

Russian S-242
Yale University Summer Session
Russian Culture: The Art of Transformation
Tuesday/Thursday HGS 217b 3-4:30PM

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An interdisciplinary exploration of Russian cultural history in its transformations from the early 18th Century to the present through literature, visual arts and architecture, religion, social and political thought. Topics include conceptions of Russian nationhood; the myths of Moscow and St. Petersburg; dissent and persecution; elites, intelligentsia and attitudes toward the common people (narod); conflicting appeals of rationality, spirituality, and idealism.

LITERATURE:

Fiction

Aleksandr Pushkin. *The Bronze Horseman* (1833); *The Queen of Spades* (1834)
Nikolai Gogol. *Nevsky Prospect* (1834); *The Nose* (1835)
Fyodor Dostoevsky. *White Nights* (1848); *The Notes From Underground* (1864)
Ivan Turgenev. "Mumu" (1852)
Lev Tolstoy. *Sebastopol Tales* (1855)
Aleksandr Blok. *The Puppet Show* (1906) and selected poems; *The Twelve* (1918)
Velimir Khlebnikov. Selected poems
Vladimir Mayakovsky. Selected poems
Aleksey Kruchenykh. *Victory Over the Sun* (1913)
Nikolai Gumilev, "The Lost Streetcar" (1921)
Mikhail Bulgakov, *Flight* (1928)
Anna Akhmatova. Selected poems
Daniil Kharms. Selected prose
Olga Berggolts. Selected poems
Venedikt Erofeev. *Moscow to the End of the Line* (1969)
Viktor Pelevin, Selected short stories (1990s-2000s)

Non-fiction

Paul Bushkovitch. *A Concise History of Russia* (2012)
Robin Milner-Gulland. *The Russians* (1999) – selections
Dmitry Svyatopolk Mirsky. *A History of Russian Literature: From Its Beginnings to 1900* (1949)
George Heard Hamilton. *The Art and Architecture of Russia* (1954) – selections
Nicholas Riazanovsky, *A History of Russia* (1980) – selections
Selected Russian Futurist manifestoes
Vladimir Markov. *Russian Futurism: A History* (1968) - selections

Katerina Clark. *Moscow, The Fourth Rome: Stalinism, Cosmopolitanism, and the Evolution of Soviet Culture, 1931-1941* (2011) - selections

COURSE STRUCTURE: While the class will include several introductory lectures, the rest of the time will be devoted to discussion. Therefore your input will be crucial. Please attend all classes and be prepared for active participation in discussion.

COURSE GRADE will be determined according to the following formula:

Regular attendance and participation in discussion: 10% of the grade

Short presentations on assigned topics: 10%

One ID exam: 40%

Final projects: 40%

• **ID EXAM** is **take home closed-books / closed-notes** test which will include ID questions and a short commentary.

• There are several possible formats of the **FINAL PROJECT**. One option is to write an **ESSAY** (5-6 pages) on the topics of your own choice, which are to be discussed in advance with the instructor. Another option is a "**CREATIVE PROJECT**." For example, you can compose a short story, or a play mimicking and /or parodying the style and themes of one or more writers we covered. Please make sure that you discuss such projects with me in advance. There is no requirement concerning the use of outside sources.

ATTENDANCE POLICY:

Your regular presence in class and attendance at all course related tours and excursions is required. Unjustified absences will lower your grade. If you fail to turn in an exam or the final project on time without a valid excuse, you may receive a zero for this assignment. Please notify your instructor **IN ADVANCE** if you need to miss class or reschedule a test because of a **RELIGIOUS HOLIDAY** not taken into account by the general class schedule.

Academic accommodations are available for **STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES** who are registered with the Office of Disability and Support Services. Students in need of disability accommodations should schedule an appointment with me early in the semester to discuss any accommodations for this course, which have been approved by the Office of Disability and Support Services, as indicated in your DSS accommodation letter.

IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS OR NEED HELP PLEASE DO NOT HESITATE TO CONTACT ME!

