

RUT 3452, sections 04D8 (non-writing) & 04DH (writing): Russian Literature of the Twentieth Century
Course Syllabus, Spring 2018

Time: MWF 6 (12:50 - 1:40)
Place: Turlington 2318
Instructor: James Goodwin

Office, phone: Dauer 252c, (352) 273-3790
Office hours: W 3:00 - 5:00 p.m.
E-mail: (jegoodwi@ufl.edu)

Goals and content of the course:

This course aims to increase your knowledge and understanding of Russian literature and literary culture since the year 1900. By the end of the course you should know the basic “map” of twentieth-century Russian literature, its major authors, works and movements, as well as the essential cultural, social, historical and political *contexts* in which modern Russian literature developed. The course also seeks to strengthen your ability to analyze a modern Russian literary text, particularly in terms of its cultural dimensions, its historical significance and, in many cases, its ideological foundations.

Throughout the course we will examine a variety of writers and subjects. In light of the dominance of the so-called “Soviet” period, emphasis will fall on those trends that appeared between the Bolshevik (Communist) revolution of October 1917 and the final dissolution of the U.S.S.R., or Soviet Union, in 1991. For that reason we will devote comparatively less time to the “pre-Soviet” period (1900-1917) or to the final, “post-Soviet” decade of the twentieth century (1991-1999). Although many of our readings reflect issues of universal relevance (social justice, inequality, armed conflict, cultural differences, etc.), others pertain more specifically to twentieth-century Russian circumstances (political conformity and dissent, class struggle, revolution, “proletarian” culture, etc.).

The dominant literary genre of our course will be fictional prose (stories, novellas, one novel), but we will also read a few well-known selections of poetry. Excerpts of programmatic declarations, speeches and essays will also be covered. Course readings will be supplemented in class occasionally by visual materials (images and film excerpts).

The arrangement of our course material is mainly chronological; but in some cases more thematic, at the expense of strict chronology. Thus as we proceed through a series of different texts, be sure to take note of *their temporal (sequential) relationship*.

Course structure and texts:

This is a readings-based course that requires close examination and class discussions of the assigned texts. Everyone will be expected to obtain the required books and to read the assigned pages thoroughly *prior* to the relevant class meeting. Although the weekly reading assignments vary in length, *on average* you will need to read between 50-100 pages per week throughout the semester.

The vast majority of our course readings will be drawn from six books (below), which should be available at local bookstores or through online vendors. One copy of each title is also on two-hour reserve at Library West. *If possible you should obtain only the specific editions/translations listed below.* Alternate editions will likely have different pagination, which may make it more difficult for you to find the correct pages of a reading assignment, or possibly even alternate content (esp. if produced by a different translator).

1. Brown, Clarence, ed. *The Portable Twentieth-Century Russian Reader*. Revised and updated edition (N.Y.: Penguin, 2003) [ISBN # 0142437573; + Lib West Reserve copy (ask for it at Circulation desk) with call number **PG3213 .P67**]
2. Gorky, Maksim. *Childhood*. Translated by G. Hettlinger (2011). [ISBN # 1566638402; Lib West Rsrv: **PG3465.A32 H47**]
3. Bulgakov, Mikhail. *Heart of a Dog*. Trans. M. Ginsburg (Grove Pr., 1987) [ISBN 0802150594; Lib W Rsrv: **PG3476.B78 S613**]
4. Solzhenitsyn, Alexander. *One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich*. Translated by H.G. Willetts. Reprint edition (N.Y.: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2005) [ISBN # 0374529523; Lib West Reserve: **PG3488 .O4 O3313 1991**]
5. Voinovich, Vladimir. *The Life and Extraordinary Adventures of Private Ivan Chonkin*. Translated by Richard Lourie. Reprint edition (Northwestern U Pr, 1995) [ISBN # 0810112434; Lib West Reserve: **PG3489.4.I53 Z313 1995**]
6. [+ some online texts and study sheets, accessible via our course space on “e-learning”: <https://lss.at.ufl.edu/>.]

Course requirements and expectations:

1. Regular attendance and assimilation of material covered in class (see also “**Attendance policy**,” below);
2. Full engagement in all classroom activities for the entire fifty minutes of each day’s lesson (see also “**Cell phone policy**,” below);
3. Thorough and punctual completion of all assigned readings;
4. Completion of three written (in-class) exams;
5. [*Writing section (04DH) only:*] One 2000-word expository essay on a pre-assigned topic (details forthcoming, after Week 5).

Attendance policy: Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with UF policies (see catalog: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>). Although there is no penalty for officially excusable absences (as defined by university policy), please *NOTE* that *the number of class meetings attended* counts for 10% of the course grade. Thus if a class is missed, even for officially acceptable reasons, then an attendance point will not be gained for that day. The attendance score will equal the percentage of meetings actually attended, so *be sure to sign the attendance list daily*. A second attendance percentage, which will ignore officially excused absences, will be factored into the “Course participation” grade.

