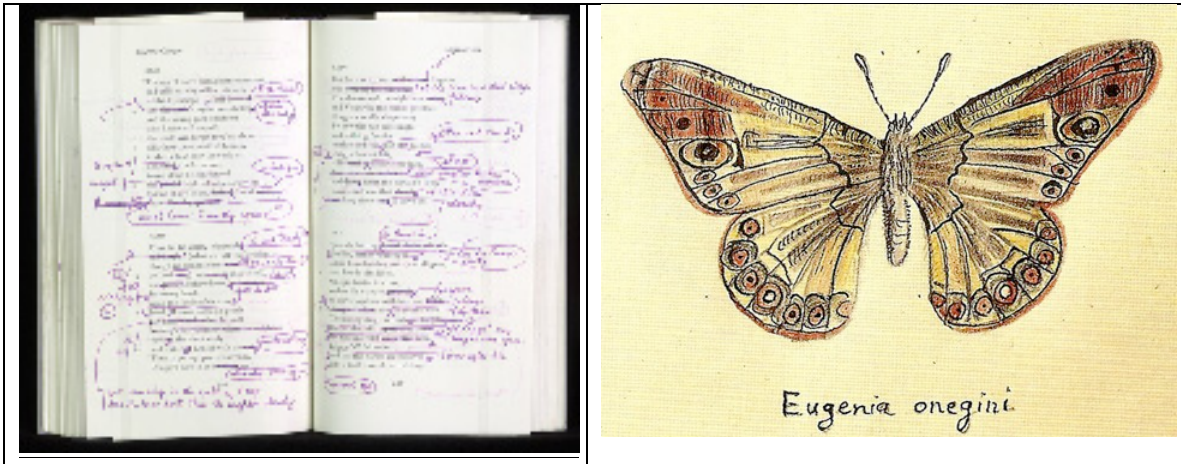


University of Florida
Spring 2018
RUW 4630 (047A): READING *EUGENE ONEGIN*: PUSHKIN
AND NABOKOV (in Russian!!!)
M, W, F: 9th period, CBD 0230
Instructor: Professor Galina Rylkova (grylkova@ufl.edu)
Office hours: T: 3.00-5.00 p.m., room 256, Dauer Hall)



Course description: The objective of this course is to enhance students' understanding (понимание) of one of Russia's most revered texts, Pushkin's «novel-in-verse» *Eugene Onegin*. Although a work of fiction *EO* is often referred to as «an encyclopaedia of Russian life» and it is indeed a unique repository of knowledge about Russia's past, and useful for the present. Because of its exceptional status in Russian culture *Eugene Onegin* has been a source of inspiration to composers, artists and filmmakers. Apart from the reading and discussion of *Onegin* we will compare Pushkin's «original» with its operatic, artistic and cinematic «translations.» After his death Pushkin became a life long obsession of subsequent generations of Russian writers who tried to emulate both his fiction and his elegant lifestyle. One such writer was Vladimir Nabokov. We will discuss Nabokov's scholarly work on *Eugene Onegin* (his translation and commentary) as well as his responses to his critics. The main emphasis will be on what is called «close reading» of the required texts. The class is a combination of lectures and discussion. Readings and discussion will be predominantly in Russian.

This course is a rare opportunity for Russian-speaking students to study a great Russian classic and to discuss it in Russian.

REQUIRED TEXTS/sources:

- 1) А. С. ПУШКИН, *Евгений Онегин*, with an Introduction by A.D. P. Briggs, (Bristol Classical Press) (Even if you are a native speaker of Russian, please, acquire this particular edition)
- 2) Pushkin, *Eugene Onegin, A Novel in Verse*, translated by Vladimir Nabokov (Princeton UP), vol. 1. Bollingen Series.
- 3) Innokentii Smoktunovsky reading *Eugene Onegin* in Russian (ONLINE)
- 4) All other texts will be provided by me as PDF files.

If you haven't done this already, please, order the first two books from amazon.com asap. Please, note that all texts should be ordered in edition specified for this class. You will need to bring your copies of *Евгений Онегин* to **every class**.

To listen to Innokentii Smoktunovsky reading *Eugene Onegin* in Russian go to:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DGdPJPvHJA0>

GRADING:

| | |
|-----------------------------------|-----|
| Class Participation | 40% |
| 4 (four) 300-word response papers | 20% |
| Poetry recital | 15% |
| Oral presentation | 25% |

NO FINAL EXAM

REGULAR ASSIGNMENTS, ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION (40%)

Class participation and attendance, will be taken very seriously in the determination of your final grade. You are expected to do all the reading carefully (AND ON TIME!) so that your homework will form the basis of your contributions to class-discussion.

Four (4) 300-WORD RESPONSE PAPERS (20%)

These will be written once every three weeks (as a take-home "test") on the topics suggested by the Instructor. Everybody is encouraged to write in Russian. However students have the choice to write these assignments in either Russian or English.

POETRY RECITAL (15%)

Students are expected to know by heart and be able to recite at least 3 full stanzas of their choice from “Евгений Онегин” in Russian. The recitations can be tested in class or during instructor’s office hours until April 18. (You are very welcome to practice reading those stanzas with me prior to your final recital.)

ORAL PRESENTATION (25%)

Every student is expected to prepare a 5-7 minute presentation in Russian on the subject «Мой Пушкин». You are welcome to describe Nabokov's, Belinsky's, Dostoevsky's, Chaikovsky's, Akhmatova's or Tsvetaeva's «Pushkins», or you can choose to talk about your own image of the poet. The written text of your presentation should be submitted to me via e-mail at least 48 hours prior to your presentations. These presentations will take place during the last class on Wednesday, April 25.

