

BOSTON COLLEGE

Spring 2008
SL 132 /EN 416

The Russian Short Story
T/Th 1:30 Lyons Hall 202

Prof. Cynthia Simmons
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Office Hours: T/Th 3:00-4:00
and by appointment

Required Texts (Available in the BC Bookstore and on reserve in O'Neill Library):

Chandler, Robert. *Russian Short Stories from Pushkin to Buida* (Penguin)
Nabokov, Vladimir, *The Stories of Vladimir Nabokov* (Vintage)

Other materials will be made available through WebCT.

Bibliography: An extensive bibliography is available to students who wish to consult secondary sources.

Russian literature has contributed a wealth of outstanding short stories to world literature. Russia's national poet Aleksandr Pushkin excelled at this genre as well. The great novelists Leo Tolstoy and Fedor Dostoevsky wrote important short stories that are less known in the West. And masters of the genre, such as Nikolai Gogol, Anton Chekhov, Ivan Bunin, and Vladimir Nabokov demonstrate an unsurpassed mastery. We will engage in traditional close readings of short stories by these writers and others, and we will consider Russian contributions, by Formalists, structuralists, and semioticians to the theory and analysis of the genre.

Evaluation: Attendance is mandatory. Students are expected to be prepared and to participate in classroom discussion. In order to facilitate discussion of most works, students will receive hand-outs of "questions for discussion." There will be a short paper (3-4 pp., a "practice" writing assignment) early in the semester, a mid-term exam and a final paper (8-10). The final grade will be figured according to the following approximate percentages:

Short writing assignment:	15-20%
Mid-term exam:	30%;
Final paper:	30-35%
Attendance/Class participation:	20%.

Final paper due Saturday, May 10, 12:30 pm

Academic Integrity: Boston College values the academic integrity of its students and faculty. It is your responsibility to familiarize yourself with the university's policy on academic integrity:

<http://www.bc.edu/offices/stserv/academic/resources/policy/#integrity>.

If you have any questions, always consult your professor.

Schedule (subject to minor changes)

15 January	Introduction (Literary history)
17 January	Introductory lecture on theory/structure of the short story
22 January	Nikolai Karamzin, "Poor Liza," Aleksander Puskin, "The Station Master" (available on WebCT)
24 January	Pushkin, "The Queen of Spades" (RSSPB); Question distributed for short writing assignment
31 January	Mikhail Lermontov, "The Fatalist," in <i>Russian Short Stories from Pushkin to Buida</i> (RSSPB); "Taman" (WebCT)
5 February	Nikolai Gogol, "The Greatcoat" (RSSPB); Short writing assignment due
7 February	Ivan Turgenev, "The Knocking"; Anton Chekhov, "In the Cart" (RSSPB)
12 February	Nikolai Leskov, "The Steel Flea" (RSSPB)
14 February	Leo Tolstoy, "God See the Truth but Waits" (RSSPB); Film, <i>L'Argent</i>
19 February	<i>L'Argent</i> concluded
21 February	Introduction to literary "carnival"; Fedor Dostoevsky, "Bobok" (RSSPB) Questions Distributed for Mid-term Exam
26 February	Russian Modernism; Lidiia Zinovieva-Annibal, "The Monster" (RSSPB);
28 February	Mid-term Exam
3-7 March	Spring Break
11 March	Russian Émigré Literature, Ivan Bunin, "The Gentleman from San Francisco," "Paris" (RSSPB)
13 March	Nadezhda Lokhvitskaia/TEFFI, "Love" and "A Family Journey" (RSSPB)
18 March	Soviet Literature; Evgenii Zamiatin, "The Lion"; Sigizmund Krzhizhanovsky, "Quadraturin" (RSSPB)
20 March	No class

25 March	Vera Inber, "Lalla's Interest"; Mikhail Bulgakov, "The Embroidered Towel"; Isaak Babel, "My First Goose," "The Death of Dolgushov," and "Salt" (RSSPB)
27 March	Mikhail Zoshchenko, "Electrification," "Pelageya," "The Bathhouse," "The Crisis," "The Galosh," and "The Hat"; Leonid Dobychin, "Medical Auxiliary," "The Father," and "Please Do" (RSSPB)
1 April	Andrei Platonov, "The Third Son" and "The Return" (RSSPB)
3 April	Daniil Kharmis, "The Old Woman"; Varlam Shalamov, "Through the Snow," "Berries," "The Snake Charmer," and "Duck" (RSSPB)
8 April	Vladimir Nabokov
10 April	“ “
15 April	“ “
17 April	“ “
22 April	Alexander Solzhenitsyn, "What a Pity"; Vasily Shukshin, "In the Autumn"; Asar Eppel, "Red Caviar Sandwiches" Sergei Dovlatov, "The Officer's Belt" (RSSPB)
24 April	
29 April	
1 May	