

RUT 3452, sections 03C5 (21886/WR) & 03C6 (21887): Russian Literature of the Twentieth Century
Course Syllabus, Fall 2019

Time: MWF 6 (12:50 - 1:40)
Place: Turlington 2349

Instructor: James Goodwin
E-mail: (jegoodwi@ufl.edu)

Office, phone: Dauer 252c, (352) 273-3790
Office hours: W 2:00–3:00, 4:00–5:00 p.m.

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 images and film excerpts.

In order to illuminate historical and contextual significance, our course readings are arranged mainly in chronological order. As we proceed through our list of texts, be sure to take note of *the specific period (years) to which they belong*.

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 (some weeks a bit more, some weeks a bit less — see “[Daily Schedule](#),” below).

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 & updated edition (N.Y.: Penguin, 2003) [ISBN # 0142437573; + Lib West Reserve (ask for it at the Circulation desk) with call number **PG3213 .P67**]
2. Gorky, Maksim. [Childhood](#). Translated by Gr. Hettlinger (Ivan Dee Publishers, 2011). [ISBN # 1566638402 + Lib West Reserve: **PG3465.A32 H47**]
3. Bulgakov, Mikhail. [Heart of a Dog](#). Translated by M. Ginsburg (Grove Pr., 1987) [ISBN # 0802150594; Lib West Reserve: **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 ed. (Northwestern U Pr, 1995) [ISBN # 0810112434; Lib West Reserve: **PG3489.4.I53 Z313 1995**]
6. [+ additional 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 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 (03C5) only*]: A 2000-word expository essay on an assigned topic (see “[Writing Requirement](#)” details, below).

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 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/texts 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.

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. If/when unavoidable, a make-up test 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. Individual assignments for extra credit will NOT be given to compensate for a missed test (or missed assignment, or missed classes).

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 will be based on the following percentages:

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

+ *NOTE* that students enrolled in the writing section (**03C5**) will receive a separate/additional grade on their 2000-word term paper. In order to gain the 2000-word writing credit for the course, the grade on the essay must be “C” or higher and meet all of the criteria spelled out in the assignment. See “[Writing Requirement](#),” below, for details.

Important dates and deadlines:

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| Exam № 1 (50 min., in-class). | Wed., Sept. 25 |
| Exam № 2 (50 min., in-class). | Wed., Oct. 30 |
| Exam № 3 (50 min., during our designated Final Exam slot from 12:30 – 2:30 p.m.). | Wed., Dec. 11 |
| [<i>Writing section only:</i>] Last day to notify me of your term paper topic (or meet with me to discuss options).. . . . | Fri., Nov. 1 |
| [<i>Writing section only:</i>] Last day to submit rough draft of term paper to me. | Mon., Nov. 18 |
| [<i>Writing section only:</i>] Final draft of term paper due <i>in class</i> | Wed., Dec. 4 |

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 professional and respectful feedback on the quality of instruction in this course by completing course evaluations online via GatorEvals. Guidance on how to give feedback in a professional and respectful manner is available at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/students/>. Students will be notified when the evaluation period opens, and can complete evaluations through the email they receive from GatorEvals, in their Canvas course menu under GatorEvals, or via <https://ufl.bluera.com/ufl/>. Summaries of evaluation results are available to students at <https://gatorevals.aa.ufl.edu/public-results/>.

Writing Requirement (for those enrolled in the Writing section [03C5 (21886/WR)]):

UF's "**Writing Requirement**" (or "**Gordon Rule**") aims to help students maintain their writing fluency and facilitate learning. Those who wish to receive a 2000-word credit toward fulfilment of the UF Writing Requirement must write a 2000-word expository essay on a topic which I will distribute *after* our first exam (on Wed. Sept. 25), together with specific instructions, technical requirements and grading criteria. The writing 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). In order to gain the 2000-word writing credit, the essay must receive a grade of "C" or higher and meet all of the criteria spelled out in the assignment

By **Mon., Nov. 18**, you must submit a rough draft of the paper which I will return to you with feedback and suggestions for further improvement, if necessary. At that time I will also ask you to agree on a time (outside of our class meeting time) when we can meet in person to go over the rough draft and discuss strategies for revision.

