

**RUT 3452, sections 04H1 (non-writing) & 04H6 (writing): Russian Literature of the Twentieth Century**  
Course Syllabus, Fall 2016

**Time:** MWF 5 (11:45 - 12:35)  
**Place:** Turlington 2306  
**Instructor:** James Goodwin

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

**Goals:**

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.

**Content:**

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) and to the final, “post-Soviet” years (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 texts thoroughly *prior* to the class meeting for which they are assigned. Although the readings will vary in length and difficulty, *on average* you will need to reserve time to read roughly 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. Vladimov, Georgii. *Faithful Ruslan* (N.Y.: Melville, 2011) [ISBN 1935554670; LibW Rsv: **PG3489.3.L29 V4613**]
5. 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**]
6. 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**]
7. [+ 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. Consistent engagement in classroom activities (lectures, discussions, writing) for the entire fifty minutes of each day’s lesson; this means *NOT* operating electronic devices during class or distracting / disrupting others in any way;
3. Thorough and punctual completion of all assigned readings;
4. Completion of three in-class written exams;
5. [*Writing section (04H6) 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*.

### **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 electronic devices silent 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, smart phones, etc.) may be used in class *\*ONLY\** for the purpose of viewing a text and/or typing 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 deadline. 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)** must write a 2000-word essay on one of several possible topics which I will give you *after* our first exam (Wed. Sept. 21), 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., Dec. 7.* . . . . . **10%**
4. Three in-class exams. . . . . **69%** (23% each)

### **Important dates and deadlines**

- Exam № 1 (50 min., in-class). . . . . **Wed., Sept. 21**  
Exam № 2 (50 min., in-class). . . . . **Wed., Oct. 26**  
Exam № 3 (50 min., in-class + take-home essay question). . . . . **Mon., Dec. 5**  
[*Writing section only:*] Notify me of your term paper topic (or meet with me to discuss the options). . . . . **Mon.-Fri., Nov. 3-5**  
[*Writing section only:*] Rough draft of term paper due in class. . . . . **Mon., Nov. 21**  
[*Writing section only:*] Final draft of term paper due in class. . . . . **Wed., Dec. 7**

**Classroom Accommodation:** Students requesting classroom or exam accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office. That office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide it to me when requesting accommodation.

**Students with physical, learning, sensory or psychological disabilities** will be accommodated in accordance with UF policies.

All must adhere to U.F.’s **Student Honor Code:** <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/advising/info/student-honor-code.aspx>.

## 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
- "Lib/E-Irn" = on reserve at Lib West and/or via link to 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.

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**Week 01** (Aug. 22, 24, 26). [Topics:] The final years of imperial Russia, 1900-1917. End of the "Golden Age" of Russian literature. Civic (social) vs. aesthetic functions of Russian literature.

**Required readings for Mon. Aug. 22:** (1) Course Syllabus; (2) Rosa Luxemburg, excerpt "On Russian Literature" (1918) [in class]

**Required for Wed. Aug. 24:** Leo TOLSTOY, "Alyosha the Pot" (1905; 1911) [Port. *Twentieth-Century Russian Reader*: pp. 3-9]

**Required for Fri. Aug. 26:** Anton CHEKHOV, "The Bishop" (1902) [PTwCRR: pp. 12-28]

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**Week 02** (Aug. 29, 31, Sept. 2): The twilight of "symbolism" and the revival of "realism."

**Required readings for Mon. Aug 29:** Alexander BLOK, "The Stranger" (1907) [PTwCRR: 77-78]

**Required readings for Wed., Aug. 31:**

1. Ivan BUNIN, "Light Breathing" (1916) [PTwCRR: 59-65]
2. Maksim GORKY, *Childhood* (1913-14) [book: pp. 1-14 (chap. I) — *don't read the "Introduction" before you've read the book!!*]

**Required readings for Fri. Sept. 2:** Maksim GORKY, *Childhood* (1913-14) [book: pp. 15-45 (chapters II-III)]

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**Week 03** (Sept. 7, 9): Breaking free of "old" Russia.

