

Russian Literature, 1917 to the Present

LTRU 110C/ LTEU150C.

Professor Amelia Glaser (amglaser@ucsd.edu)

MWF 11-11:50 am Center 224C

Office Hours: W 1-2, F 2-3 (Lit. 345) and by appt

Syllabus subject to revision.



Readings (Books available at the UCSD bookstore.)

Vladimir Mayakovsky, *Selected Poems* (1910s and 20s) (Northwestern UP, 2013)

Isaac Babel, *Red Cavalry and Other Stories* (1920s) (Norton, 2002)

Andrey Platonov, *The Foundation Pit* (1930) (NYRB, 2009)

Mikhail Bulgakov, *The Master and Margarita* (finished 1940) (Penguin Classics, 2001)

Anna Akhmatova, *Akhmatova* (Everyman's Pocket Library, 2006)

Lidia Chukovskaya, *Sofia Petrovna* (Northwestern U. Press, 1994)

Liudmila Petrushevskaya, *The Time, Night* (Penguin, 2011)

Vladimir Sorokin, *Day of the Oprichnik* (Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2012)

*Additional required and recommended readings are available **online**. If not otherwise noted, they will be on **Electronic Reserves** (reserves.ucsd.edu). The **password** is **ag110c**.

Requirements

Class participation (including 1 presentation) 15%. This grade covers attendance at every class, participation by asking and answering questions about the readings, and one presentation of a secondary text, which can be selected from e-reserves, or from jstor.org.

Weekly short essays 30%. Short essays of 100-150 words in length should be posted to the "Ted" "discussion" board. Each posting is worth 3% of your grade, and is due by Friday at 10am. You may answer the question provided, or write on a topic of your choice, as long as it references the reading for that week. Credit will not be given for essays received after the deadline.

Midterm exam 15%. There will be an at-home midterm exam. This exam will include 2 short essays and some additional short questions.

Final paper outline 10%. An outline of your final paper will be due on Wednesday of Week 9 at noon. This outline should include a 2-3 paragraph thesis statement, as well as a classical outline detailing the paper's structure and topics to be covered.

Final paper 25%. Your final paper will be due Monday of Final's Week at 12 noon. This should be 8-12 pages in length, and must include at least 2 secondary sources in addition to the primary text/s you will discuss. I will provide you with a list of 4 possible topics during Week 8. You may request permission to write about a topic not on this list.

TED. Be sure that you are regularly checking TED for your classmates' updates to the discussion board, further information about assignments, and recommended readings.

Laptop Policy

Laptops and portable devices may not be used during by students during class. Please bring a pen and paper to take notes.

Plagiarism Policy

All students must adhere to the UCSD policies on plagiarism and academic integrity:
<http://libraries.ucsd.edu/locations/ssh1/guides/preventing-plagiarism/ucsd-policies.html>

Class Schedule (Required readings are listed *after* the date for each class.)

Introduction to the class. Rebellion and performance

Fri 10/3. In class: Blok, Khlebnikov, Pussy Riot

Week 1. Revolution and Literature

Mon. 10/6. Blok, "The Twelve": <http://russiasgreatwar.org/media/culture/twelve.shtml>

Wed. 10/8. Mayakovsky, poetry: "Listen up!" "Fop's Blouse," "I," (e-reserves)

Fri. 10/10. Film: "October" Eisenstein (film reserves, Geisel library)

Recommended: Jakobson "A Generation that Squandered its Poets", Trotsky on Futurism: http://www.marxists.org/archive/trotsky/1924/lit_revo/ch04.htm, "Tragedy of VVM" http://greeninteger.com/pdfs/mayakovsky_play.pdf, Shklovsky, Art as Device: http://is.muni.cz/el/1421/jaro2013/AJ34130/um/Shklovsky_Theory-of-Prose-1.pdf