Cell phone policy and classroom etiquette:

- 1. Civility, courtesy and respect toward others in class is expected of everyone;
- 2. Please do NOT distract others in class by eating, drinking or socializing once our class meeting is underway;
- 3. Keep all cell phones silent (off, or on vibrate mode) for the duration of each class meeting. In the event of an emergency that requires your immediate use of a device, please exit the classroom quietly before using your device.
- 4. Laptops or other electronic reading devices (tablets, e-book readers, etc.) should be used in class ONLY for the purpose of viewing one of our texts and/or taking notes. Please do NOT use the internet or read / write electronic messages during class. Failure to respect this rule will result in a lower "Course Participation" component of the final grade.

Exams: This course requires three written, in-class exams of 50 minutes each. The three exams will gauge your knowledge and assimilation of material from the assigned readings, lectures, and class discussions. The exams typically include [1] a brief factual component (identify important names, events, dates, etc.); [2] a longer text recognition section (identify an excerpt from our readings and answer brief questions about it); [3] short-answers (re. terms, characters, etc.); [4] a short essay (expound in detail to a broader question on course content). The second and third exams will cover (mainly) material introduced since the preceding exam. There will NOT be a comprehensive final exam for this course.

Make-up policy: Except in the case of a certified illness or other officially approved reason (e.g. U.F.-assigned travel), there will be no make-up option for missed exams or term paper deadlines. Please do NOT request an individual assignment for extra credit in place of a missed exam (or missed classes)! If/when unavoidable, a make-up exam should be arranged in person with me prior to an anticipated absence. In case of certified illness, you should contact me immediately following your return to classes.

Term paper: Those enrolled for writing credit ("Gordon Rule" section 04H6) are required to write a 2000-word essay on one of several possible topics which I will give you after our first exam (on Fri. Feb. 9), together with specific instructions, technical requirements and grading criteria. Regardless of your selected topic, the assignment will ask you to present a thoughtful argument based on your original analysis of your chosen topic and text(s). It will not require additional research, but only your own interpretive "reading" of the selected text(s). The writing will be evaluated on content, organization and coherence, argument and support, style and mechanics. In order to receive the writing credit, the essay must receive a grade of "C" or higher. For more information, see UF's rules for fulfilling the Writing Requirement: <http://gened.aa.ufl.edu/writing-requirement.aspx>

Final course grades will be assigned according to the following scale: A = a final course percentage of 93-100; A- = 90-92; B+ = 87-89; B = 83-86; B- = 80-82; C+ = 77-79; C = 73-76; C- = 70-72; D+ = 67-69; D = 63-66; D- = 60-62; E = less than 60. U.F.'s "grade point" scale can be accessed at: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>

Final course grades for section "04H1" (NO term paper) will be based on the following percentages:

- 1. Attendance (number of class meetings attended) [see "Attendance policy," above]. 10%
- 2. Course participation (daily involvement in class, punctual and thorough completion of assigned readings & exams). 12%
- 3. Three in-class exams. 78% (26% each)

Final course grades for section "04H6" (term paper required) will be based on the following percentages:

- 1. Attendance (number of class meetings attended) [see "Attendance policy," above]. 10%
- 2. Course participation (daily involvement in class, punctual and thorough completion of assigned readings & exams). 11%
- 3. 2000-word term paper (expository/interpretive essay) due in class Wed., Apr. 25. 10%
- 4. Three in-class exams. 69% (23% each)

Important dates and deadlines:

- Exam № 1 (50 min., in-class). Fri., Feb. 9
- Exam № 2 (50 min., in-class). Wed., Mar. 21
- Exam № 3 (50 min., in-class). Mon., Apr. 23
- [Writing section only:] Last day to notify me of your term paper topic (or meet with me to discuss the options). Fri., Apr. 6
- [Writing section only:] Last day to submit rough draft of term paper to me. Mon., Apr. 16
- [Writing section only:] Final draft of term paper due in class. Wed., Apr. 25

Classroom accommodation: Students requesting classroom or test accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office, which will provide documentation to the student who must then provide it to me for accommodation. Students with physical, learning, sensory or psychological disabilities will be accommodated according to UF policies.

Course evaluation policy: Students are expected to provide online feedback on the quality of instruction in this course at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu>. Evaluations are typically open during the last two or three weeks of the semester, but students will be given specific times when they are open. Summary results of these assessments are available to students at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu/results>. All must adhere to UF **Student Honor Code**: <https://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/students/student-conduct-code/>

Daily Schedule of Required Readings Assignments

We will examine and discuss all our required readings in class, so be sure to bring to class the relevant book(s) for a particular day. *Be sure to complete all assigned readings*, as our in-class exams will require you to demonstrate your close familiarity with them.

