

EN 726/SL 526 (S:3)  
Boston College  
Fall Semester 2011  
Classes: M 4:30-6:50 Lyons 208

Professor Maxim D. Shrayer  
Lyons Hall 210, 617-552-3910

Office hours: M 3-4; F 1-2\*

## EXILE: GRADUATE SEMINAR

### Syllabus

#### COURSE DESCRIPTION

"All writers emigrate to their art and stay therein," Vladimir Nabokov once stated. What are some of the historical, ideological, aesthetic, and spiritual conditions that define a writer in exile? We shall attempt to answer this question by closely examining works by W. H. Auden, Berberova, Brodsky, Celan, Kundera, Milosz, Nabokov, Naipaul, Sebald, I. B. Singer, Gertrude Stein and other 20th-century authors along with selected theoretical perspectives on exile.

*Knowledge of Russian or other foreign languages is not a prerequisite. All discussions, readings, and papers are in English. Students and speakers of Czech, French, German, Polish, Russian, and Yiddish are encouraged to read the respective works in the original and contribute to the discussions with relevant linguistic and cultural observations.*

#### REQUIRED TEXTS (for sale at the BC Bookstore)

\*All texts are for sale at the BC Bookstore and on 2-hr reserve at O'Neill Library.

Auden, W. H. Poems in Coursepack

Berberova, Nina. *The Tattered Cloak and Other Works*. New York: New Directions, 2001.

Brodsky, Joseph. *Watermark*. New York: Farrar, Strauss & Giroux, 1993 +

poems in Coursepack.

Celan, Paul. Poems in Coursepack

Khodasevich, Vladislav. Poems in Coursepack.

Knut, Dovid. Poems in Coursepack.

Kundera, Milan. *The Unbearable Lightness of Being*. New York: Harper Perennial, 1999.

Miłosz, Czesław. Poems in Coursepack.

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\* To schedule an appointment, please contact Ms. Demetra Parasirakis at (617) 552-3910 or demetra.parasirakis@bc.edu.

Nabokov, Vladimir. *Pnin*. New York: Vintage Books, 1989.

Naipaul, V.S. *A Bend in the River*. New York: Vintage Books, 1989.

Sebald, W.G. *The Emigrants*. New York: New Directions, 1997.

Shrayer-Petrov, David. *Autumn in Yalta: A Novel and Three Stories*.

Ed. Maxim D. Shrayer. Syracuse: Syracuse UP, 2006 + poems in Coursepack.

Singer, Isaac Bashevis. *Shosha*. New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 1996.

Stein, Gertrude. *The Autobiography of Alice B. Toklas*. New York: Vintage Books, 1990.

Tsvetaeva, Marina. Poems in Coursepack.

*Exile Coursepack: A Selection of Reading Materials*. Ed. Maxim D. Shrayer.

BC Eagle Press, 2011 (Coursepack).

## **COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

- attendance and active participation in class discussions;
- 10-min. oral reports (2-3 per semester);
- short paper, 3-4 pp, due October 17, 2010 @ 4:30 PM in Lyons 208
- final research paper, 20-25 pp., due December 15, 2011 @ 2 PM in Lyons 210

**The FINAL GRADE** will be calculated as follows:

- 35% daily attendance and class participation;
- 20% oral reports;
- 10% short paper
- 35% final paper;

A = excellent B = good C = satisfactory D = unsatisfactory but passing F = failure  
plus and minus are discretionary qualifiers.

## **CLASS ATTENDANCE AND ACADEMIC HONESTY**

Class attendance is mandatory. 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 (BC Catalog; <http://www.bc.edu/offices/stserv/academic/resources/policy.html#integrity>). If you have any questions, please approach the instructor. Violations of academic integrity will be reported to your class dean and judged by the academic integrity committee in your school. If you are found responsible for violating the policy, penalties may include a failing grade as well as possible probation, suspension, or expulsion, depending on the seriousness and circumstances of the violation.

## **SCHEDULE OF CLASS MEETINGS, READINGS, AND ASSIGNMENTS**

M, September 12	Introduction and course overview
M, September 19	Stein
M, September 26	Khodasevich Tsvetaeva Knut (poems and articles in Coursepack)
M, October 3	Berberova
M, October 10	<b>Columbus Day: No class</b>
M, October 17	<b>FIRST PAPER DUE IN Lyons 201 @ 2PM</b>
M, October 17	Auden (in Coursepack)
M, October 24	Nabokov
M, October 31	Singer Celan (in Coursepack)
M, November 7	Naipaul
M, November 14	Kundera Miłosz (in Coursepack)
M, November 21	Sebald
M, November 28	Brodsky (+ poems and article in Coursepack)
M, December 5	Shrayer-Petrov (+ poems and article in Coursepack)

Thu, December 15 **Final Paper Due in Lyons 210 @ 2 PM**