

University of Pittsburgh
Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures

Russian 1420: Fourth-year Russian
From Romanovs to Reds: Russian literature in times of change
Fall Semester 2012

Course number: 11618

Class Meetings: MWF 11:00-11:50 am, CL 1432

Instructor: Kathleen Manukyan

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Office hours: Thursday 2:30-3:30 and Friday, 12-1 CL 1420A (inside Slavic dept. 1417)

Welcome to Fourth-year Russian! This course, “From Romanovs to Reds: Russian literature in times of change,” is designed to provide advanced students of Russian extensive practice in both oral and written modes of communication. Students will develop their skills in the Russian language by reading and discussing three classic texts of Russian literature: Leo Tolstoy’s story “Prisoner of the Caucasus”; Anton Chekhov’s play “The Cherry Orchard”; and Mikhail Bulgakov’s novella, “Heart of a Dog.” These three texts (in addition to presenting students with progressively more challenging language as the course goes on) will take the class from the Russian Empire of the late nineteenth century, through critical changes in Russian society at all levels at the turn of the century, and into life in Soviet Moscow of the 1920s.

We will complement our readings of literature with selections (text and audio) from Russian mass media on issues that are both central to the literature we are reading and still pertinent to today’s Russia, such as imperialism, environmental issues, and corruption. Students should prepare these non-fiction readings and learn any assigned vocabulary lists before each Friday’s class meeting of each week beginning with the second week.

Finally, class time will also be dedicated to the study of advanced topics in Russian language, including 1) Russian roots; 2) pronunciation; and 3) syntax and word formation. These topics will be tested along with the course readings at the time of the unit tests. Additional topics in Russian grammar may be covered and tested at the instructor’s discretion.

Course Texts

Required

Students should obtain the following texts from the library or print them out from an electronic source.

Lev Tolstoy. “*Kavkazskii plennik*.” (Л.Н. Толстой. «Кавказский пленник.»)

Anton Chekhov. *Vishnevyy sad*. (А.П. Чехов. *Вишневый сад*.)

Mikhail Bulgakov. *Sobach’e serdtse*. (М.А. Булгаков. *Собачье сердце*.)

Other materials will be distributed as handouts or links in class or via email.

Recommended

Wade, Terence. A Comprehensive Russian Grammar. 2nd edition. Oxford: Blackwell Publishing, 2005.

This grammar has been ordered to the bookstore as a reference. Students of fourth-year Russian should already know all case endings, the uses of the cases, conjugations, and other basics of Russian grammar. But this book is available for review of anything you may have forgotten.

Evaluation Criteria

Preparation and participation: **30%**

Students will receive a daily grade for attending class well-prepared and for participating in the class discussion. Fully reading and understanding the assigned texts is essential preparation, as is learning any distributed vocabulary lists.

Tests: **25%**

Students will take three unit tests covering the primary and secondary readings, as well as topics in Russian language. Tasks will include identification of excerpts and translation from Russian to English, short answer responses in Russian, and short exercises on vocabulary, grammar, or other language topics.

Final paper or project: **30% (10% oral presentation; 20% written work)**

Each student will complete a major paper (6-10 pages typed, double-spaced, 12 pt Times New Roman) on a topic of his or her choosing. It may be a literary analysis, an essay on an historical topic or current events. Three solid secondary sources, including two Russian language sources must be used in the essay.

Alternatively, students may choose to complete a creative project, such as writing a story, play, or even a project on film. The length requirements for a project of this nature would be the same as for the traditional paper.

Finally, students interested in working with a partner or small group may submit a proposal to do so. However, in order to receive approval, they must prove that the project will require at least as much work from each student as the individual papers. Each group member will be asked to report on their and their partners' contributions to the project at the end of the course.

Students must submit a paper/project proposal in English or Russian by the tenth week of class and a rough draft by the thirteenth week. Students will also present their work orally to their classmates during the final weeks of the course. The schedule of oral presentations will be determined after proposals are submitted and approved.

