



## **RUSS 4304**

### **BANNED AND CENSORED WORKS OF RUSSIAN LITERATURE**

**Department of Modern Languages**  
**University of Texas at Arlington**  
**Fall 2011 T/TH 2:00-3:20**

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### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

Except for infrequent intervals of short-lived reforms, censorship was a consistent, if not always effective mechanism of state control over the arts and culture of Russia and the Soviet Union. This course examines selected works of Russian literature and media that were banned, censored or otherwise prohibited, from the Imperial through the Soviet periods. We will discuss the role of censorship in Russian cultural life in conjunction with a detailed analysis of some of the great works of political and cultural expression that flourished in spite of it.

### **COURSE OBJECTIVES**

Engaging with textual and other cultural media, students gain knowledge of widely ranging perspectives on the dynamic and changing historical, social, political and artistic realities of Russia and the Soviet Union from the mid-18<sup>th</sup> century to today. A major objective is to develop skills of textual analysis through reading, discussion, journaling, and academic writing.

By the end of this course you should expect to have:

- become acquainted with some of the most outstanding Russian and Soviet writers and their best known works;
- developed the language and skills of textual analysis and awareness of language as an artistic medium;
- developed broad knowledge of the themes and tendencies in the texts and topics addressed, as well as the social and historical contexts to which they respond.

**Russian Majors and Minors will also:**

- considerably expand your Russian vocabulary;
- significantly improve your reading comprehension of Russian;
- gain deeper and wider understanding of Russian parts of speech, the case system, and syntax;
- increase your ability to think analytically in Russian and express your ideas in written Russian.

**Interdisciplinary Students will also:**

- significantly improve your scholarly research and writing skills.

**REQUIREMENTS and GRADING**

Readings and assignments are in English for Interdisciplinary students

Russian majors and minors read some materials and complete assignments in Russian

**Evaluation for all students is based on:**

- Weekly Blackboard journaling and seminar discussion on the weekly readings
- One 20-minute presentation based on a topic related to course readings
- A research paper of 10-12 pages on a topic chosen in consultation with the instructor and written, edited and re-submitted in stages
- A final exam during exam period

Regular attendance and participation is mandatory and forms part of the final grade. See attendance policy below.

Grades are proportioned as follows:

Attendance and participation (attendance, preparation, discussion)	10%
Blackboard Journaling	10%
Presentation	20%
Final paper	35%
Final exam	25%

**REQUIRED TEXTS**

Mikhail Bulgakov, *The Master and Margarita*  
Boris Pasternak, *Doctor Zhivago*  
Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn, *One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich*

Other materials will be made available on Blackboard.

## REGULATIONS AND GUIDELINES

**Attendance:** Regular classroom attendance is expected of all students. All course content, assignments, and evaluative measures are based upon that assumption. Ultimately you will find that regular attendance is essential for deriving scholastic benefit from the course as well as satisfactory grade performance. You are responsible for acquiring class notes if you have to miss. Please inform the instructor of any extenuating circumstances *before* a class is missed. In the case of illness, please provide a doctor's note.

**Americans With Disabilities Act:** The University of Texas at Arlington is on record as being committed to both the spirit and letter of federal equal opportunity legislation; reference Public Law 93112—The Rehabilitation Act of 1973 as amended. With the passage of new federal legislation entitled Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), pursuant to Section 504 of The Rehabilitation Act, there is renewed focus on providing this population with the same opportunities enjoyed by all citizens.

As an instructor, I am required by law to provide reasonable accommodation to students with disabilities, so as not to discriminate on the basis of that disability. It is the student's responsibility to inform faculty at the beginning of the semester and to provide authorized documentation through designated administrative channels.

**Academic Dishonesty:** It is the philosophy of The University of Texas at Arlington that academic dishonesty is a completely unacceptable mode of conduct and will not be tolerated in any form. All persons involved in academic dishonesty will be disciplined in accordance with University regulations and procedures. Discipline may include suspension or expulsion from the University.