By **Wed., Dec. 4**, our last regular class meeting, you must submit to me a hard/printed copy (*not* electronic) of your final draft. The final draft will be evaluated on **content, organization and coherence, effectiveness, style, grammar, and punctuation**. In order to receive the 2000-word writing credit, the paper must include: (1) **a meaningful title**, which does not have to be elegant or "catchy," but should reference the specific subject-matter or your essay to some degree. Thus the title should be more informative than simply: "Paper for Rus Lit Course"; (2) an **original thesis**, or argument, which proceeds logically from your specific claims throughout the paper; (3) **effective support** for your thesis by means of specific examples from the texts under discussion; (4) **thoughtful analysis** of the subject (i.e. *not* simply a description of events, plot, characters, etc.); (5) **clear exposition** of your statements, free of egregious or frequent grammatical, lexical, syntactical and/or spelling errors. Failure to meet these criteria will lower the grade for the final draft. If the grade on the final draft is lower than "C," then UF will not give you writing credit for this course.

Students who seek suggestions for improving their writing skills are also encouraged to visit the UF's "**Writing Studio**" (located in 2215 Turlington Hall, phone: 352-846-1138).

Daily Schedule of Required Reading Assignments

We will review and discuss all our required readings in class, so please 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.

NOTE on dates (given below): A single date in parentheses 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 in Russia. For entries with *three* dates, the first date indicates year of completion, the second 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 which you should obtain (purchase or check out at the library on course reserve)
- "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 (Aug. 21, 23). [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 Wed. Aug. 21: Syllabus. Rosa Luxemburg, excerpt "On Russian Literature" (1918) [E-Irn]

Required for Fri. Aug. 23: Leo TOLSTOY, "Alyosha the Pot" (1905; 1911) [PTwCRR: pp. 3-9]

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Week 02 (Aug. 26, 28, 30) [no class Mon. Jan. 15]: Competing currents of "realism" and "Symbolism."

Required for Mon. Aug. 26: (1) Alexander BLOK, "The Stranger" (1907) [PTwCRR: 77-78]

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

Required for Fri., Aug. 30: Ivan BUNIN, "Light Breathing" (1916) [PTwCRR: 59-65]

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Week 03 (Sept. 4, 6): Russia between two revolutions (1905 and 1917).

Required for Wed. Sept. 4: Maksim GORKY, *Childhood* (1913-14) [book: pp. 1-45 (ch. I-III) — but *don't read the* "Intro" yet!]

Required for Fri. Sept. 6: GORKY, *Childhood* (1913-14) [book: pp. 47-92 (chapters IV-VII)]

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Week 04 (Sept. 9, 11, 13): Breaking free of "old" Russia. World War I and the collapse of the Russian monarchy (Feb. 1917).

Required for Mon. Sept. 9: GORKY, *Childhood* (1913-14) [book: pp. 92-143 (chapters VIII-X)]

Required for Wed. Sept. 11: GORKY, *Childhood* (1913-14) [book: pp. 145-184 (ch. XI-XIII)]

Required for Fri. Sept. 13: GORKY, *Childhood* (1913-14) [book: pp. 185-199 (ch. XII-XIII) + "Intro," pp. v-xv]

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Week 05 (Sept. 16, 18, 20): The Bolshevik revolution (Oct. 1917). Apotheosis of the proletariat. Struggles of the intelligentsia.

Required for Mon. Sept. 16: (1) Artistic manifesto of the Futurists, "A Slap in the Face of Public Taste" (1912) [E-Irn]; (2) Vladimir MAYAKOVSKY, "A Cloud in Pants" (1915) [E-Irn]

Required for Wed. Sept. 18: (1) Osip MANDEL'SHTAM, "The Admiralty (1913) [*PTwCRR*: 183-184]; (2) Mikhail Gerasimov ("Smithy" poet), "We will take all..." (1920) [*E-lrn*]; (3) MAYAKOVSKY, "Order to the Army of Arts" (1918) [*E-lrn*]

Required for Fri. Sept. 20: Evgeny ZAMYATIN, "The Cave" (1922) [*PTwCRR*, pp. 91-102]

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Week 06 (Sept. 23, 25, 27): Civil war (1918-21). Lenin's "New Economic Policy" ("NEP").

Required for Mon. Sept. 23: Isaac BABEL, (1) "My First Goose," from his book *Red Cavalry* (1923-1926) [*PTwCRR*, p.205-209]; (2) "Life of Matvei Rodionovich Pavlichenko" from his book *Red Cavalry* (1923-26) [*E-lrn*]

Required for Wed. Sept. 25: *EXAM 1* (in class)

Required for Fri. Sept. 27: Mikhail BULGAKOV, *Heart of a Dog* (1925; 1968; 1987) [*book*: pp. 1-45 (chapters I-III)]

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Week 07 (Sept. 30, Oct. 2):

Required for Mon. Sept. 30: BULGAKOV, *Heart of a Dog* (1925; 1968; 1987) [*book*: pp. 46-85 (chapters IV-VI)]

Required for Wed. Oct. 2: BULGAKOV, *Heart of a Dog* (1925; 1968; 1987) [*book*: pp. 86-123 (chapters VII-end)]
[no UF classes on Fri. Oct. 4 due to university holiday]

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Week 08 (Oct. 7, 9, 11): Lenin's death and Stalin's rise to power. Attacks on political "fellow travelers" in literature and the arts.