Week 2. War and Revolution,

Mon. 10/13. Gorky, "Twenty-six Men and a Girl": http://deanlm.com/writings//twenty-six_men_and_a_girl.html; Babel, "Odessa" (In class: Soviet Union in Construction)

Wed. 10/15. Isaac Babel: "Story of my dovecote," "Crossing the Zbrucz," "Gedali," "My First Goose," "The Rebbe" "The Rabbi's Son"

Fri. 10/17. Film: "Bed and Sofa" (Geisel: Film reserves)

Recommended: Gregory Freidin, "Two Babels, Two Aphrodites: Autobiography in *Maria* and Babel's Petersburg Myth": https://web.stanford.edu/dept/DLCL/cgi-bin/web/files/freidin_two_babels_2010_0.pdf, Katerina Clark, "What Socialism Realism Is and What Led to Its Adoption as the Official Method of Soviet Literature" (27-45)

Week 3. Emigration and return

Mon. 10/20. Nabokov, "Mary"

Wed. 10/22. Nabokov, "Mary" (second half)

Friday. 10.24. Film: "The Return of Nathan Becker" (Begin "Foundation Pit")

Recommended: Senderovich, Shvarts, "The Juice of Three Oranges: An Exploration in Nabokov's Language and World":

https://muse.jhu.edu/journals/nabokov_studies/v006/6.senderovich.pdf

Week 4. Stalinism

Mon. 10/27 Platonov, *The Foundation Pit*

Wed. 10/29 Platonov, Part II

Fri. 10/31 Film "Circus" (Geisel Library). **No class**

Recommended: Seifrid, "Political Context of The Foundation Pit"

Week 5. Bulgakov

Mon. 11/ 3 Bulgakov, *Master and Margarita*

Wed. 11/5 Bulgakov, *Master*

Friday. 11/7 Bulgakov, *Master and Margarita*

Recommended: A.C. Wright, "Satan in Moscow: An Approach to Bulgakov's *The Master and Margarita*" <http://www.jstor.org/stable/461648>

Week 6. Bulgakov II

Mon. 11/10 Bulgakov, *Master*

Wed. 11/12 Bulgakov, *Master*

Friday 11/14 Bulgakov (Complete)

Recommended: Maria Kisel, "Feuilletons Don't Burn: Bulgakov's "The Master and Margarita" and the Imagined "Soviet Reader""

<http://www.jstor.org/stable/25621658?origin=JSTOR-pdf>

Week 7. Purges

Mon. 11/17 Chukovskaia, *Sofia Petrovna*

Wednesday, 11/19. Akhmatova, *Requiem*

Friday, 11/21. No Class. Midterm, electronically.

Recommended: Holmgren, "Notes on Anna Akhmatova"

Week 8. World War II and Postwar

Mon. 11/24. Guest lecture: Masha Gessen

Wed. 11/26 Pasternak, Kolatsozov, "The Cranes are Flying" (film), "Varykino, and 2 poems from Dr. Zhivago"

Fri. 11/28 Thanksgiving. **No class**

Recommended: Malte Rolf, "A Hall of Mirrors: Sovietizing Culture under Stalinism"

<http://www.jstor.org/stable/25621659>

9. Between Thaw and Perestroika

Mon. 12/1 Petrushevskaya, "The Time, Night" (first half),

Wed. 2/3 Petrushevskaya, Second half (in class, Norshteyn, Tale of Tales)

Fri. 12/5 Little Vera, Sots Art <http://www.komarandmelamid.org/>

Recommended: Josephine Woll, "The Minotaur in the Maze: On Lyudmila Petrushevskaya"

Week 10. Russia under Putin

Mon. Dec 8 Sorokin, *Day of the Oprichnik* (1-129)

Wed. Dec 10 2014 Sorokin, *Day of the Oprichnik*

Friday. Dec. 12. Opening Ceremony, Sochi:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bKhuvri18Rs>

Recommended: Masha Gessen, "Becoming Pussy Riot" (ereserves)