"Scholastic dishonesty includes but is not limited to cheating, plagiarism, collusion, the submission for credit of any work or materials that are attributable in whole or in part to another person, taking an examination for another person, any act designed to give unfair advantage to a student or the attempt to commit such acts." (Regents' Rules and Regulations, Part One, Chapter VI, Section 3.2, Subdivision 3.22)

## Topics and Reading Schedule

### WEEK 1

**Course introduction. 'Enlightened Despotism' and Censorship. Classicism, Satire and the Rise of Literary Journals in Russia.**

N. I. Novikov's Polemic with Catherine II, June 16, 1769.

### WEEK 2

**'Enlightened Despotism' and Censorship, cont.**

Aleksandr Radishchev, excerpts from *"Journey from St. Petersburg to Moscow."*

### WEEK 3

**Autocracy and Rebellion. The Decembrist Revolt. Reaction and Censorship under Nicholas I.**

Aleksandr Pushkin, "Stanzas" (to Nicholas I; 1826); "19 October, 1827" or "To Siberia."

A. I. Odoevskii's Response to A. S. Pushkin's Poem, 1827.

Nicholas I's Manifesto Upon Ascending the Throne, December 24, 1825.

Concerning his views on censorship, December 12, 1826.

Petr Chaadaev, "First Philosophical Letter," 1836. Critical comments on Russian history and culture.

### WEEK 4

**Liberals and Radicals: The Russian Intelligentsia of the 1840's – 1860's.**

Vissarion Belinskii, "Letter to Gogol," July 15, 1847.

Aleksandr Herzen's commentaries on the Russian scene, 1849-1855.

**Presentation:** Ivan Turgenev, *A Sportsman's Sketches* (1847-1851).

### WEEK 5

**Liberals and Radicals: The Russian Intelligentsia of the 1840's – 1860's, cont.**

Konstantine Aksakov's defense of the freedom of expression, "Free Word," 1853.

Aleksandr Herzen, *From the Other Shore* (1855).

**Presentation:** Nikolai Chernyshevskii, *What Is To Be Done?* (1863).

### WEEK 6

**Censorship of Explicit and Erotic Content.**

Pushkin's Secret Journal.

Lev Tolstoy, *The Kreutzer Sonata* (1889); "The Lesson of the Kreutzer Sonata."

**Presentation:** A. S. Pushkin, "The Gabrieliad" (Гавриилиада) (1821).

### WEEK 7

**Literature and the Russian Revolution. "Soviet" Literature of the 1920's and 1930's.**

Modernism. Avant-garde. Futurism.

Trotsky, "Introduction" to *Literature and Revolution*, 1924.

Mikhail Bulgakov, *The Master and Margarita* (1966-67).

**Presentation:** Evgeny Zamiatin, *We*

**WEEK 8**

**High Stalinism and Russian Literature in the 1930's and 40's. Socialism Realism.**

*The Master and Margarita*, cont.

**Presentation:** Andrei Siniavskii-Tertz, *On Socialist Realism* (1961).

**WEEK 9**

**The Thaw. Russian literature in the 1960's. Banned and "Underground" Publications. *Samizdat*.**

Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn, *One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich* (1962).

**Presentation:** Anna Akhmatova, *Requiem* (1935-1940).

**WEEK 10**

**Revolution and Civil War Revisited**

Boris Pasternak, *Doctor Zhivago* (abroad 1957; Soviet Union 1988).

**Presentation:** TBA

**WEEK 11**

*Doctor Zhivago*, cont.

**Presentation:** Russian *samizdat* literature.

**WEEK 12**

*Doctor Zhivago*, cont.

**Presentation:** TBA

**WEEK 13**

**Internal Exile.**

Venedict Erofeev, *Moskva-Petushki* (a.k.a. *Moscow Circles*; *Moscow to the End of the Line*; abroad 1977, Russia 1995).

**Presentation:** TBA

**WEEK 14**

*Moskva-Petushki*, cont.

**ALL FINAL PAPERS DUE**

**WEEK 15 / May. 4 & 6**

**Censorship in Russia Today**

**FINAL EXAM**

To be held during exam period. Details TBA.