинений*. Глав. ред. Н.Ф.Бельчиков. т. 9. Москва: Изд-во Академии Наук, 1956. 13 т. 1953-59.
- Гинзбург, Лидия. *О психологической прозе*. Ленинград: Советский писатель, 1971.
- Григорьев, Аполлон. *Искусство и нравственность*. Ред. Б.Ф. Егоров. Москва: Современник, 1986.
- Добролюбов, Николай. "Что такое обломовщина". *Собрание сочинений*. Ред. Б.И. Бурсов и пр. т. 4. Москва: Художественная литература, 1962. 307-43. 10 т. 1961-64.
- Ленин, Владимир. "Партийная организация и партийная литература". [1905]. *Полное собрание сочинений*. т. 12. Москва: Политическая литература, 1960. 99-105.
- Лотман, Юрий. *Лекции по структуральной поэтике: введение, теория стиха*. [1964]. Brown University Slavic Reprints 5. Providence: Brown UP, 1963.
- *Структура художественного текста*. Москва: Искусство, 1970. Reprinted: Brown University Slavic Reprints 9. Providence: Brown UP, 1971.
- Луначарский, Анатолий. "Классовая борьба в искусстве". Сост. И.М. Терехов. Изд. второе, исправ. и допол. Москва: Просвещение, 1971.
- "Тезисы о задачах марксистской критики". *Статьи о советской литературы*. Сост. И.М. Терехов. Изд. второе, исправ. и допол. Москва: Просвещение, 1971. 101-36.
- "О перестойке литературно-художественных организаций. Постановление ЦК ВКП(б) от

- 23-его апреля 1932-ого года". *Введение в литературоведение: хрестоматия*. Ред. Пётр Николаев. Изд. второе, исправл. и допол. Москва: Высшая школа, 1988. 57-61.
- "О политике партии в области художественной литературы. Резолюция ЦК РКП(б) от 18 июня 1925-ого года". *Введение в литературоведение: хрестоматия*. Ред. Пётр Николаев. Изд. второе, исправл. и допол. Москва: Высшая школа, 1988. 62.
- Переверзев, Валерьян. *Творчество Гоголя*. [1913]. В сборнике *Гоголь. Достоевский. Исследования*. Ред. М. Поляков. Москва: Советский писатель, 1982.
- Потебня, Александр. *Эстетика и поэтика*. Ред. М.Ф. Овсянников. Москва: Искусство, 1976.
- Сакулин, Павел. *Социологический метод в литературоведении*. [1925]. В сборнике *Филология и культурология*. Ред. Ю.И. Минералов. Москва: Высшая школа, 1990.
- Слонимский, Александр. *Техника комического у Гоголя*. [1923]. Brown University Slavic Reprints 2. Providence: Brown UP, 1963.
- Сталин, Иосиф. "Марксизм и вопросы языкознания". *Сочинения*. т. III [XVI]. Stanford: The Hoover Institution on War, Revolution and Peace, 1967. 114-57.
- Тынянов, Юрий. *Архаисты и новаторы*. [1929]. Ann Arbor: Ardis, 1985.
- Чернышевский, Николай. "Очерки гоголевского периода русской литературы. Статья первая". *Избранные статьи*. Ред. А.П. Ланщиков. Москва: Советская литература, 1978.
- Шкловский, Виктор. *О теории прозы*. [1929]. Ann Arbor: Ardis, 1985.
- Эйхенбаум, Борис. *Литература: теория-критика-полемика*. [1927]. Chicago: Russian Language Specialties, 1969.
- Яacobсон, Роман. "О поколении растратившем своих поэтов". *Смерть Владимира Маяковского*. [1931]. The Hague: Mouton, 1975.

III. CLASSROOM AND READING:

All students must read (and, during the course of the semester, re-read more than once) the three stories by Gogol' in Russian as soon as possible. By the fifth week of the semester—when we begin to examine methodological approaches to textual analysis in the field of Slavic studies—all explanations, demonstrations, objections, speculations, and all theoretical activity must be based on specific observations and concrete examples in these three stories.

All reading assignments must be completed prior to the date indicated in the section "Schedule of Assignments." Students are responsible not only for the physical act of reading the words contained in the assigned texts, but they are obligated to reflect on them and to be able to discuss the ideas (and events) these words signify.

