ENGL 7775/SLAV 5163 (S:3)                      Professor Maxim D. Shrayer
Boston College                             Lyons Hall 201B, 617-552-3910
Spring Semester 2015                      Office hours: M 2-3; F 1-2'
Classes: W 3-5:30 Lyons 201A (Seminar Room)

NABOKOV: GRADUATE SEMINAR

COURSE DESCRIPTION

The bilingual and bicultural achievement of Vladimir Nabokov. An examination of Nabokov's
Russian and English periods, with particular attention to connections among his aesthetics, ethics,
and metaphysics and to issues of gender, sexuality, authorship, identity, and exile. Readings include
selected Russian and English novels and short stories, Nabokov's autobiographic and discursive
writings and poetry, as well as stories by Anton Chekhov and Ivan Bunin.

Knowledge of Russian is not a prerequisite. All discussions, readings, and papers are in
English. Students and speakers of Russian may elect to read the Russian works in the original and
contribute to the discussions with relevant linguistic and cultural observations.

REQUIRED TEXTS (for sale at the BC Bookstore; USE ONLY the required editions/translations*)

*If you are using an electronic text, please make sure it is indeed the required
dition/translation, and please note that the pages on the syllabus correspond to the
required print edition.

* To schedule an appointment, please contact Ms. Demetra Parasirakis at (617) 552-3910 or
demetra.parasirakis@bc.edu.
COURSE REQUIREMENTS
— attendance and active participation in class discussions;
— 10-min. oral reports (2-3 per semester);
— short paper, 3-4 pp, due February 11 in class
— final research paper, 20-22 pp., due May 6 @ 12 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 INTEGRITY:

Class attendance is mandatory. If you are sick, please seek medical assistance and
documentation. If you have other legitimate excuses, please identify them to the instructor. There
will be no extensions on exams and papers, except in cases of documented illness and for other
legitimate and documented reasons.

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/content/bc/offices/stserv/academic/univcat/undergrad_catalog/policies_proce-
dures.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.

DISABILITY

If you are a student with a documented disability seeking reasonable accommodations in
this course, please contact Kathy Duggan, (617) 552-8093, at the Connors Family
Learning Center regarding learning disabilities, or Paulette Durrett, (617) 552-3470, in
the Disability Services Office regarding all other types of disabilities.

BIBLIOGRAPHY AND NABOKOV WEB SITE

A useful, albeit not exhaustive, bibliography of Nabokov criticism, both books and articles, can be
found at ZEMBLA, the Vladimir Nabokob web site, URL:
http://www.libraries.psu.edu/nabokov/zembla.htm
Also very useful is the free-access *Nabokov Online Journal* (NOJ), URL: [http://www.nabokovonline.com](http://www.nabokovonline.com)

In addition to very useful bibliographical information, the site also contains various name and subject guides to Nabokov's works, a chronology of Nabokov's life and work, as well as numerous visual materials.

**SCHEDULE OF CLASS MEETING, READINGS, AND ASSIGNMENTS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Readings and Assignments</th>
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<tr>
<td>January 14</td>
<td><em>Grayson</em> 1-146; <em>Stories</em> &quot;Russian Spoken Here&quot;; &quot;The Seaport&quot;; &quot;Razor&quot;; <em>Shrayer</em> 1-17</td>
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<td>January 28</td>
<td><em>The Defense</em> 1-256</td>
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<td>February 4</td>
<td><em>Stories</em> &quot;The Aurelian&quot;; &quot;The Visit to the Museum&quot;; &quot;Perfection&quot;; <em>Selection</em> Bunin, &quot;Gentle Breathing&quot;; <em>Shrayer</em> 52-66; 81-86; 108-134; 66-70</td>
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<td>February 11</td>
<td>Glory, ix-205</td>
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<td>February 18</td>
<td><em>Invitation to a Beheading</em>, 5-223</td>
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<td>February 25</td>
<td><em>Stories</em> &quot;Cloud, Castle, Lake&quot;; &quot;Recruiting&quot;; <em>Shrayer</em> 134-161; <em>The Gift</em> &quot;Foreword&quot; + 1-300</td>
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<td>March 2-6</td>
<td>SPRING BREAK</td>
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<td>March 11</td>
<td><em>The Gift</em> 300-366; Selection Chekhov, &quot;Lady with a Lapdog&quot;; <em>Stories</em> &quot;Spring in Fialta&quot;; &quot;A Russian Beauty&quot;; <em>Selection</em> Bunin, &quot;Henry&quot; [&quot;Genrikh&quot;]; <em>Shrayer</em> 191-292</td>
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March 18  
*The Real Life of Sebastian Knight* 3-203

March 25  
*Speak, Memory* 1-310; Stories "Mademoiselle O"; “First Love”; “Vasily Shishkov”; *Shrayer* 312-317; 161-189; *Selection* Shrayer, “Literature Is Love”

April 1  
*Lolita* xvii-lxvii + 3-390

April 8  

April 15  
*Pnin* 1-191, Stories "Conversation Piece, 1945"'

April 22  
*Stories* “Sings and Symbols”; “The Vane Sisters”; *Selection* Nabokov, "The Art of Literature and Commonsense"; *Shrayer* 317-320

Shrayer “After Rapture and Recapture: Transformations in the Drafts of Nabokov’s Stories” (to be distributed)

in-class screening of 1966 Nabokov Interview (on reserve at O’Neill)

April 29  
*The Original of Laura* and closing remarks

May 6  
FINAL PAPER (hard copy) due @12PM in Lyons 210