SYLLABUS

			Part I: In New Haven
5/30	T	1.	Introduction: Russian Culture in Its Transformations: From Icons to the Avant-Garde Reading: Paul Bushkovitch, <i>A Concise History of Russia</i> (1-78); Robin Milner-Gulland, <i>The Russians</i> (83-117, 175-208, in course-pack)
6/01	TR	2.	From Moscow to St.Peterburg: Myths and Realities of the Age of Peter the Great Reading: Aleksandr Pushkin, <i>The Bronze Horseman</i> (1833), in course-pack; Bushkovitch (79-137)
6/06	T	3.	The Empire Age: Napoleon’s Invasion of Russia (1812), Aleksandr Pushkin (1799- 1837), and the Golden Age of Russian Literature Reading: Aleksandr Pushkin, <i>The Queen of Spades</i> (1834), in course-pack; Bushkovitch (138-171); Sviatopolk Mirsky, <i>A History of Russian Literature</i> (83-102, 121-124)
6/08	TR	4.	Metaphysical Transformations: St.Petersburg and Nikolai Gogol (1809-1852) Reading: Nikolai Gogol, <i>Nevsky Prospect</i> (1834) and <i>The Nose</i> (1836), in course-pack; Bushkovitch (172-185); Mirsky (149-162)
6/13	T	5.	The Rise of the Warrior Author: Lev Tolstoy (1828-1910) and the Crimean War (1853-1856) Reading: Lev Tolstoy, <i>Sebastopol Tales</i> (1855), in course-pack; Mirsky (256-275)
6/15	TR	6.	Serfdom in Russia, Ivan Turgenev (1818-1883), and The Age of Great Reforms Reading: Ivan Turgenev (1818-1883) “Mumu” (1852), in course-pack; Buskovitch (186-227; 249-292); Mirsky (193-208)
			Part II: In St. Petersburg
6/18	Su.	7	<i>Introductory bus tour of St. Petersburg</i>
6/20	T	8	Russian Art and Architecture Reading: George H. Hamilton, <i>The Art and Architecture of Russia</i> (163-223), in course-pack; Bushkovitch (228-248)
6/21	W	9	<i>Excursion to Aleksandr Pushkin’s Memorial Museum (Poet’s last apartment)</i>
6/22	TR	10	Dostoevsky and Petersburg Reading: Fyodor Dostoevsky (1821-1881) <i>White Nights</i> (1848); <i>The Notes From Underground</i> (1864); Mirsky (181-185, 275-291)
6/23	F	11	<i>Tour of the State Hermitage Museum Complex, part I</i>
6/25	Sun	12	<i>Tour of Peterhof Palace and Fountain Park Complex</i>
6/26	M	13	<i>Tour of the State Russian Museum Complex</i>

6/27	T	14	<p>The Silver Age in Russian Art: Symbolism and Aleksandr Blok (1880-1921) Reading: Aleksandr Blok, <i>The Puppet Booth</i> (1906), <i>The Stranger</i> (1906), <i>The Night. The Street. Streetlamp. Drugstore</i> (1912), in course-pack; Nicholas Riazanovsky, <i>A History of Russia</i> (483-502), in course-pack; Bushkovitch (334-343)</p>
6/28	W	15	Alternative excursion: Aleksandr Nevsky Monastery
6/29	TR	16	<p>The Silver Age in Russian Art: Futurism and the Avant-Garde Culture Reading: Futurist Manifestoes, 1912-13 (“A Slap in the Face of Public Taste,” “Declaration of the Word as Such,” “New Ways of the Word [the language of the future, death to Symbolism]”), Aleksei Kruchenykh, <i>Victory over The Sun</i> (1913); Vladimir Markov, <i>Russian Futurism: A History</i> (29-60), in course-pack.</p>
7/30	F	17	Alternative excursion: Aleksandr Blok’s Memorial Museum (Writer’s’ last apartment)
7/02-7/03	Sun .M	18	Trip to Novgorod the Great
7/04	T	19	<p>Revolution, Civil War, and Russian Art Reading: Aleksandr Blok, <i>The Twelve</i> (1918); Nikolai Gumilev, “The Lost Streetcar” (1921); Mikhail Bulgakov, <i>Flight</i> (1928), in course-pack; Bushkovitch (272-333, 343-350)</p>
7/05	W	20	Alternative excursion: Fyodor Dostoevsky’s Memorial Museum (Writer’s’ last apartment)
7/06	TR	21	<p>Moscow in Soviet Culture: The New World’s Capital Reading: Katerina Clark, <i>Moscow, the Fourth Rome: Stalinism, Cosmopolitanism, and the Evolution of Soviet Culture, 1931-1941</i> (1-41, 78-104, in course-pack)</p>
7/06-10	TR- M	22	Trip to Moscow
7/11	T	23	<p>Stalin, The Great Fatherland War and the Siege (Blockade) of Leningrad Reading: Anna Akhmatova, <i>Requiem</i> (1935-43); Olga Berggolts, Selected Poems; Daniil Kharms, <i>Mini-Stories</i> (1930s), in course-pack; Bushkovitch (351-392).</p>
7/13	TR	24	<p>Back from the USSR: Soviet Culture from the 1950’s through 1970s Reading: Bushkovitch (393-446); Venedikt Erofeev, <i>Moscow to the End of the Line</i> (1969)</p>
7/14	F	25	Opera at the Mariinsky Theatre – 7:30 PM
7/15	S	26	Excursion to Tsars Village.
7/16	Sun	27	Multi-Confessional City: Bus Tour of Petersburg’s Churches, Temples, Religious Shrines, and Monasteries
7/17	M	28	Alternative excursion: Museum of the Political History of Russia
7/18	T	29	<p>Russian Culture Today Reading: Bushkovitch (447-460); Viktor Pelevin, selected short stories (in course-pack)</p>
7/19	W	30	Boat Tour of Rivers and Canals
7/20	TR	31	Final presentations in class

Course-packs ## 1-2 are available at "DocuPrint," 27 Whitney Avenue, New Haven

Books available for purchase at Yale Book Store's International Book Section:

1. Paul Bushkovitch. *A Concise History of Russia* (Cambridge University Press, 2012)
2. *The Best Short Stories of Fyodor Dostoevsky* (Modern Library Classics, 1992)
3. Venedikt Erofeev. *Moscow to the End of the Line*. (Northwestern University Press, 2001)
4. Dmitry Svyatopolk Mirsky. *A History of Russian Literature: From Its Beginnings to 1900* (Northwestern University Press, 1999)