The following scale will be used in grading your assignments and in calculating the overall grade for the course:

| | | |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| A = 95 – 100% (4 points) | B - = 75-79% (2.67 points) | D + = 55-59% (1.33 points) |
| A - = 90 – 94% (3.67 points) | C+ = 70 – 74% (2.33 points) | D = 50 – 54% (1.0 point) |
| B+ = 85 – 89% (3.33 points) | C = 65 – 69% (2.0 points) | D - = 45 – 49% (0.67 points) |
| B = 80 – 84% (3.0 points) | C - = 60-64% (1.67 points) | E = 40 – 44% (0 – Failure) |

If you have questions, please, consult:

<http://www.registrar.ufl.edu/catalog/policies/regulationgrades.html>

Course Policies

Please, come to class on time.

Cell phones and gadgets: Please turn your cell phone off during class as a courtesy to us all. If your cell phone does happen to disturb the class, you are required to treat the class to cookies as reparation for the interruption. Please keep all other gadgets out of sight and sound as well: they are a distraction!

Please do not hesitate to contact me during the semester if you have any individual concerns or issues that need to be discussed. Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office (www.dso.ufl.edu/drp/). The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the instructor when requesting accommodation.

In writing papers, be certain to give proper credit whenever you use words, phrases, ideas, arguments, and conclusions drawn from someone else’s work. Failure to give

credit by quoting and/or footnoting is PLAGIARISM and is unacceptable. Please review the University's honesty policy at www.dso.ufl.edu/judicial/.

SYLLABUS

January

01/08 Introduction

01/10: Introduction. Discussion of Nabokov, "The "EO" Stanza" and "Pushkin on "EO"" from Aleksandr Pushkin, "Eugene Onegin", A Novel in Verse, trans. Vladimir Nabokov, Vol. 1 (pp. 9-14; 68-73).

01/12: Discussion of "Глава первая": вступление (стр. 3); stanzas: I-VIII
FOR EVERY CLASS ON *EO* YOU SHOULD ALSO LISTEN TO
SMOKTUNOVSKY'S READING OF CORRESPONDING SECTIONS OF EO:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DGdPJPvHJA0>

01/15 NO CLASS: Dr. Martin Luther's Day

01/17 Discussion of "Глава первая": IX- XV

01/19 Discussion of "Глава первая": XVI-XXI

01/22 Discussion of "Глава первая": XXII-XXVII

01/24 Discussion of "Глава первая": XXIX-XXXIV

01/26 Discussion of "Глава первая": XXXV-XLIX

01/29 Discussion of "Глава первая": L-LX

01/31 Discussion of "Глава вторая": I-XIII

February

02/02 Discussion of "Глава вторая" of "EO": XIV-XXIII

First response paper due

02/05 Discussion of "Глава вторая" of "EO": XXIV-XXIX

02/07 Discussion of "Глава вторая" of "EO": XXX-XL

02/09 Discussion of "Глава третья" of "EO": I-XV

- 02/12 Discussion of “Глава третья” of “ЕО”: XVI-XXXIII
02/14 Discussion of “Глава третья” of “ЕО”: XXXIV-XLI
02/16 Discussion of “Глава четвертая” of “ЕО”: I-XVIII
02/19 Discussion of “Глава четвертая” of “ЕО”: XIX-XXXV

Second response paper due

- 02/21 Discussion of “Глава четвертая”: XXXVI-LI
02/23 Discussion of “Глава пятая”: I-XXI
02/26 Discussion of “Глава пятая”: XXII- XXXII
02/28 Discussion of “Глава пятая”: XXXIII-XLV

March

- 03/02 Discussion of “Глава шестая” of “ЕО”: I-XII

March 5-11: March Break

- 03/12 Discussion of “Глава шестая” of “ЕО”: XIII- XXXV
03/14 Discussion of “Глава шестая” of “ЕО”: XXXVI-XLVI

Third response paper due

- 03/16 Discussion of “Глава седьмая”: I-XIV
03/19 Discussion of “Глава седьмая”: XV-XXXV
03/21 Discussion of “Глава седьмая”: XXXVI-LV
03/23 Discussion “Глава восьмая”: I-XX
03/26 Discussion of “Глава восьмая”: XXI-XXXIX
03/28 Discussion of “Глава восьмая”: XL- LI
03/30 Discussion of Nabokov's «Reply to my critics»; selected passages from Nabokov’s translation of “ЕО”; Choose one stanza of your liking from EO and be

prepared to discuss it in class and compare it to Nabokov's translation and his commentary. What is lost and what is found in Nabokov's translation?

Fourth paper due

April

04/02 Discussion of Nabokov, «Reply to my critics»; selected passages from Nabokov's translation of "EO"; Galina Rylkova, «'О читателе, теле и славе' Владимира Набокова»

04/04 Discussion of Belinskii, «Евгений Онегин»

04/06 Discussion of Dostoevskii, «Пушкинская речь»

04/09 Discussion of Chaikovskii's opera "Evgenii Onegin"

04/11 Discussion of Chaikovskii's opera "Evgenii Onegin"

04/13 Discussion of Chaikovskii's opera "Evgenii Onegin"

04/16 Discussion of Tsvetaeva, «Мой Пушкин»;

04/18 Discussion of Tsvetaeva, «Мой Пушкин»; Akhmatova, «Слово о Пушкине»; «Пушкин и дети»

April 18 is the very last day for poetry recitals.

04/20 Discussion of Martha Fiennes' cinematographic version of EO, «Onegin»

04/23 Discussion of Martha Fiennes' cinematographic version of EO, «Onegin»

04/25

ORAL PRESENTATIONS

NO FINAL EXAM

