

University of Pittsburgh
Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures
RUSS 1420: Fourth-Year Russian

Fall 2013

Instructor: Yuliya Basina

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CL1421

Office hours M W 2:00-3:00 PM or by appointment

Class meets M W F 11:00PM - 11:50PM at 1432 Cathedral of Learning

Required Texts: PDF and Word files of the literary texts will be provided by the instructor.

Recommended Texts: Terence Wade, *Comprehensive Russian Grammar*. 2nd edition, revised and expanded. Cambridge, MA: Wiley-Blackwell, 2000.

Introduction: This course will focus on the study of literal representation of visual art in the Russian literature of the 19th and early 20th centuries. From time immemorial, writers have been speculating about works of art and including their own descriptions of these works within literature in the form of prose, poetry, narrative, and theater. Some critics have noted that "Russian literature prefers to talk about non-Russian visual art and tends to erase the surplus of Russianness when discussing Russian paintings" (L. Geller). Is this statement valid and truthful? If it is, why is it so? In the attempt to answer these questions, we will examine works of Russian literature and visual art in a broader cultural and historic perspective focusing primarily on the religious paintings and their representation in the works of such writers and poets as Pushkin, Turgenev, Dostoevsky, Fet, Voloshin, and Pasternak.

Course Objectives: This course is designed to develop oral and written communicative skills of advanced students of Russian. We will spend most of our time discussing and analyzing paintings and literary texts representing them. Students will develop vocabulary which will allow them to talk about visual art and literature.

Each student will be responsible for individual presentations and group projects. Each week, you will write a short response paper (about one page long, in Russian). Tentative topics for your presentations and papers will be offered to you by the instructor, but you are strongly encouraged to come up with your own topic (needs to be discussed with the instructor).

By the end of semester, you will submit your final paper (from 5 to 7 pages) in Russian. During the 10th week, you should submit the topic and a short theses of your final paper. During the 11th week, you will submit a detailed outline.

It is assumed that a fourth-year student is familiar with the morphology; therefore we will not be discussing grammar. The textbook by Wade is listed here for your reference. Should you encounter difficulties with any grammatical topic, please do not hesitate to talk to your instructor after class or during my office hours. No written tests, quizzes, or exams will be administered for this course.

Requirements

Attendance and active participation in all aspects of the course are mandatory.

Repetitive unexplained lateness for class will be counted as absence.

You should come to class fully prepared. Students are responsible for all assigned readings and written responses. ALL WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS MUST BE TYPED: 12 Times New Roman, 2 line space, 1" margins. Although we will not discuss grammar, your written assignments will be graded based on your command of the Russian morphology (20%), syntax (10%), and spelling (10%), as well as on the content, structure, and style (60%).

Grading and Evaluation

The final course grade will be computed as follows:

Class participation: 20%

Written responses: 20%

Individual oral presentations: 20%

Group projects: 20%

Final paper: 20%

Academic Integrity

By remaining enrolled in the course, you not only agree to abide by the stipulations of this course overview, but also understand that we will follow rigorously the rules spelled out in the Handbook on Integrity regarding cheating, plagiarism, etc. It is your responsibility to familiarize yourself with these rules and observe them. Any infraction will be penalized accordingly.

Disability

If you have a disability for which you are or may be requesting an accommodation, you are encouraged to contact both your instructor and Disability Resources and Services, 140 William Pitt Union, 412-648-890 or 412-383-7355 (TTY) as early as possible in the term. DRS will verify your disability and determine reasonable accommodations for this course.