

Time: MWF 4 (10:40 - 11:30 a.m.)
Place: CBD 230
Instructor: James Goodwin

Office hours: MW 2:00–3:00
Office, phone: Dauer 252c, (352) 273-3790
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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»), 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 most 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 “father” of Russian literature, we will examine original texts by four “giants” of nineteenth-century short fiction. Because our principal goal is to enhance reading skills, most of our time will be devoted to assimilation of vocabulary, analysis of formal syntax, and mastering important elements of 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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Course Materials:

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

There is no assigned textbook for this course. Instead, assigned readings will be assembled from electronic sources and made available on our course “e-learning” site (lss.at.ufl.edu). Everyone is expected to PRINT OUT THE 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.” For that reason, electronic versions of the readings will NOT suffice for our daily work in class!

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

You will need regular access to a reliable dictionary for a close reading of the texts. The two best options are:

- i. [better, but slower option:] 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 Rus-Eng dictionaries are [1] *The Oxford Russian-English Dictionary* (several editions) and [2] *The New Comprehensive Russian-English Dictionary* by Ermolovich & Krasavina (Moscow, 2004). Both are available on two-hour course reserve at Library West.
- ii. [faster and more convenient option:] An online dictionary that includes multiple meanings of words and (preferably) examples of usage. In my experience, “ABBYY Lingvo Live” provides the best available free online dictionary (www.lingvolive.com/en-us). It requires that you register with a user name and password, but it is a secure site, and registration allows you to save your word searches. It also shows different forms of a word (declension pattern of nouns & adjectives or conjugation of verbs), as well as stress patterns. Some translation engines, of course (like “Google translate”), will translate entire sentences/paragraphs for you at once; but avoid relying solely on automatic sentence-to-sentence translation, as it is more prone to inaccuracies and will tend to distract you from the individual vocabulary words you need to learn.

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Course Requirements & Expectations:

1. Regular attendance and full participation in all classroom activities, where “full” means thoroughly attentive to the day’s lesson and thus *NOT* engaged by an electronic device or other personal affairs. See “**Attendance policy**,” below.
2. Thorough familiarity with the Russian-language text (content, vocabulary and grammar) of all readings. Everyone will be expected to complete the assigned readings PRIOR to the designated class meeting. That way, when we examine the text in class, you will be reviewing (and thus reinforcing) new vocabulary and syntax, rather than seeing them for the first time. On the four in-class tests I will expect you to demonstrate your knowledge of the Russian vocabulary from our texts, so be sure to read them thoroughly. The reading assignments are not long, but they offer certain lexical and grammatical challenges, even for advanced readers of Russian.
3. Thorough, accurate & punctual completion of each weekly written homework assignment [“письменное задание”], which will consist mainly of vocabulary, grammar and translation exercises based on our readings. The homework will receive one of three possible marks ([1] Superb; [2] Satisfactory; or [3] Less-than-satisfactory) and will count toward the “Course Participation” grade.
4. Completion of four in-class tests [контрольные] based on required course readings, homework and class activities. The tests will account for 80% 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”]; + punctual & thorough completion of all homework assignments; + full engagement in all class activities). 10%
 - **Контрольная № 1** [Test 1], in class on Wed., Feb. 5. 20%
 - **Контрольная № 2** [Test 2], in class on Wed., Feb. 26. 20%
 - **Контрольная № 3** [Test 3], in class on Wed., Mar. 25. 20%
 - **Контрольная № 4** [Test 4], in class on Wed., Apr. 22. 20%
- The dates for the four in-class tests [**контрольные**] will not be changed except in case of an official cancellation of U.F. academic activity on those days, so be sure 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. U.F.’s “grade point” scale can be accessed at: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>

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.

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**). 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).

Cell phone / electronics policy: Please keep cell phones **silent** (on “vibrate” mode, or off) for the duration of each class meeting. In the event of an emergency that requires your immediate use of your phone, please *exit the classroom quietly to do so*. Laptops or other electronic reading devices should be used in class *ONLY* for viewing 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” score for the course.

All are required to adhere to U.F.’s **Student Honor and Conduct Codes**: <https://sccr.dso.ufl.edu/process/student-conduct-code/>.

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 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.ua.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://evaluations.ufl.edu/results>.

Weekly schedule of course readings and tests

- Week 01 (Jan. 6, 8, 10): Обзор содержания курса. Пушкин. Начало рассказа Пушкина, “Выстрел”
- Week 02 (Jan. 13, 15, 17): “Выстрел” (продолжение)
- Week 03 (Jan. 22, 24): “Выстрел” (продолжение) [*NO CLASS* Mon., Jan. 20 (holiday / MLKing Day)]
- Week 04 (Jan. 27, 29, 31): “Выстрел” (окончание)
- Week 05 (Feb. 3, 5, 7): **Контрольная № 1 (5 февр.)**. Рассказ Достоевского “Ёлка и свадьба” (начало)
- Week 06 (Feb. 10, 12, 14): “Ёлка и свадьба” (продолжение)
- Week 07 (Feb. 17, 19, 21): “Ёлка и свадьба” (окончание)
- Week 08 (Feb. 24, 26, 28): **Контрольная № 2 (26 февр.)**. Повесть Толстого, “Севастополь в мае” (начало)
-(Mar. 2, 4, 6): *NO CLASSES* (Spring Break)
- Week 09 (Mar. 9, 11, 13): “Севастополь в мае” (продолжение)
- Week 10 (Mar. 16, 18, 20): “Севастополь в мае” (окончание)
- Week 11 (Mar. 23, 25, 27): **Контрольная № 3 (25 марта)**. Рассказ Чехова “Анна на шее” (начало)
- Week 12 (Mar. 30, Apr. 1, 3): “Анна на шее” (продолжение)
- Week 13 (Apr. 6, 8, 10): “Анна на шее” (продолжение)
- Week 14 (Apr. 13, 15, 17): “Анна на шее” (окончание)
- Week 15 (Apr. 20, 22): **Контрольная № 4 (22 апреля)**.