Entries for each assigned reading consist of the author's first and last names, followed by the title of the work in quotes (or italics, in cases of books), then the work's date of first publication in Russia/U.S.S.R.

Note on dates: A single date after the entry indicates the work's year of completion and/or publication. If there are *two* dates in parentheses, then the first date (e.g. "1925") indicates the year of the work's completion, while the second date (e.g. "1987") indicates the year it was first published legally in Russia. For entries with *three* dates, the first date indicates year of completion, the second date indicates year of publication *outside* Russia, and the third date indicates the year of the work's first legal publication in Russia.

Text sources: The location (and pages) of assigned readings is indicated in [square brackets] acc. to the following abbreviations:

- "PTwCRR" = *The Portable Twentieth-Century Russian Reader*
- "book" = a separate/individual book of that title
- "E-Irn" = an electronic text or file (or link to an online text) on our course E-learning ("Canvas") space at <https://lss.at.ufl.edu/>
- *Note* that a copy of each required book, as well as the books from which the other readings are taken, are on reserve at Library West.

Week 01 (Jan. 8, 10, 12). [*Topics and context*:] End of the "Golden Age" of Russian literature. Civic (social) vs. aesthetic functions of Russian literature. Tolstoy's final decade.

Required readings for Mon. Jan. 8: Course Syllabus.

Required for Wed. Jan 10: Rosa Luxemburg, excerpt "On Russian Literature" (1918) [E-Irn]

Required for Fri. Jan. 12: Leo TOLSTOY, "Alyosha the Pot" (1905; 1911) [PTwCRR: pp. 3-9]

Week 02 (Jan. 17, 19) [*no class Mon. Jan. 15*]: Competing currents of "realism" and "Symbolism."

Required readings for Wed. Jan. 17: Anton CHEKHOV, "The Bishop" (1902) [PTwCRR: pp. 12-28]

Required readings for Fri., Jan. 19: Alexander BLOK, "The Stranger" (1907) [PTwCRR: 77-78]

Week 03 (Jan. 22, 24, 26): Russia between two revolutions (1905 and 1917).

Required readings for Mon. Jan. 22: Ivan BUNIN, "Light Breathing" (1916) [PTwCRR: 59-65]

Required for Wed. Jan. 24: Maksim GORKY, *Childhood* (1913-14) [book: pp. 1-14 (chap. I) — *don't read the "Introduction" yet!*]

Required for Fri. Jan. 26: Maksim GORKY, *Childhood* (1913-14) [book: pp. 15-45 (chapters II-III)]

Week 04 (Jan. 29, 31, Feb. 2): Breaking free of "old" Russia.

Required for Mon. Jan. 29: GORKY, *Childhood* (1913-14) [book: pp. 47-107 (chapters IV-VIII)]

Required for Wed. Jan. 31: GORKY, *Childhood* (1913-14) [book: pp. 109-163 (chapters IX-XI)]

Required for Fri. Feb. 2: GORKY, *Childhood* (1913-14) [book: pp. 165-199 (ch. XII-XIII) + "Introduction" [pp. v-xv]]

Week 05 (Feb. 5, 7, 9): World War I and the collapse of the Russian monarchy (Feb. 1917).

Required for Mon. Feb. 5: Artistic manifesto of the Futurists, "A Slap in the Face of Public Taste" (1912) [E-Irn]

Required for Wed. Feb. 7: Vladimir MAYAKOVSKY, "A Cloud in Pants" (1915) [E-Irn]

Required for Fri. Feb. 9: *EXAM 1* (in class)

Week 06 (Feb. 12, 14, 16): The Bolshevik revolution (Oct./Nov. 1917). Civil war (1918-21). The apotheosis of the proletariat and the struggles of the intelligentsia.

Required for Mon. Feb. 12:

1. Mikhail Gerasimov ("Smithy" poet), "We will take all..." (1920) [E-Irn]
2. MAYAKOVSKY, "Order to the Army of Arts" (1918) [E-Irn]

Required for Wed. Feb. 14: Evgeny ZAMYATIN, “The Cave” (1922) [*PTwCRR*, pp. 91-102]

Required for Fri. Feb. 16: Isaac BABEL, “My First Goose,” from his collection *Red Cavalry* (1923-1926) [*PTwCRR*, p.205-209]

Week 07 (Feb. 19, 21, 23): Lenin’s “New Economic Policy” (“NEP”) and cultural reconstruction.