Written homework: **10%**

Written homework will consist of short responses to the readings and language exercises.

“Pop” quizzes: **5%**

Occasional quizzes on reading, vocabulary, or other language topics will be administered as an incentive not to fall behind.

Attendance and late work

More than three unexcused absences will affect the final grade (student will receive a zero for the daily grade for each day absent). Excused absences in the case of illness, death in the family, military orders, or other extreme circumstances will be granted only upon documentation. Late work will be corrected but not accepted for credit. If you are absent, please make arrangements to photocopy a classmate's copy of any assignments that are distributed so that you may prepare them for the next class meeting. Previous absence is not an excuse for coming to class unprepared to discuss the day's assigned reading.

Academic Integrity

By remaining enrolled in the course, students understand that the instructor will follow rigorously the rules regarding cheating, plagiarism, etc. spelled out in the University's Guidelines on Academic Integrity – Student and Faculty Obligations and Hearing Procedures (Policy 02-03-02, <http://www.bc.pitt.edu/policies/policy/02/02-03-02.html>). It is the students' responsibility to familiarize themselves with these regulations and to observe them. Any infraction will be penalized according to these rules.

Disability Policy

If a student has a disability that requires special teaching, testing accommodations, or other classroom modifications, he or she must notify the instructor and the Office of Disabled Student Services (DDS) no later than the Add/Drop date (Friday, 5 September). The student may be asked to provide documentation of the disability to determine the appropriateness of accommodations. To notify DDS, call 648-7890 (Voice or TDD) to schedule an appointment. The office is located in 216 William Pitt Union.

Schedule

Please prepare the first half of the scheduled primary reading for Monday's class meeting and the second half for Wednesday's. Readings from the contemporary media will be distributed in class or via email and are due on Friday. Note that the reading schedule remains steady even during weeks with fewer class meetings due to a scheduled holiday or unscheduled cancellation.

Schedule of Primary Readings, Tests, and Major Assignments	
Week 1: 8/27, 29, 31	"Prisoner of the Caucasus," Chapters 1 and 2 (for Friday, no non-fiction reading assignment this week) *Assessment testing on Wednesday, August 29
Week 2: 9/5, 7	"Prisoner of the Caucasus," Chapters 3 and 4 *No class Monday, September 3. Happy Labor Day!
Week 3: 9/10, 12, 14	"Prisoner of the Caucasus," Chapters 5 and 6
Week 4: 9/17, 19, 21	<i>Prisoner of the Caucasus</i> , Film * Test 1 on Friday, September 21
Week 5: 9/24, 26, 28	<i>The Cherry Orchard</i> , Act 1
Week 6: 10/1, 3, 5	<i>The Cherry Orchard</i> , Act 2
Week 7: 10/9, 10, 12	<i>The Cherry Orchard</i> , Act 3 *No Class Monday, October 8. Meet Tuesday instead.
Week 8: 10/15, 17, 19	<i>The Cherry Orchard</i> , Act 4
Week 9: 10/22, 24, 26	<i>The Cherry Orchard</i> , Staged version *Test 2 on Friday, October 26
Week 10: 10/29, 31, 11/2	<i>Heart of a Dog</i> , Chapters 1 and 2 *Final paper/project proposals due
Week 11: 11/5, 7, 9	<i>Heart of a Dog</i> , Chapters 3 and 4
Week 12: 11/12, 14, 16	<i>Heart of a Dog</i> , Chapters 5 and 6
Week 13: 11/19	<i>Heart of a Dog</i> , Chapters 7 and 8 *Final paper/project rough drafts due Monday, November 19 *No class Wednesday and Friday, November 21 and 23. Happy Thanksgiving!
Week 14: 11/26, 28, 30	<i>Heart of a Dog</i> , Chapters 9 and 10
Week 15: 12/3, 5, 7	<i>Heart of a Dog</i> , Film *Test 3 on Friday, December 7

Written final papers or projects are due **Thursday, December 13 at 5:00 pm.**