Beginning on Wednesday, 22 September, and every Wednesday following, all students will be issued weekly assignment sheets. In addition to providing a selective bibliography of works that examine the designated topic, the sheets will identify specific readings for all students for the following Monday and presentation assignments for each student or group of students for the following Wednesday. Not all students or groups will be assigned the same text for the Wednesday assignments! While students are encouraged to read as many of the assigned readings as possible for each Wednesday, they are obligated to read the text assigned to them individually (or as a group) and to make a seminar presentation on that material. Many of the assigned texts will not focus on Gogol's prose! All students are obliged to show the relevance of the assigned reading to an examination of Gogol's stories during their presentations.

Students are responsible for all forms of information presented in class. This includes—but is not limited to—lectures, discussions, and presentations.

IV. ATTENDANCE, ABSENCES, AND DAILY GRADES:

Students are expected to attend all classes. Absence due to personal illness or death in the family must be documented. All students with an excused absence will receive an "E" grade for that meeting. Absent students are responsible for acquiring and reviewing relevant class notes for all of the information presented during the class they have missed prior to arriving at the next meeting. All unexcused absences will receive an automatic grade of "UE" for that session. Three such "UE" grades will result in an "F" for the course.

Students will receive a grade for each meeting of the course. These grades will be assigned on the basis of each student's participation in the discussion, on the questions posed, and the answers provided. Once the seminar shifts to presentations on respective methodologies (week 5), students will receive several grades for each of their presentations on every Wednesday: grades for accuracy of information, nature of handouts and examples, and level of boredom. Students are encouraged to meet with the instructor during scheduled office hours (or by appointment) to discuss their work in the course (reading, participation, daily grades, quizzes, and papers).

V. COURSE METHODOLOGY:

The course will consist of assigned readings, lectures, applied exercises, presentations, and discussions. Beginning with week 5, Mondays will be reserved for the instructor to introduce information that provides an overview of the methodology assigned for that week and to present the specific text assigned for that meeting of the seminar; Wednesdays will be reserved for individual or collective reports and presentations by the students on the texts assigned for that meeting of the seminar.

VI. QUIZZES:

There will be at least five unannounced quizzes during the semester. Each quiz will last a maximum of 15 minutes. Quizzes will consist of some of the following categories: transliteration; identification; questions based on historical or critical commentary provided during the lectures; questions based on the assigned readings.

Students who have an excused or unexcused absence on the day of a quiz receive an "E" or "UE" grade on that quiz. No quiz will be re-scheduled and no make-up quizzes are permitted.

Beginning on Wednesday, 29 September and every Wednesday until the end of the semester there will be an applied quiz on the assigned methodology. All students must sign up to prepare one quiz on a specific methodology (sign-up sheets will be circulated during week 4). The quiz must not only be about a methodology (positivism, formalism, feminism, etc.) but the form of the quiz must reflect that methodology (that is, a positivist quiz on positivism, a formalist quiz on formalism, a feminist quiz on feminism, etc.). The instructor will compose the first quiz to provide a model for the students. The student responsible for preparing the quiz will also be responsible for grading the quiz and will receive a grade both for the quiz and the grading.

VII. PAPERS:

There will be three short papers assigned for the course. Each of the three short papers will be an applied exercise—that is, each paper will be a demonstration of a specific methodological approach to textual analysis. The texts to be analyzed in these three papers will be the stories by Gogol'. All essays are due at the beginning of the meeting. Any essays submitted after the end of class on the date due will be penalized one full grade.

All papers must comply in layout with the *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers* (3.1—3.10). No handwritten papers will be accepted and no double-sided printings are permitted. There will be an automatic penalty of one full grade for any paper that does not fully comply with the *MLA Handbook*.

Plot summary is neither part of a discussion nor of an analysis. Plot summaries are both boring to read and an insult to your reader. Always credit your reader with a minimum of intelligence and assume s/he has also read-seen-examined the work you are discussing. Plot summaries will not be accepted as part of the essay.

