

**UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH**  
**Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures**

**RUS 1420: Desire, Power, Fate (The Nineteenth-Century Literary Tradition)**

Fourth-Year Russian I  
Fall 2010  
Tu/Th 11.00 – 12.15, WWPH 5405

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Hours: Mon 3.00-5.00 or by appt.

In this fourth-year Russian course we will read a range of works of canonical nineteenth-century prose and poetry. The objectives of the course will be to practice spoken and written Russian at an advanced level, to develop strategies for learning Russian through reading, and to consider some of the central preoccupations of the Russian literary tradition, examining texts in dialogue with one another.

Requirements:

Textbook:

*The Golden Age: Readings in Russian Literature of the Nineteenth Century*, ed. Sandra F. Rosengrant and Elena D. Lifschitz

Each week we will read, analyze, and discuss one prose text and occasionally one or more poems. Students should read the full assignment by the week's first class (Tuesday). The following strategy will maximize the efficiency of your reading. First read the introductory texts and complete any pre-reading tasks. The exercises are for your benefit only and will not be collected, but they can be quite useful, particularly for mastering the nuances of nineteenth-century literary Russian. Next read the text one section at a time, as divided in the textbook. Read for content first of all, using the marginal glosses and the glossary in the back of the book only when necessary. After each section, check your comprehension with the questions provided. If you have not understood the section sufficiently or you lack the necessary language to respond to these questions, consult the textbook glossary and/or a dictionary. Record any useful or interesting words and phrases that you look up. Apart from the first assignment, handouts of poems will not include glosses and will require a dictionary. Students are urged to visit the instructor's office hours if there are any comprehension problems that cannot be surmounted independently.

Homework for the second class meeting of each week (Thursday) will include tasks that reinforce or develop in-class language work, a brief essay on an assigned topic, and the exploration and recording of new language encountered in the reading, in class, and during independent research with dictionaries and online resources. Throughout the course each student will maintain and periodically revise an individually designed vocabulary "notebook" (systematically organized and typed), which will be submitted three times for instructor evaluation and feedback. We will discuss different ways of organizing the notebook at the beginning of the course, and in-class language work and homework assignments will provide students with further examples for expanding the notebook.

The first class meeting of each week will be devoted to:

- checking comprehension of the assigned text(s)
- developing independent learning strategies, reading skills, and working on specific lexical and/or grammatical topics
- freer practice (pairwork activities, role play, debates, etc).

The second class meeting of each section will be devoted to discussion of literary questions and themes from the week's reading. After the initial introduction to the course, all classwork will be conducted exclusively in Russian.

Assessment:

Your grade for the course will be composed of three parts:

1) **Preparedness – 30%**

- attendance and completion of the assigned readings
- active and engaged participation in class discussions
- thoughtful and punctual completion of homework assignments (late assignments will not be accepted)

2) **Language work – 30%**

- compilation of a vocabulary notebook, which should demonstrate independent research, including material beyond the course readings
- clear progress over the course of the semester in the complexity and richness of your active language production—written and spoken—as measured on weekly essays, class discussions, and presentations
- a final test, covering language from the course readings

3) **Literary work – 40%**

- weekly essays on set topics (1-1½ pages)
- a final essay on a free topic (5-7 pp., suggested topics will be provided)
- a power-point presentation of the final essay topic in class

**Week 1** (*Aug 31, Sep 2*)

Introduction to course

В. А. Жуковский, *Светлана* (handout)

**Week 2** (*Sep 7, 9*)

А. С. Пушкин, «Метель» (30-45) *The introductory text on Pushkin is on p. 7.*

**Week 3** (*Sep 14, 16*)

А. С. Пушкин, «Выстрел» (11-26)

**Week 4** (*Sep 21, 23*)

А. С. Пушкин, «Брожу ли я вдоль улиц шумных...» (handout)

М. Ю. Лермонтов, «Фаталист» (88-100), «Сон» (handout)

**Week 5** (*Sep 28, 30*)

Н. В. Гоголь, «Нос» (50-68)

**\*\* submit vocabulary notebook \*\***

**Week 6** (*Oct 5, 7*)

Н. В. Гоголь, «Нос» (68-83)

**Week 7** (*Oct 12, 14*)

И. С. Тургенев, «Бурмистр» (105-23)

**Week 8** (*Oct 19, 21*)

И. С. Тургенев, *Отцы и дети* (205-20)

Некрасов, «Еду ли ночью по улице темной...» (handout)

**Week 9** (Oct 26, 28)

Ф. М. Достоевский, *Преступление и наказание* (225-242)

**Week 10** (Nov 2, 4)

Ф. М. Достоевский, *Преступление и наказание* (242-248)

Ф. Тютчев, «О, как убийственно мы любим...» (handout)

А. Блок, «Незнакомка» (handout)

**\*\* submit vocabulary notebook \*\***

**Week 11** (Nov 9, 11)

Л. Н. Толстой, *Анна Каренина* (251-58)

А. П. Чехов «Дама с Собачкой» (282-292)

**Week 12** (Nov 16, 18)

А. П. Чехов «Дама с Собачкой» (292-302)

А. Фет, «Шепот. Робкое дыхание...», «Майская ночь» (handout)

А. Блок, «В ресторане» (handout)

**Week 13/14** (Nov 23, 30)

А. П. Чехов, «Анна на шее» (262-278)

Nov 25 – **NO CLASS**

**Week 14/15**

Dec 2, 7 – **oral presentations**

Dec 9 – **\*\* final test \*\***

**\*\* submit vocabulary notebook \*\***

**\*\* Final essays due Dec 17 \*\***