

RUW 3101 (0609): Reading Russian Literature (Spring 2017)
Course Syllabus

<u>Time:</u>	MWF 5 (11:45 - 12:35 p.m.)	<u>Office hours:</u>	W 3:00 - 5:00 p.m.
<u>Place:</u>	MAT 013	<u>Office, phone:</u>	Dauer 252c, (352) 273-3790
<u>Instructor:</u>	Goodwin	<u>E-mail:</u>	jegoodwi@ufl.edu

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GOALS, CONTENT AND FORMAT OF THE COURSE:

This course in reading Russian literature will strengthen your knowledge and command of the contemporary Russian “literary” language («современный русский литературный язык») or, in other words, the literary standard of Russian that evolved over the past two centuries. Toward that end, the course will be devoted primarily to close readings of short masterpieces of Russian prose that are well known to the vast majority of educated Russians. In addition to the language and grammar of our readings, we will also consider their significance in the literary and cultural history of Russia.

Beginning with Pushkin, the acknowledged “father” of the Russian literary language, we will examine original texts by four “giants” of nineteenth-century Russian short fiction. Because our principal goal is to enhance reading skills, most of our time will be devoted to vocabulary building, analysis of formal, literary syntax, and important elements and issues in intermediate / advanced grammar. Although this course will *not* offer intensive oral practice, our daily discussions and reviews of assigned readings should afford everyone an opportunity to speak in Russian. More importantly, your regular study of our Russian texts and exercises will strengthen the lexical foundation of your Russian conversational skills.

Our daily classroom activities will typically include (1) group readings (aloud) of selected excerpts from assigned texts; (2) translation of selected paragraphs, sentences or fragments; (3) identification, explication and analysis of important lexical & grammatical features of selected excerpts; (4) discussion of significant literary & cultural dimensions of the texts (plot, character development, themes, etc.); and (5) a review of questions and written homework assignments [«Письменные задания»] that pertain to the assigned texts.

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REQUIRED COURSE MATERIALS:

1. PDF copies of the required readings (via “e-learning”), to be *PRINTED* and brought to class.

There will be no assigned textbook for this course. Instead, the assigned readings will be made available on our course “e-learning” site (lss.at.ufl.edu). Everyone will be expected to *PRINT OUT THE REQUIRED READINGS* and *BRING THEM TO CLASS*, so that when I ask everyone to look at specific lines on specific pages, we will all be “on the same page.” Thus ELECTRONIC VERSIONS of the readings will **NOT** be sufficient for our daily work in class!

2. A detailed and accurate dictionary — printed *OR* electronic — to facilitate comprehension of the assigned texts.

For each assigned reading, I will make available (on “e-learning”) an electronic/PDF Russian-to-English glossary that will cover most of the intermediate/advanced vocabulary in that particular text. The glossaries will be merely *selective*, however, and thus may not be sufficiently comprehensive. For that reason, you will need to have daily access to a reliable dictionary to assist you in your close reading and translation of the texts. The two best options for dictionaries are:

- i. A “large” Russian-English dictionary, i.e. one that includes *all (or virtually all) possible meanings* of words (where multiple meanings exist) as well as *examples of usage*. All the best “large” dictionaries indicate any unusual word forms. The two best large Russian-English dictionaries are [1] *The Oxford Russian-English Dictionary* (several different editions) and [2] *The New Comprehensive Russian-English Dictionary* by Ermolovich & Krasavina (Moscow, 2004). Both of these dictionaries will be available on two-hour course reserve at Library West.
- ii. An online dictionary that includes *multiple meanings* of words and (preferably) *examples of usage*. In my experience, “ABBY Lingvo Live” provides the best available free online dictionary (www.lingvolive.com/en-us — requires that you register with a user name and password, but is a secure site). It also shows different forms of a word (declension pattern of nouns & adjectives or conjugation of verbs), as well as stress patterns. Undoubtedly

there are others, but nothing I've seen beats Lingvo. Whichever option you choose, if at all possible AVOID "Google Translate," which usually offers only the most likely translation of a word, and *frequently* translates inaccurately (often laughably so). While sufficient for simple words (like "table" or "to read"), it is far less reliable for accurate translations of words with multiple meanings and/or in unusual forms.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS:

