

20th Century Russian Literature in Translation 393-402

Fall 2000

Class Schedule: T/F 12:30-1:45 p.m.

Instructor: Dr. Luba Iskold

Phone: (484) 664-3516

Office Hours: M/F 10:30-11:30 a.m.

Meeting Room: Moyer Hall 201

Office: Ettinger, 102A

E-mail: iskold@muhlenberg.edu

R 2:00-3:00 p.m. and by

appointment

Required Texts:

- Brodsky, Joseph. *On Grief and Reason. Essays.* Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 1995. ISBN # 0-374-52509-9.
 - Bunin, Ivan. *The Gentleman from San Francisco and other Stories.* Penguin Books, 1997. # ISBN 0-14-018552-6
 - Pasrenak, Boris. *Doctor Zhivago.* ISBN # 0679774389.
 - Sholokhov, Alexandr. *And Quiet Flows the Don (Packet). The Fate of a Man. (On reserve)*
 - Solzhenitsyn, Alexander. *One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich.* Signet Classic, 19968. ISBN # 0-451-52709-7.
-

Recommended Literature (On reserve)

- Russian literature -- 20th century** -- History and Criticism. Russian Writers and Soviet society, 1917-1978.
Hingley, Ronald. New York: Random House, c1979. 891.709 S634s, 1977.
- Soviet Russian Literature : Writers and Problems, 1917-1977.**
Slonim, Marc. New York: Oxford University Press, 1977. 891.709 S634s, 1977.
- Soviet Russian Literature Since Stalin.** Brown, Deming. Cambridge; New York : Cambridge University Press, 1978. 891.709 B8771s.
- Brodsky, Joseph, 1940-96.**
 - A Stop in the Desert.* Translated [from the Russian] by Jamie Fuller.
Brodsky, Joseph, 1940-[Ann Arbor, Mich., Ardis, 1972]. 891.71 B864s.
 - Conversations with Joseph Brodsky: A Poet's Journey through the Twentieth Century.* Solomon Volkov. New York: Free Press, c1998. 891.71 B864zv.
 - Joseph Brodsky : The Art of a Poem.* Edited by Lev Loseff and Valentina Polukhina. New York: St. Martin's Press, 1999. Criticism and interpretation.
- Bunin, Ivan Alekseevich, 1870-53.**
 - The Village;* translation from the Russian by Isabel F. Hapgood.
New York, A. A. Knopf, 1923. 891.73 B942dh.
 - The Life of Arseniev: Youth;* translated from Russian, edited and annotated.
Evanston, Ill.: Northwestern University Press, 1994. 891.73 B942zaw.
 - Ivan A. Bunin and the Soviet Regime.* Berzups, John Adam. Washington, D.C., 1976.
Criticism and interpretation. Russia -- Intellectual life. 891.73 B942zb.
 - Ivan Bunin: A Study of his Fiction.* James B. Woodward. Chapel Hill: University of

North Carolina Press, c1980. 891.73 B942zw.

-Pasternak, Boris Leonidovich, 1890-1960.

- The Poems of Doctor Zhivago*. [Kansas City, Mo.] Hallmark Editions [1967]. Russian poetry -- Translations into English. 891.71 P291pk.
- *Selected Poems by Boris Pasternak*. Translated from Russian. New York: W.W. Norton, 1983. 891.71 P291ps.
- Seven Poems*. Translated from Rus. Santa Barbara, Unicorn Press, 1969. 891.71 P291sev.
- Pasternak, a Critical Study*. Henry Gifford. New York: Cambridge University Press, 1977. 891.71 P291zg.
- The Poetic World of Boris Pasternak*. Olga R. Hughes. Princeton, N.J. Princeton University Press, 1974. 891.71 P291zh.
- Boris Pasternak's Translations of Shakespeare*. Anna Kay France. Berkeley: University of California Press, c1978. Shakespeare, William, 1564-1616 -- Translations into Russian. 822.33 A3pa.
- Doctor Zhivago: A Critical Companion*. Edited by Edith W. Clowes. Evanston, IL : Northwestern University Press : American Association of Teachers of Slavic and East European Languages, 1995. 891.73 P291dhzc.
- Understanding Boris Pasternak*. Larissa Rudova. Columbia, S.C.: University of South Carolina Press, c1997. 891.73 P291zr.

