

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO
Department of Slavic Languages & Literatures

SLA 252S – 2012 Russian Short Fiction
Alumni Hall 107, Tuesdays 2-4

Instructor: Professor Donna Tussing Orwin

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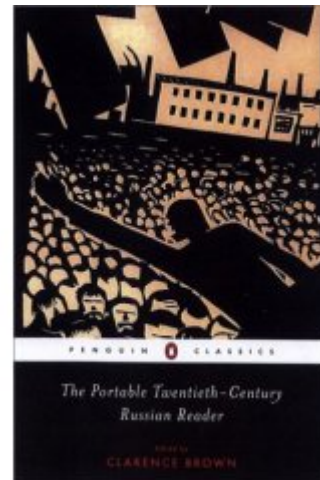
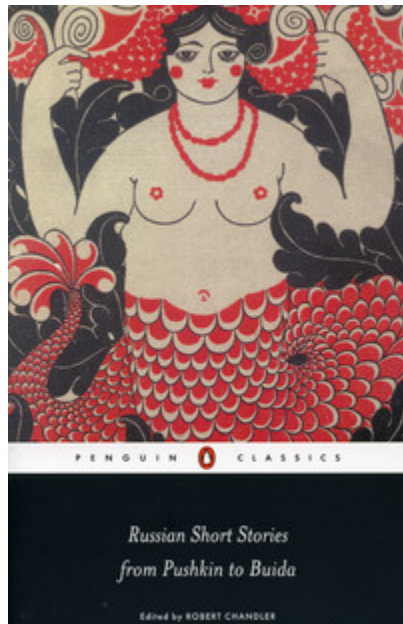
Office Hours: Tuesday 4-5, Thursday 1-2; or by appointment

Course Description: The course examines a range of Russian short stories from the early nineteenth century to the late twentieth century, focusing on the development of knowledge of the important narrative elements of short fiction, and aspects of Russian culture. We will cover around three quarters of the texts in class. Students are responsible for reading the remainder (see "Additional Reading" below); questions on the exam will include stories not studied in class.

The course schedule is approximate and subject to tweaking during the semester.

Readings:

- Robert Chandler, ed. *Russian Short Stories from Pushkin to Buida* (Penguin)
- Clarence Brown, ed. *The Portable Twentieth-century Russian Reader* (Penguin)



Both books are available at the Bob Miller Book Room, 180 Bloor St. W.

Marking Scheme:

First essay (600 words)	20%
Second essay (600 words)	25%

Third essay (600 words)	25%
Test	20%
Attendance and participation	10%

Written assignments:

Essays should show evidence of secondary reading from printed sources (i.e. not relying solely on internet sources), as well as providing supporting quotations from the text. References should be provided for all primary and secondary reading in a consistent format. Students will be given a choice of three topics for each essay. Essays handed in late without PRIOR permission from Prof. Orwin will incur a penalty of 5 points the first day, and 3 points for each following day up to a limit of 15 points.

Attendance and Participation:

This mark will depend upon regular class attendance and performance in discussions and unannounced class quizzes, which will always focus on basic factual knowledge of the texts to be discussed. Students may miss one class without penalty.

Exam: The two hour exam will consist of four questions taken from six study questions about the concepts discussed in the class and their application to stories assigned for the course.

Schedule:

Classes: Tuesday 2-4pm, Alumni Hall 1007

Jan. 10	Introduction
Jan. 17	Fabula and Siuzhet: Pushkin, "The Queen of Spades"
Jan. 24	Narrative Structure: Gogol, "The Greatcoat"
Jan. 31	Point of View: Tolstoy, "God Sees the Truth, but Waits"; Bulgakov, "The Embroidered Towel"; Platonov, "The Return" FIRST ESSAY DUE
Feb. 7	Setting and Atmosphere: Turgenev, "The Knocking"; Teffi, "Time"; Shalamov, "Lend Lease", "Berries"
Feb. 14	Character: Lermontov, "The Fatalist"; Chekhov, "The Bishop"; Solzhenitsyn, "Matryona's Home"
Feb. 28	The Absurd and Grotesque: Kharmis, "The Connection", "The Old Woman"; Dovlatov, "The Officer's Belt" SECOND ESSAY DUE
March 6	Irony and Symbol: Bunin, "The Gentleman from San Francisco"; Zamiatin, "The Cave"
March 13	Narration: Leskov, "The Steel Flea"; Babel, "How It Was Done in Odessa"; Zoshchenko, "The Bathhouse" THIRD ESSAY DUE
March 20	Endings: Chekhov, "In the Cart"; Babel, "Salt"; Solzhenitsyn, "What a Pity"
March 27	The Fantastic: Dostoevsky, "Bobok"; Siniavskii, "Pkhentz"
April 3	Chronotope: Krzhizhanovsky, "Quadraturin"; Platonov, "The Potudan River"

Additional Stories:

Nabokov, "The Return of Chorb," "The Visit to the Museum"; Shalamov, "Prosthetic Appliances", "Duck", "The Snake Charmer"; Zoshchenko, "The Galosh"; Dobyichin, "The Father"; Babel, "My First Goose"

Resources:

ALMOST ALL OF THE BOOKS LISTED BELOW ARE ON SHORT TERM RESERVE FOR THE CLASS AT KELLY LIBRARY.

If you have no knowledge of Russian literature or culture, you may wish to read an introduction such as the following:

- Catriona Kelly, *Russian Literature: A Very Short Introduction* (Oxford U P, 2001)
- Janko Lavrin, *An Introduction to the Russian Novel* (Greenwood, 1974)
- Robert Lord, *Russian Literature: an introduction* (Kahn and Averill, 1980)

Other good general sources include:

- Neil Cornwell, ed., *The Routledge Companion to Russian Literature* (Routledge, 2001)
- Neil Cornwell and Nicole Christian, eds., *Reference Guide to Russian Literature* (Fitzroy Dearborn, 1998)
- Malcolm V. Jones and Robin Feuer Miller, eds., *The Cambridge Companion to the Classic Russian Novel* (Cambridge U P, 1998)
- Charles Moser, *The Cambridge History of Russian Literature* (Cambridge U P, 1989)
- Victor Terras, ed., *Handbook of Russian Literature* (Yale U P, 1985)

On-line resources:

Glossary of Literary and Rhetorical Terms:

<http://www.english.upenn.edu/~jlynch/Terms/Temp/index.html>

Guide to Grammar and Style

<http://andromeda.rutgers.edu/~jlynch/Writing/>

Robarts Library e-reference resources:

The Johns Hopkins Guide to Literary Theory & Criticism

Plagiarism:

Make sure you are familiar with the rules regarding plagiarism and how to avoid it. You will find useful advice on this and many other aspects of written assignments on the university writing centre's web site:

<http://www.utoronto.ca/writing/advise.html>

See in particular the links to "How Not to Plagiarize":

<http://www.utoronto.ca/writing/plagsep.html>

and "Standard Documentation Formats":

<http://www.utoronto.ca/writing/document.html>

Hard copies of these and other documents from the writing centre can be found in the university and college libraries.