1. Regular attendance and active participation in all classroom activities, where "active" means fully attentive to the day's lesson and thus *NOT* engaged by an electronic device or other personal activities. See also "Attendance policy," below.
2. Thorough familiarity with the Russian-language text (content, vocabulary and grammar) of all assigned readings. Everyone will be expected to complete the assigned readings *PRIOR* to class. That way, when we examine the text in class, you will be reviewing (and thus reinforcing) new vocabulary and syntax, rather than meeting them for the first time. On the four in-class exams I will expect you to demonstrate your knowledge of our Russian texts, so be sure to read them thoroughly and carefully. The reading assignments are not long, but they all offer certain lexical and grammatical challenges, even for advanced readers of Russian.
3. Thorough, accurate and punctual completion of each semi-weekly written homework assignment [**письменное задание**], which will consist mainly of vocabulary, grammar and translation exercises based on the assigned readings. Your homework will receive one of three possible marks ([1] Superb; [2] Satisfactory; or [3] Less-than-satisfactory) and will count for 10% of your course grade.
4. Completion of four in-class exams [**контрольные**] based on required course readings, homework, class activities and discussions. The exams will account for 75% of your course grade. *There will NOT be a comprehensive final exam in this course.*

GRADING CRITERIA:

Final course grades will be based on the following percentages:

- Total attendance (= total number of class meetings attended) [see "Attendance policy," below]. 10%
- Course participation (= attendance percentage [not including officially excused absences — see "Attendance policy," below]; + punctual and thorough completion of all assignments; + full engagement in all classroom activities). 5%
- Eight written (homework) assignments [**«Письменные задания»**]. 10%
- **Контрольная № 1** [Exam 1], in class on Mon., Jan. 30. *25%
- **Контрольная № 2** [Exam 2], in class on Wed., Feb. 22. *25%
- **Контрольная № 3** [Exam 3], in class on Wed., Mar. 22. *25%
- **Контрольная № 4** [Exam 4], in class on Mon., Apr. 17. *25%

*The lowest of the four exam scores will be dropped, thus lowering the total exam percentage to 75%.

The dates for the four in-class exams [**контрольные**] will not be changed except in case of an official cancellation of U.F. academic activity on those days, so be sure to plan to attend on those dates!

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. (Note that the University of Florida issues grade points according to the following scale: A: 4.0 grade points; A-: 3.67; B+: 3.33; B: 3; B-: 2.67; C+: 2.33; C: 2.0; C-: 1.67; D+: 1.33; D: 1.0; D-: .67; E: 0; WF: 0; I: 0; NG: 0; S-U: 0.)

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*.

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 tests (**контрольные**). Please do *NOT* request an individual assignment for extra credit in place of a missed test (or missed assignment, or missed classes)! 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.

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.

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 U.F.'s **Student Honor Code**:

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/advising/info/student-honor-code.aspx>.

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Weekly schedule of course readings and exams

- Week 01 (Jan. 4, 6): Обзор содержания курса. Начало рассказа Пушкина, “Выстрел”
- Week 02 (Jan. 9, 11, 13): “Выстрел” (продолжение)
- Week 03 (Jan. 18, 20): “Выстрел” (продолжение) [*NO CLASS* Mon., Jan. 16 (holiday / MLKing Day)]
- Week 04 (Jan. 23, 25, 27): “Выстрел” (окончание)
- Week 05 (Jan. 30, Feb. 1, 3): **Контрольная № 1 (30 янв.)**. “Ёлка и свадьба” (начало) [*NO CLASS* Fri., Feb. 3 (instructor absence)]
- Week 06 (Feb. 6, 8, 10): Рассказ Достоевского “Ёлка и свадьба” (продолжение)
- Week 07 (Feb. 13, 15, 17): “Ёлка и свадьба” (продолжение)
- Week 08 (Feb. 20, 22, 24): “Ёлка и свадьба” (окончание). **Контрольная № 2 (22 февр.)**. “Севастополь в мае” (начало)
- Week 09 (Feb. 27, Mar. 1, 3): “Севастополь в мае” (продолжение)
- Week 10 (Mar. 13, 15, 17): “Севастополь в мае” (продолжение)
- Week 11 (Mar. 20, 22, 24): **Контрольная № 3 (22 марта)**. “Анна на шее” (начало)
- Week 12 (Mar. 27, 29, 31): Рассказ Чехова “Анна на шее” (продолжение)
- Week 13 (Apr. 3, 5, 7): Рассказ Чехова “Анна на шее” (продолжение)
- Week 14 (Apr. 10, 12, 14): “Анна на шее” (окончание)
- Week 15 (Apr. 17, 19): **Контрольная № 4 (17 апреля)**. Окончание.