



UNIVERSITY OF
CALGARY
Faculty of Arts
School of Languages, Linguistics, Literatures and Cultures

RUSS 355.6
Russian Literature in Translation (Nineteenth-Century Russian Short Stories)
Fall 2019, Block Week
M, T, W, R, F 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. – TI StudioC

COURSE OUTLINE

INSTRUCTOR'S NAME: Mark Conliffe

OFFICE LOCATION: Craigie Hall D 304

OFFICE HOURS: by appointment during Block Week / Tues & Thurs 3:30-4:30 during semester

TELEPHONE NUMBER: (403) 220-2163

E-MAIL: mark.conliffe@ucalgary.ca

DESCRIPTION

This is a course in reading, discussing, and writing about literature. It will introduce you to great short works of Russian authors from the nineteenth century, and it will challenge you to respond to these texts with accuracy and sensitivity. In the course we will wrestle with a variety of forms and functions that Russian short prose assumed. We will pay careful attention to narrative voice, setting, character, structure, and ideas in these works. We will try to gain a fuller sense of the significance that short prose fiction had in Russian culture, and we also will try to identify why short prose fiction can do things that other literary forms cannot.

OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the course are (1) to introduce you to aspects of nineteenth-century Russian short fiction, (2) to help you become a more careful and critical reader, (3) to develop your ability to interpret fictional texts, and (4) to help make you more confident and reflective in discussing and writing about literature.

OUTCOMES

With this description and these objectives in mind, you will work toward the following outcomes by the end of the course:

- You will appreciate stylistic features that distinguish literary texts;
- You will comprehend significance of form, including styles or genres, in textual communication;
- You will understand challenges involved in textual interpretation and strategies to address them;
- You will demonstrate ability to distinguish the dynamic relations among author, reader, and text;
- You will be able to comment on the place of these stories in Russia's 19th-century literary tradition.

DISTRIBUTION OF GRADES

Class participation	10%
Claims assignments	5% (2 X 2.5%: both due Tuesday 27 August)
Reflective Writing	15% (assigned Mon 26 August, peer review in class Wed 28 August, due Fri 30 August)
Story elements	10% (4 X 2.5%)
Scene analyses	10% (4 X 2.5%)
Quizzes	10% (2 X 5%: 20 minutes in-class at 12:30 p.m. Tues 27 August and Wed 28 August).
Day four test	10% (40 minutes in-class at 12:30 p.m. Thursday 29 August 2019).
Take home final exam	30% (due by 11:59 p.m. Wednesday 12 September 2019).



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GRADING SCALE

A+ 90-100	B+ 77-79	C+ 67-69	D+ 56-59
A 85-89	B 74-76	C 64-66	D 50-55
A- 80-84	B- 70-73	C- 60-63	Fail 0-49

REQUIRED TEXTS

All required readings or links to those required readings will be provided on D2L. You do not need to purchase anything from the bookstore.

RECOMMENDED TEXTS

You will not be required to refer to recommended texts for our classwork.

COURSE NOTES

- This is a discussion-based class that benefits from your participation. You should come to class with questions and insights about the works, questions and insights that you are willing to share with others. Please do not hesitate to ask questions or put forward new interpretations in class. Any interpretation is a viable one if you can support it.
- We will meet each day of Block Week from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The morning session will be 8 to 11:30, and the afternoon session will be 12:30 to 4. The 15-minute morning break will be at approximately 9:45, and the 15-minute afternoon break will be at approximately 2:15.
- There is no language requirement for this course and no prior knowledge of Russian literature is needed.
- When work is due in class, unless otherwise noted, it must be submitted or available (see instructions on the Reflective Writing assignment) by the time that the class begins on that due-date. Please submit all work except for the first draft of the Reflective Writing assignment to the D2L Dropbox. Bring the Reflective Writing assignment to class
- You are expected to attend each class and stay for the full eight hours.
- No make-up work will be allowed for class assignments because of the condensed nature of the course.
- You will read most stories during class time.
- Readings, guidelines, and rubrics will be posted on D2L. You are expected to check the course website daily.
- Please bring a fully-charged smartphone / tablet / laptop with you each day. There are outlets in the room, should you need to bring a charger. If you don't have a device for class, please let me know.
- Please submit final versions of all assignments to the course D2L Dropbox.
- Screens: In class I permit you to use your laptop / tablet / smartphone to take notes or to read an electronic version of the text, but during class sessions you are not permitted to use them or other electronic devices for web searches or any non-class related activity. If I notice that you are using your electronic device for anything other than taking notes or reading, I will ask you immediately to turn it off, and you will not be permitted to bring it to class again.
- Ready: Please do your best to get a drink of water and go to the bathroom before class starts. If you have to leave during the class, please close the door gently.

