

RUSS 4301-001

Selected Russian Authors



The University of Texas at Arlington
Department of Modern Languages
Spring 2012, T/TH 3:30-4:50pm

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<http://www.uta.edu/modl/russian>
Office hours: T/TH 2:00-3:30pm

Course Description

This course is comprised of detailed reading and analysis of selected works by Alexander Pushkin, Nikolai Gogol, Ivan Turgenev, Leo Tolstoy, Fyodor Dostoevsky, Anton Chekhov and others. Their works are compared in the light of urgent social, political, literary and philosophical questions of their day. Readings are in Russian for Russian majors (prerequisite: RUSS 2313/14), and English for interdisciplinary students (no prerequisites). Reading assignments should be completed prior to the class for which they are assigned. Students should be prepared to discuss them in connection with specific topics noted on the syllabus and assigned by the instructor.

Course Objectives

The course will be conducted in a seminar format. We will read and discuss assigned texts, focusing on literary analysis and socio-historical contextualization. By the end of this course you should expect to have:

- become acquainted with some of the most outstanding Russian short story writers and their works;

- developed a sharp awareness of the themes and tendencies which the texts represent, as well as the social and historical contexts to which they respond;
- developed a keener awareness of the language of literary texts;

Students of Russian will also:

- considerably expand your Russian vocabulary;
- significantly improve your ability to comprehend spoken and written Russian;
- gain deeper and wider understanding of Russian roots, prefixes, suffixes, the case system, syntax, and sentence structure;
- increase your ability to express your ideas in both spoken and written Russian.

Interdisciplinary Students will also:

- significantly improve your scholarly research skills;
- practice and improve your speaking and presentation skills.

Coursework and Evaluation

Russian majors and minors will complete weekly written tasks in Russian. Interdisciplinary students will complete research assignments on selected authors and topics and make short presentations.

All students will write two mid-term exams and a final research paper.

The final paper must be 10-12 pages in length. Students will have a choice of topics, but may also define one of their own. You will be expected to do additional research beyond the assigned readings.

The exams and final paper will contain a language component for Russian majors and minors.

The breakdown of grades is as follows:

Attendance, participation and weekly assignments	30%
Mid-term exams	2x20%
Final Paper	30%

Required Reading

Please acquire the following texts, available at the UTA bookstore:

***Russian Stories: A Dual-Language Book*, edited by Gleb Struve. New York: Dover Publications, 1990.**

***Roots of the Russian Language: An Elementary Guide to Wordbuilding*, by George Z. Patrick. Chicago: Passport Books, 1989. (RUSSIAN STUDENTS ONLY)**

Other reading assignments will be made available throughout the semester.

Regulations and Guidelines

Attendance: Regular classroom attendance is expected of all students. All classes and exams are based upon that assumption. You are responsible for acquiring class notes if you have to miss. Ultimately you

will find that regular attendance is essential for a satisfactory grade performance.

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)