Required for Mon. Feb. 19: Mikhail BULGAKOV, *Heart of a Dog* (1925; 1968; 1987) [**book**: pp. 1-30 (chapters I-II)]

Required for Wed. Feb. 21: BULGAKOV, *Heart of a Dog* (1925; 1968; 1987) [**book**: pp. 31-85 (chapters III-VI)]

Required for Fri. Feb. 23: BULGAKOV, *Heart of a Dog* (1925; 1968; 1987) [**book**: pp. 86-123 (chapters VII-end)]

Week 08 (Feb. 26, 28, Mar. 2): Stalin’s rise to power. Attacks on political “fellow travelers” in literature and the arts. The Union of Soviet Writers and the promulgation of an official artistic method.

Required for Mon. Feb. 26: Andrei ZHDANOV: Speech on Soviet Literature at the First Soviet Writers Congress (1934) [**E-Irn**]

Required for Wed. Feb. 28: Nikolai OSTROVSKY, excerpts from Part Two of *How the Steel was Tempered* (1934) [**E-Irn**]

Required for Wed. Mar. 2: Andrei PLATONOV, “The Potudan River” (1937) [*PTwCR*, pp. 118-152]

Week 09 (Mar. 12, 14, 16): Stalin’s Terror. World War II and its aftermath.

Required for Mon. Mar. 12: Nadezhda Mandel’shtam, “A May Night,” (excerpt from her memoirs, 1970) [*PTwCRR*, pp. 405-409]

Required for Wed. Mar. 14: Anna AKHMATOVA, “Requiem” (1935-40; 1963; 1987) [**E-Irn**]

Required for Fri. Mar. 16: Mikhail SHOLOKHOV, “The Fate of a Man” (1956) [**E-Irn**]

Week 10 (Mar. 19, 21, 23): Life in the camps of the GULAG.

Required for Mon. Mar. 19: Varlam SHALAMOV, “Prosthetic Appliances” (1965), “A Child’s Drawings” (1959) and “Lend-Lease” (1965) from his cycles of *Kolyma Tales* (1954-1973) [*PTwCRR*: pp. 420-434]

Required for Wed. Mar. 21: *EXAM 2* (50 min., in class)

Required for Fri. Mar. 23: Alexander SOLZHENITSYN, *One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich* (1959; 1962) [**book**: pp. 3-40]

Week 11 (Mar. 26, 28, 30): Life in the GULAG (continued). The cultural “thaw” under Khrushchev.

Required for Mon. Mar. 26: SOLZHENITSYN, *One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich* (1959; 1962) [**book**: pp. 40-88]

Required for Wed. Mar. 28: SOLZHENITSYN, *One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich* (1959; 1962) [**book**: pp. 88-132]

Required for Fri. Mar. 30: SOLZHENITSYN, *One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich* (1959; 1962) [**book**: pp. 132-end]

Week 12 (Apr. 2, 4, 6): The rediscovery of Russian village life. Cultural “stagnation” under Brezhnev.

Required for Mon. Apr. 2: Alexander SOLZHENITSYN, *Matryona’s Home* (1963) [*PTwCRR*: pp. 438-460]

Required for Wed. Apr. 4: SOLZHENITSYN, *Matryona’s Home* (1963) [*PTwCRR*: 460-480]

Required for Fri. Apr. 6: Vladimir VOINOVICH, *The Life & Extraordinary Adventures of Priv. Ivan Chonkin* (1969; 1975; 1989) [**bk**: pp. 3-56 (Pt I, ch 1-8)]

Week 13 (Apr. 9, 11, 13): Cultural “stagnation” under Brezhnev and the revival of satire in late Soviet culture.

Required for Mon. Apr. 9: VOINOVICH, ...*Private Ivan Chonkin* (1969; 1975; 1989) [**bk**: pp. 56-122 (Pt I, ch. 9-16)]

Required for Wed. Apr. 11: VOINOVICH, ...*Private Ivan Chonkin* (1969; 1975; 1989) [**book**: pp. 125-181 (Part II, ch. 1-16)]

Required for Fri. Apr. 13: VOINOVICH, ...*Private Ivan Chonkin* [**book**: 181-256 (Part II, ch. 17-27)].

Week 14 (Apr. 16, 18, 20): The end of Communist Party rule, the breakup of the U.S.S.R., and the end of “Soviet” literature.

Required for Mon. Apr. 16: VOINOVICH, ...*Private Ivan Chonkin* [**book**: 256-316 (Part II, ch. 28-end)]. + *Rough drafts due*.

Required for Wed. Apr. 18: Viktor Erofeev, excerpts from “Russia’s *Fleurs du Mal*” (1995) [**E-Irn**]

Required for Fri. Apr. 20: Vladimir Sorokin, “Next Item on the Agenda” (1992) [**E-Irn**]

Week 15 (Apr. 23, 25): Post-“post-modernism”?

Required for Mon. Apr. 23: *EXAM 3* (50 min., in class)

Required for Wed. Apr. 25: Final remarks. FINAL DRAFT of TERM PAPERS due IN CLASS (writing section participants only)