**Required for Wed. Sept. 7:** GORKY, *Childhood* (1913-14) [book: pp. 47-107 (chapters IV-VIII)]

**Required for Fri. Sept. 9:** GORKY, *Childhood* (1913-14) [book: pp. 109-163 (chapters IX-XI)]

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**Week 04** (Sept. 12, 14, 16): World War I; the collapse of the monarchy (Feb. 1917); the Bolshevik revolution (Oct. 1917); the Russian civil war (1918-21). The apotheosis of the proletariat and the struggles of the intelligentsia.

**Required for Mon. Sept. 12:** GORKY, *Childhood* (1913-14) book: pp. 165-199 (ch. XII-XIII) + "Introduction" [pp. v-xv]

**Required for Wed. Sept. 14:**

1. Artistic manifesto of the Futurists, "A Slap in the Face of Public Taste" (1912) [Lib/E-Irn]
2. Vladimir MAYAKOVSKY, "A Cloud in Pants" (1915) and "Order to the Army of Arts" (1918) [Lib/E-Irn]
3. Mikhail Gerasimov ("Smithy" poet), "We will take all..." (1920) [Lib/E-Irn]

**Required for Fri. Sept. 16:** Evgeny ZAMYATIN, "The Cave" (1922) [PTwCRR, pp. 91-102]

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**Week 05** (Sept. 19, 21, 23): From Civil war to Lenin's "New Economic Policy" (NEP). Soviet Russia's "roaring twenties"

**Required for Mon. Sept. 19:** Isaac BABEL, "My First Goose," from his collection *Red Cavalry* (1923-1926) [PTwCRR, p.205-209]

**Required for Wed. Sept. 21:** EXAM 1 (in class)

**Required for Fri. Sept. 23:** Mikhail BULGAKOV, *Heart of a Dog* (1925; 1968; 1987) [book: pp. 1-30 (chapters I-II)]

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**Week 06** (Sept. 26, 28, 30): Stalin's "socialism in one country". Attacks on political "fellow travelers" in literature and the arts. The Union of Soviet Writers and the declaration of an official Soviet artistic method

**Required for Mon. Sept. 26:** BULGAKOV, *Heart of a Dog* (1925; 1968; 1987) [book: pp. 31-85 (chapters III-VI)]

**Required for Wed. Sept. 28:** BULGAKOV, *Heart of a Dog* (1925; 1968; 1987) [book: pp. 86-123 (chapters VII-end)]

**Required for Fri. Sept. 30:** Andrei ZHDANOV: Speech on Soviet Literature at the First Soviet Writers Congress (1934) [Lib/E-Irn]

**Week 07** (Oct. 3, 5, 7): “Socialist Realism” in practice. The hazards of non-conformity. Stalin “cult of personality” and the Great Terror. Writing “for the desk drawer”

**Required for Mon. Oct. 3:** Nikolai OSTROVSKY, excerpts from Part Two of *How the Steel was Tempered* (1934) [Lib/E-Irn]

**Required for Wed. Oct. 5:** Andrei PLATONOV, “The Potudan River” (1937) [PTwCR, pp. 118-152]

**Required for Fri. Oct. 7:**

1. Osip Mandel’shtam, “We live without feeling the country beneath us...” (1933; 1969; 1988) [Lib/E-Irn]
2. Anna AKHMATOVA, excerpts from “Requiem” (1935-40; 1963; 1987) [Lib/E-Irn]

**Week 08** (Oct. 10, 12): World War II and its aftermath. Depicting life in the GULAG.

**Required for Mon. Oct. 10:** Mikhail SHOLOKHOV, “The Fate of a Man” (1956) [Lib/E-Irn]

**Required for Wed. Oct. 12:** 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]

**Week 09** (Oct. 17, 19, 21): Depicting life in the GULAG (continued). The cultural “thaw” under Khrushchev.

**Required for Mon. Oct. 17:** Alexander SOLZHENITSYN, *One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich* (1959; 1962) [book: pp. 3–40]