-Sholokhov, Mikhail Aleksandrovich, 1905-84.

- Virgin Soil Uplifted*. [Translated by R. Daglish]. Moscow, Foreign Languages Pub. 891.73 S559p1d.
- And Quiet Flows the Don*; translated from the Russian by Stephen Garry. New York, A.A. Knopf, 1934. 891.73 S559t1g.
- The Fate of a Man*. Foreign Languages Pub. House [1957]. 891.73 S559sd, 1957.
- They Fought for their Country* : a novel; *The Fate of a Man*: a story; translated from the Russian by Robert Daglish. Moscow : Raduga Publishers, c1984. 891.73 S559od.
- Mikhail Sholokhov and his Art*. Herman Ermolaev. Princeton, N.J. : Princeton University Press, c1982. 891.73 S559ze.

-Solzhenitsyn Aleksandr Isaevich, 1918-

- Letter to the Soviet Leaders*; translated from the Russian by Hilary Sternberg. New York: Harper & Row, 1974. Soviet Union -- Politics and government -- 1953-1985. Soviet Union -- Foreign relations -- 1953-1975. 320.947 S692pw.
- The Gulag Archipelago*: an experiment in literary investigation; translated from the Russian by Thomas P. Whitney and Harry Willetts; London: Collins Harvill, 1988. Political prisoners. 891.73 S692arw, 1988.
- For the Good of the Cause*; translated by David Floyd and Max Hayward; New York : Praeger, c1964. 891.73 S692f.
- Cancer Ward*; translated from the Russian by Nicholas Bethell and David Burg. New York: Noonday Press, 1991. Cancer -- Patients -- Fiction. 891.73 S692rb.
- The Spirit of Solzhenitsyn*. Olivier Clement. London : Search Press, 1977.

891.73 S692zcL.

-*Solzhenitsyn in Exile: Critical Essays and Documentary Materials*. Edited by John B. Dunlop, Richard S. Haugh, Michael Nicholson. Stanford, Calif.: Hoover Institution, c1985. Criticism and interpretation. 891.73 S692zd.

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.
F-- Ivan Bunin: life and literary activity.

Review class notes.
Read pp.7-64

Week 2 (Sept.4-8)

T-- Library instruction. Class meets at Trexler Library.
F-- The Gentlemen from San Francisco.
The Primer of Love. Discussion pp.38-47.
bibliography of the stories.

Read pp.65-159
Discussion pp.17-37.
Submit an annotated

Week 3 (Sept.11-15)

T-- Mitya's Love.
F-- Student presentations of other stories. Presenters submit a summary of each story and prepare copies for classmates.

Discussion pp.101-159.

Week 4 (Sept.18-22)

T-- The Life of Arseniev. Student presentations. Prepare a summary for classmates.
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 (Oct2-6)

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

bibliography 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

F-- Boris Pasternak. Biography. Read Dr. Zhivago part I, pp.7-111. **Essay II (Sholokhov).**

Week 8 (Oct.16-20)

T-- Boris Pasternak: Dr. Zhivago part II, pp. 111-432.

F-- Boris Pasternak. Dr. Zhivago. Faces of mother Russia. Discussion.

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)

T-- Alexander Solzhenitsyn. Soviet society as a prison house.

Essay III (Pasternak).

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.

Deadline: course withdrawal with "W"--Tuesday, October 31. Family Weekend-- Sat., November 4.

Week 11 (Nov.6-10)

T-- Alexander Solzhenitsyn. The Gulag Archipelago. The Cancer Ward. Presentations.

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)

T-- Alexander Solzhenitsyn. Nobel Class: Repentance and self-limitation.

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)

T-- Joseph Brodsky. On Grief and Reason, pp.96-223; 376-427.

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. **Essay V (Brodsky).**

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.

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.

Grading:

Papers	30%
Presentations	30%
Participation in class	15%
Final Paper	25%
