20th Century Russian Literature in Translation 393-402
Fall 2000

Class Schedule: T/F 12:30-1:45 p.m.  Meeting Room: Moyer Hall 201
Instructor: Dr. Luba Iskold  Office: Ettinger, 102A
Phone: (484) 664-3516  E-mail: iskold@muhlenberg.edu
Office Hours: M/F 10:30-11:30 a.m.  R 2:00-3:00 p.m. and by appointment

Required Texts:
- Sholokhov, Alexandr. And Quiet Flows the Don (Packet). The Fate of a Man. (On reserve)

Recommended Literature (On reserve)
- Brodsky, Joseph, 1940-96.
- Bunin, Ivan Alekseevich, 1870-53.
  - Ivan Bunin: A Study of his Fiction. James B. Woodward. Chapel Hill: University of

- **Pasternak, Boris Leonidovich, 1890-1960.**
    Russian poetry -- Translations into English. 891.71 P291pk.

- **Sholokhov, Mikhail Aleksandrovich, 1905-84.**
  - *Virgin Soil Upturned.* [Translated by R. Daglish]. Moscow, Foreign Languages Pub. 891.73 S559p1d.

- **Solzhenitsyn Aleksandr Isaevich, 1918-**
  - *For the Good of the Cause;* translated by David Floyd and Max Hayward; New York : Praeger, c1964. 891.73 S692f.
### 891.73 S692zcL.

### Films and Video:
- *And Quiet Flows the Don/Tikhii Don*
- *Dr. Zhivago*
- *One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich*

### Class Schedule & Reading Assignments

**Week 1 (Aug. 28-Sept. 1)**
- T-- Course goals and objectives. Introduction.  
  - Review class notes.
- F-- Ivan Bunin: life and literary activity.  
  - Read pp. 7-64

**Week 2 (Sept. 4-8)**
- T-- Library instruction. Class meets at Trexler Library.  
  - Read pp. 65-159
- F-- The Gentlemen from San Francisco.  
  - Discussion pp. 17-37.
  - The Primer of Love. Discussion pp. 38-47.
  - Submit an annotated bibliography of the stories.

**Week 3 (Sept. 11-15)**
- T-- Mitya's Love.  
  - Discussion pp. 101-159.
- F-- Student presentations of other stories. Presenters submit a summary of each story and prepare copies for classmates.

**Week 4 (Sept. 18-22)**
- F-- The Life of Arseniev. Discussion: Russia & the Russians in the works of Bunin.  
  - Submit an annotated bibliography of Bunin's works read.  
  - Homecoming: Sat., Sept. 23

**Week 5 (Sept. 25-29)**
- T-- Mikhail Sholokhov. And Quiet Flows the Don: before the Revolution. **Essay I (Bunin).**  
- F-- Mikhail Sholokhov. And Quiet Flows the Don: the Civil War. Readings to be hand out in class.

**Week 6 (Oct 2-6)**
- T-- Mikhail Sholokhov. They Fought for Their Country and other novels. Student Presentations. Presenters submit a summary and prepare copies for classmates.
- F-- Mikhail Sholokhov. The Fate of a Man. Discussion. Submit an annotated
bibiography of Sholokhov's works read.
Fall Recess begins at the conclusion of classes on Friday, Oct. 6 to Wedn., Oct. 11.

Week 7 (Oct. 9-13)
T-- NO CLASS  Mid-semester grades due Oct.13

Week 8 (Oct. 16-20)
T-- Boris Pasternak: Dr. Zhivago part II, pp. 111-432.

Week 9 (Oct. 23-27)
T-- Boris Pasternak Doctor Zhivago.
F-- Dr. Zhivago's poems: purpose and structure. Presentations on Pasternak’s
poetry and translations. Submit an annotated bibliography of Pasternak's works read.

Week 10 (Oct. 30-Nov. 3)
One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich, pp.3-66.
F-- Alexander Solzhenitsyn. One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich, pp. 67-139.

Week 11 (Nov. 6-10)
F-- Alexander Solzhenitsyn. The First Circle. For the Good of the Cause.
The Letter to Soviet Leaders. For the Good of the Cause. Presentations.

Week 12 (Nov. 13-17)
To be handed out in class. Discussion.
F-- Alexander Solzhenitsyn. History vs. ideologies. Discussion.
Submit an annotated bibliography of Solzhenitsyn's works read.

Week 13 (Nov. 20-24)
T-- Joseph Brodsky. On Grief and Reason, pp.3-44. Essay IV (Solzhenitsyn).
F-- No class. Thanksgiving Recess begins on Wed., Nov.22 to Nov.27

Week 14 (Nov. 27-Dec.1)
F-- Joseph Brodsky. Poetry. Student presentations. Submit an annotated bibliography of
Brodsky's works read.
Week 15 (Dec.4-8)
T-- Joseph Brodsky. Acceptance Speech, pp. 59-61. Discussion. We will also discuss the Final Paper.
F--NO CLASS Classes end on Thursday, December 7.
Final Exams Period-- December 9-18
Final paper (6-7pp) is due in my mailbox by noon on Friday, December 15.

Guidelines to remember:

Attendance and participation:
- Attendance will be taken and is expected at each scheduled class meeting.
- Students who are absent more than four times without justification will be penalized on the final grade.
- Comply with Muhlenberg’s Academic Behavior Code in all work for this course (consult the Student Handbook for details).
- Your active presence in class is one of the requirements for this course. Be prepared to participate in class discussion and answer questions on assigned topics.
- Depending on how well you prepare the material for class discussion, there may be short quizzes of a "convince me" nature. Those will consist of multiple choice, true/false, or brief essay questions and will count as points for class participation.

Why study Russian literature?
Twice during the XXth century Russia has witnessed revolutionary changes that have not only profoundly affected the lives of its citizens, but have also influenced the course of world history. With the fall of communism and the end of the Cold War, it is now very important to understand this vital region. A study of literature is one of the best ways of learning to understand "the soul" of the Russian people.

What are we going to do in this class?
We are going to read, learn about and discuss works of five distinguished Russian writers who were awarded Nobel Prizes in literature. Each of the pieces that we will analyze in class will later become the subject of discussion in your papers. You will also conduct class presentations and compile annotated bibliographies; these intend to help you conceptualize and better remember everything you read during this semester, as well as provide a framework for your final paper.

Your tests:
Good news: there will be no multiple-choice or fill in the blanks tests in this course.

**Your papers:**
Each of the papers listed in the syllabus should be a 1.5-2 page (typed, double-spaced) essay in MLA format which demonstrates your familiarity with and understanding of the works by one of the five writers studied in this course. The topics for those projects will be discussed and finalized in class, however they all will revolve around the same theme: *Russia & the Russians*. Guidelines on MLA style and paper writing will be posted on the course web page.

**Your presentations:**
Each student will prepare one presentation of a particular story or novel by each of the five authors examined in the course. Guidelines for presentations will be discussed in class.

**Annotated bibliography:**
You will prepare and submit an annotated bibliography by authors (see the syllabus). You should include a regular reference and a brief (not more than half a page) summary of the main events/places, characters and themes.

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**How to succeed?**
Be sure to save all your notes, annotated bibliographies and essays.
In the final paper you will be asked to compare and contrast the images of Russia and the Russians across the authors. Basically, you will need to draw your own conclusion regarding what it takes to become a Nobel Prize winner in Russian literature.

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**Grading:**

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<tr>
<td>Papers</td>
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<td>Presentations</td>
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<td>Participation in class</td>
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<td>Final Paper</td>
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