

**Slavic and Eastern Languages and Literatures 223 (S: 3)**  
**English 228 (S: 3)**  
Boston College/ Spring Semester 2011  
Classes: MWF 1-1:50 Lyons 207

Professor Maxim D. Shroyer  
Office: Lyons Hall 210  
Office hours: M 4-5 W 2-3\*

## **TWENTIETH-CENTURY RUSSIAN LITERATURE (SL 223/EN 228)**

### **syllabus**

#### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

Study of major landmarks of Russian literature, in light of Russia's turbulent history in the twentieth century. Works by Akhmatova, Bagritskii, Brodsky, Bunin, Venedikt Erofeev, Gladkov, Solzhenitsyn, Trifonov, and others. Conducted entirely in English. All readings are in English. *No prerequisites.*

**REQUIRED TEXTS** (books for sale at the BC Bookstore and on reserve at O'Neill; please use **only** the required editions/translations):

Akhmatova, Anna. *Selected Poems*. Harmondsworth: Penguin, 1985.  
Aksyonov, Vassily. "Victory." (In Coursepack.)  
Antokolsky, Pavel. "Death Camp." (In Coursepack.)  
Chekhov, "Lady with a Lapdog." (in Coursepack.)  
Coursepack: A Selection of Works by 20<sup>th</sup> Century Russian Authors. BC Eagle Press, 2011.  
Brodsky, Joseph. *Collected Poems in English*. New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2002.  
Bunin, Ivan. *The Gentleman from San Francisco and Other Stories*. Harmondsworth: Penguin, 1987.  
Erofeev, Venedikt. *Moscow to the End of the Line*. Evanston: Northwestern UP, 1994.  
Gladkov, Fyodor. *Cement*. Evanston: Northwestern UP, 1994.  
Nabokov, Vladimir. "Spring in Fialta." (In Coursepack.)  
Petrushevskaya, Ludmila. *The Time: Night*. Evansaton: Northwestern UP, 2000.  
Sapgir, Genrikh. "Poetry." (In Coursepack.)  
Shklovsky, Victor. *Zoo or Letters Not About Love*. Chicago: Dalkey Archive Press, 2001.  
Shroyer, Maxim D. *Russian Poet/Soviet Jew: The Legacy of Eduard Bagritskii*.  
Lanham: Rowman & Littlefield, 2000.  
Shroyer-Petrov, David. *Autumn in Yalta*. Syracuse: Syracuse UP, 2006.  
Sologub, Fyodor. *The Petty Demon*. (in Coursepack.)  
Solzhenitsyn, Alexander. *One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich*. New York: Bantam, 1990.  
Trifonov, Yuri. *Another Life and The House on the Embankment*. Evanston: Northwestern UP, 1999.

#### **HIGHLY RECOMMENDED TEXT:**

Treadgold, D.W and Herbert J. Ellison. *Twentieth Century Russia*. 9th ed. Boulder: Westview Press, 2000.

While a knowledge of Russian and Soviet history is not a requirement for this course, I highly recommend that students purchase this short lucid text and consult it.

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

## REQUIREMENTS:

- attendance and active participation in class discussions;
- two short papers (4-5 pp., approx. 1000 words), due in class, respectively,  
February 28 and April 4;
- written midterm examination, February 4;
- written final examination, May 13.

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

- 35% daily attendance and class participation
- 30% two short papers
- 10% midterm exam
- 25% final exam

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

## CLASS ATTENDANCE AND ACADEMIC INTEGRITY:

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.

## REFERENCE WORKS:

A number of reference works on Russian literary history are in print and available at the library. The following titles have been popular among students:

Cornwell, Neil, ed. *Reference Guide to Russian Literature*. London: Fitzroy Dearborn, 1998. PG2940 .R43 1998

Gilbert, Martin. *Atlas of Russian History*. New York: Oxford University Press, 1993. O'Neil Reference G2111.S1 G52 1993

Kasack, Wolfgang. *Dictionary of Russian Literature since 1917*. New York: Columbia UP, 1988. O'Neill Reference PG2991.4 .K3513x 1988

Terras, Victor, ed. *Handbook of Russian Literature*. New Haven: Yale UP, 1985. O'Neill Reference PG2940 .H29 1985

Note also that the Media Center of the O'Neill Library has an impressive collection of Russian and Soviet cinema, including film adaptations of literary works.

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

W, January 19	Introduction
F, January 21	Chekhov, "Lady with Lapdog," in <i>Coursepack</i>
M, January 24	Sologub, 9-58, in <i>Coursepack</i>
W, January 26	Sologub, 59-113, in <i>Coursepack</i>
F, January 28	Sologub, 114-222, in <i>Coursepack</i>
M, January 31	Sologub, 223-274, in <i>Coursepack</i>
W, February 2	Akhmatova 1-29; 41-63; notes
F, February 4	<b>(AN EARLY) MIDTERM EXAM</b>
M, February 7	Bunin, 7-37
W, February 9	Bunin, 38-64
F, February 11	Shklovsky, v-46
M, February 14	Shklovsky, 47-102
W, February 16	Shklovsky, 103-136
F, February 18	Gladkov, v-89
M, February 21	Gladkov, 90-186
W, February 23	Gladkov, 187-262
F, February 25	Gladkov, 263-311
M, February 28	Bagritskii (Shrayer, <i>Russian Poet/Soviet Jew</i> ), v-43 <b>PAPER 1 DUE IN CLASS ON FEBRUARY 28, 2011</b>
W, March 2	Bagritskii (Shrayer, <i>Russian Poet/Soviet Jew</i> ), 44-104
F, March 4	Nabokov, "Spring in Fialta," in <i>Coursepack</i>
M, March 7-F, March 11	<b>NO CLASSES—SPRING BREAK</b>
M, March 14	Bunin, 101-159

W, March 16	Bunin, 160-224
F, March 18	Akhmatova, 69-86
M, March 21	Akhmatova, 87-96
W, March 23	Antokolsky, "Death Camp," in <i>Coursepack</i>
F, March 25	Aksyonov, "Victory," in <i>Coursepack</i>
M, March 28	Solzhenitsyn, v-52
W, March 30	Solzhenitsyn, 52-156
F, April 1	Solzhenitsyn, 156-203
M, April 4	Brodsky, xiii-xiv; 3-4; 38-40; 44-45; 48-52; 64-66; 83-84; 85-86; 101-115; 130-132
<b>PAPER 2 DUE IN CLASS ON APRIL 4, 2011</b>	
W, April 6	Brodsky, 236-238; 254-256; 259-262
F, April 8	Trifonov, 189-232
M, April 11	Trifonov, 232-270
W, April 13	Trifonov, 270-350
F, April 15	Erofeev, 11-130
M, April 18	<b>PATRIOTS' DAY—NO CLASSES</b>
W, April 20	Erofeev, 130-164; Sapgir, "Poetry," in <i>Coursepack</i>
Th. April 21-M, April 25	<b>NO CLASSES—EASTER AND PASSOVER BREAK</b>
W, April 27	Petrushevskaya, 1-66
F, April 29	Petrushevskaya, 66-155
M, May 2	Shrayer-Petrov, 1-101
F, May 4	Shrayer-Petrov, 102-234
F, May 13	<b>FINAL EXAM 12:30 PM IN LYONS 207</b>