Secondary sources must be used in each of the papers and must be credited. All citations and notes must conform with the standard, scholarly format as listed in Joseph Gibaldi, *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers*, 6th ed. (NY: MLA, 2003). All references to secondary sources must be interpolated into the body of the paper; footnotes or endnotes are to be used exclusively to address important (but secondary) issues that deflect from the logic of your argument.

Failure to use secondary sources will result in an automatic "F" grade on any paper; failure to credit sources—accurately, partially, or totally—constitutes plagiarism and will result in an automatic "F" grade in the course and in administrative action against the student. Plagiarism is described in the *MLA Handbook*, section 1.8. Students are encouraged to question the instructor about plagiarism both during the lecture/discussion meetings and during office hours.

VIII. SEMESTER PROJECT:

On Wednesday, 15 December 2004, all students must submit to the instructor a complete application (in four copies) for a Predissertation Training Fellowship *with* Language Component from the Social Science Research Council. Students are responsible for (i) writing to the Social Science Research Council (SSRC) to obtain information about the fellowship and an application and (ii) completing the application in its entirety (this includes letters of recommendation).

Prior to sending any correspondence to the Social Science Research Council, each student must provide the instructor with a copy of the letter that will be sent (on official stationery with departmental letterhead). These letters must conform with the accepted standard format for professional letters.

Completed copies of the applications will be distributed to members of the faculty of the Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures. Grades on the applications will be submitted by each member of the faculty.

IX. PRESENTATIONS:

Each student will be responsible for making weekly seminar presentations (individually or collectively) during each Wednesday meeting of the semester starting on week 5. Presentations are to be no shorter than ten minutes and no longer than fifteen.

The presentations must include (i) a brief summary of the major points of the assigned topic or reading; (ii) supplemental information (bio-bibliographical) relevant to the assigned reading; and (iii) a discussion of the strengths and limits of the methodological approach demonstrated in the assigned reading on the basis of the three stories by Gogol!. Students must prepare their own handouts and make use of the blackboard.

All students will receive three grades for each of their presentations: grades for accuracy of information, nature of handouts and examples, and level of boredom. .

X. EVALUATION AND GRADES:

In addition to grades on the three essays, unannounced quizzes and methodology quizzes, presentations, and application, all students will receive a daily grade for the quality of their contribution to and participation in the classroom discussion. Students are encouraged to meet with the instructor periodically during office hours to review their daily grades.

All final grades will be calculated using the following percentages: classroom (10%), unannounced quizzes (10%), methodology quizzes (5%), presentations (20%), essays (30%), and application (25%).

XI. SCHEDULE OF ASSIGNMENTS:

week 1: Monday, 30 August: Introduction. Syllabus.
Wednesday, 1 September: Shaw (v-vi, 3-15).

week 2: Monday, 6 September: **NO CLASS**
Wednesday, 8 September: *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers* (1.8, 3.1—3.10, 4.1—4.9.9, 5.1—5.5.2).

week 3: Monday, 13 September: Wellek, 7-53.
Wednesday, 15 September: Wellek, 57-135.

week 4: Monday, 20 September: Wellek, 139-211.
Wednesday, 22 September: Wellek, 211-269.

week 5: Monday, 27 September: **positivism/historicism**
Wednesday, 29 September:

week 6: Monday, 4 October: **sociologism**
Wednesday, 6 October:

week 7: Monday, 11 October: **Marxism**
Wednesday, 13 October:

week 8: Monday, 18 October: **philological/morphological**
Wednesday, 20 October:

PAPER #1 DUE

week 9: Monday, 25 October: **morphological/formalism**
Wednesday, 27 October:

week 10: Monday, 1 November: **structuralism**
Wednesday, 3 November:

week 11: Monday, 8 November: **semiotics**
Wednesday, 10 November:

week 12: Monday, 15 November: **psychoanalytical**
Wednesday, 17 November:

PAPER #2 DUE

week 13: Monday, 22 November: **postmodernism**
Wednesday, 24 November: **NO CLASS**

week 14: Monday, 29 November: **feminism**
Wednesday, 1 December:

week 15: Monday, 6 December: **journals**
Wednesday, 8 December: **journals**

PAPER #3 DUE

week 16: Monday, 13 December: **professional organizations**
Wednesday, 15 December: **bibliographies and histories**

COMPLETED SSRC APPLICATION DUE