Required for Mon. Oct. 7: Yuri OLESHA, *Envy* (1927) [*PTwCRR*, pp. 250-281]

Required for Wed. Oct. 9: OLESHA, *Envy* (1927) [*PTwCRR*, pp. 281-328]

Required for Fri. Oct. 11: (1) OLESHA, *Envy* (1927) [*PTwCRR*, pp. 328-378]; (2) MAYAKOVSKY, "At the Top of My Voice" (1930) [*E-lrn*]

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Week 09 (Oct. 14, 16, 18): Stalin's "great turn". The Union of Soviet Writers and the promulgation of an official artistic method.

Required for Mon. Oct. 14: Andrei ZHDANOV: Speech on Soviet Literature at the First Soviet Writers Congress (1934) [*E-lrn*]

Required for Wed. Oct. 16: Nikolai OSTROVSKY, excerpts from Part Two of *How the Steel was Tempered* (1934) [*E-lrn*]

Required for Fri. Oct. 18: Andrei PLATONOV, "The Potudan River" (1937) [*PTwCR*, pp. 118-152]

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Week 10 (Oct. 21, 23, 25): Stalin's Terror. World War II and its aftermath.

Required for Mon. Oct. 21: Nadezhda Mandel'shtam, "A May Night," (excerpt from her memoirs, 1970) [*PTwCRR*, pp. 405-409]

Required for Wed. Oct. 23: Anna AKHMATOVA, "Requiem" (1935-40; 1963; 1987) [*E-lrn*]

Required for Fri. Oct. 25: Mikhail SHOLOKHOV, "The Fate of a Man" (1956) [*E-lrn*]

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Week 11 (Oct. 28, 30, Nov. 1): Life in the Soviet GULAG.

Required for Mon. Oct. 28: 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. Oct. 30: *EXAM 2* (50 min., in class)

Required for Fri. Nov. 1: Alexander SOLZHENITSYN, *One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich* (1959; 1962) [*book*: pp. 3-40]

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Week 12 (Nov. 4, 6, 8):

Required for Mon. Nov. 4: SOLZHENITSYN, *One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich* (1959; 1962) [book: pp. 40–88]

Required for Wed. Nov. 6: SOLZHENITSYN, *One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich* (1959; 1962) [book: pp. 88–132]

Required for Fri. Nov. 8: SOLZHENITSYN, *One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich* (1959; 1962) [book: pp. 132–end]

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Week 13 (Nov. 13, 15): The rediscovery of Russian village life. Cultural “stagnation” under Brezhnev.

[no UF classes on Mon. Nov. 11]

Required for Wed. Nov. 13: SOLZHENITSYN, *Matryona’s Home* (1963) [PTwCRR: 438-480]

Required for Fri. Nov. 15: Vladimir VOINOVICH, *The Life & Extraordinary Adventures of Priv. Ivan Chonkin* (1969; 1975; 1989) [bk: pp. 3-56 (Pt I, ch 1-8)]

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Week 14 (Nov. 18, 20, 22): The revival of satire in late Soviet culture.

Required for Mon. Nov. 18: VOINOVICH, ...*Private Ivan Chonkin* (1969; 1975; 1989) [book: pp. 56–95] + *Rough drafts due!!*

Required for Wed. Nov. 20: VOINOVICH, ...*Private Ivan Chonkin* (1969; 1975; 1989) [book: pp. 95–151]

Required for Fri. Nov. 22: VOINOVICH, ...*Private Ivan Chonkin* (1969; 1975; 1989) [book: pp. 151–212].

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Week 15 (Nov 25–29): NO CLASSES on Mon. Nov. 25 (instructor absence), Wed. Nov. 27 or Fri Nov. 29 (Thanksgiving).

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Week 16 (Dec. 2, 4): The twilight of Communist power, the breakup of the U.S.S.R., and the end of “Soviet” literature.

Required for Mon. Dec. 2: VOINOVICH, ...*Private Ivan Chonkin* [book: pp. 213-316].

Required for Wed. Dec. 4: (1) Viktor Erofeev, excerpts from “Russia’s *Fleurs du Mal*” (1995) [E-Irn]; (2) Abram TERTS, “Pkhents” (1957; 1966; 1989) [PTwCRR: 485-506] + FINAL DRAFT of TERM PAPERS due IN CLASS (writing section only)

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Finals Week: EXAM 3 on Wed. Dec. 11 from 12:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. (in our normal classroom).