**Required for Wed. Oct. 19:** SOLZHENITSYN, *One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich* (1959; 1962) [book: pp. 40–88]

**Required for Fri. Oct. 21:** SOLZHENITSYN, *One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich* (1959; 1962) [book: pp. 88–132]

**Week 10** (Oct. 24, 26, 28): The rediscovery of Russian village life.

**Required for Mon. Oct. 24:** SOLZHENITSYN, *One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich* (1959; 1962) [book: pp. 132–end]

**Required for Wed. Oct. 26:** EXAM 2 (50 min., in class)

**Required for Fri. Oct. 28:** Alexander SOLZHENITSYN, *Matryona’s Home* (1963) [PTwCRR: pp. 438–460]

**Week 11** (Oct. 31, Nov. 2, 4): The closing of the GULAG.

**Required for Mon. Oct. 31:** SOLZHENITSYN, *Matryona’s Home* (1963) [PTwCRR: 460-480]

**Required for Wed. Nov. 2:** Georgii VLADIMOV, *Faithful Ruslan* (1963-65; 1975; 1989) [book: pp.15-36 (ch.1)]

**Required for Fri. Nov. 4:** VLADIMOV, *Faithful Ruslan* (1963-65;1975;1989) [book: pp. 37–75 (ch. 2)]

**Week 12** (Nov. 7, 9): Cultural “stagnation” under Brezhnev.

**Required for Mon. Nov. 7:** VLADIMOV, *Faithful Ruslan* [book: pp. 77-136 (ch. 3)]

**Required for Wed. Nov. 9:** VLADIMOV, *Faithful Ruslan* [book: pp. 138-180 (ch. 4)]

**Week 13** (Nov. 14, 16, 18): The revival of satire in late Soviet culture.

**Required for Mon. Nov. 14:**

1. VLADIMOV, *Faithful Ruslan* [book: pp. 181-216 (ch. 5-6) + “Foreword,” pp. 1-11]
  2. Vlad. VOINOVICH, *The Life & Extraordinary Adventures of Priv. Ivan Chonkin* (1969; 1975; 1989) [bk: pp. 3-56 (Pt I, ch 1-8)]
- Required for Wed. Nov. 16:** Vladimir VOINOVICH, ...*Private Ivan Chonkin* (1969; 1975; 1989) [bk: pp. 56–122 (Pt I, ch. 9–16)]
- Required for Fri. Nov. 18:** VOINOVICH, ...*Private Ivan Chonkin* (1969; 1975; 1989) [book: pp. 125–181 (Part II, ch. 1–16)]

**Week 14** (Nov. 21)

**Required:** VOINOVICH, ...*Private Ivan Chonkin* [book: 181–256 (Part II, ch. 17–27)]. *Rough draft of term paper due in class.*

**Week 15** (Nov. 28, 30, Dec. 2): The end of Communist Party rule, the breakup of the U.S.S.R., and the end of “Soviet” literature.

**Required for Mon. Nov. 28:** VOINOVICH, ...*Private Ivan Chonkin* [book: 256-316 (Part II, ch. 28-end)]

**Required for Wed. Nov. 30:** Viktor Erofeev, excerpts from “Russia’s *Fleurs du Mal*” (1995) [Lib/E-Irn]

**Required for Fri. Dec. 2:** Vladimir Sorokin, “Next Item on the Agenda” (1992) [Lib/E-Irn]

**Week 16** (Dec. 5, 7): Post-“post-modernism”? Final remarks and considerations.

**Mon. Dec. 5:** EXAM 3 (50 min., in class)

**Wed. Dec. 7:** Final remarks. FINAL DRAFT of TERM PAPERS due IN CLASS (writing section participants only)