Explanation of Assignments

- Please see the [Class Participation Rubric and Guide](#) (D2L) for more detail on participation in this class.
- Reflective Writing assignment: Reflective writing helps you to turn surface learning into deeper understanding by connecting what was said in class with the stories you read and discussed. The reflection will be no longer than 500 words and will connect your thinking about the readings with peer reviewers' comments and class discussions. Please adhere to the following formatting



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requirements: Your reflections must be typed, have a title, and list your name, student number, course number, and word count. The reflection will be assigned on day one (Monday 26 August). Bring two printed copies of your reflection to class on Wednesday 28 August, because we will have an in-class writing workshop on that day. Following the writing guidelines and peer review prompts posted on D2L, you will peer-review your classmates' papers. At home, consider your peers' feedback, edit your reflective paper, and submit the final version to the dropbox on the last day of block week, Friday 30 August, by 11:59 p.m. I will return your reflective paper to you before the due date for the final exam.

- **Claim assignment:** In this course we will understand a claim to be a statement that you assert and are prepared to prove. In an analysis or paper, then, a claim can be the motivating idea in a paragraph's topic sentence or it can be a thesis in an argument. For the assignment in this course, a claim is one sentence. That's it. Consider the following statements, for example: "Tolstoy sets his Sevastopol stories in Russian military life." Is this a claim? "Throughout his Red Cavalry stories, Babel is most concerned to express the thought processes that motivate characters to commit extraordinary acts." Is this a claim? Both claim assignments are due on Tuesday 27 August.
- **Story element and scene analysis** assignments will take place in class. They will be in-class "discussion forum exercises" that cause you to draw on what you have read and to make solid claims about story elements and scenes. During the course you will respond a total of eight times (four times each to story elements and to scene analyses).
- **Quizzes:** There will be two short quizzes that assess your interpretations and analyses of the assigned readings and your understanding of concepts and topics discussed in class.
- **Day four test:** This test will call on you to interpret and analyse excerpts from the stories and to make short answers to questions about connections between stories.
- **Take home final exam:** The final exam consists of textual analyses and short essay answer questions. It will give you the opportunity to analyse sections of text from stories and draw connections between different stories, to synthesize what you have learned, and to critically and creatively explore topics. Please adhere to the following formatting requirements: your exam must be typed; at the top of each page, you must list your name, student number, and course number; please use one-inch margins all around and double-space your typing.

ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT

1. **Plagiarism** is a serious offence, the penalty for which is an F on the assignment and possibly also an F in the course, academic probation, or requirement to withdraw. Plagiarism exists when:

- a) the work submitted or presented was done, in whole or in part, by an individual other than the one submitting or presenting the work (this includes having another impersonate the student or otherwise substituting the work of another for one's own in an examination or test);
- b) parts of the work are taken from another source without reference to the original author;
- c) the whole work (e.g., an essay) is copied from another source, and/or
- d) a student submits or presents work in one course which has also been submitted in another course (although it may be completely original with that student) without the knowledge of or prior agreement of the instructor involved.

While it is recognized that scholarly work often involves reference to the ideas, data and conclusions of other scholars, intellectual honesty requires that such references be explicitly and clearly noted."

Plagiarism occurs not only when direct quotations are taken from a source without specific acknowledgement but also when original ideas or data from the source are not acknowledged. A bibliography is insufficient to establish which portions of the student's work are taken from external sources; footnotes or other recognized forms of citation must be used for this purpose.

2. **Cheating** at tests or examinations includes but is not limited to dishonest or attempted dishonest conduct such as speaking to other candidates or communicating with them under any circumstances whatsoever; bringing into the examination room any textbook, notebook, memorandum, other written material or mechanical or electronic device not authorized by the examiner; writing an examination or part of it, or consulting any person or materials outside the confines of the examination room without permission to do so, or leaving answer papers exposed to view, or persistent attempts to read other students' examination papers.



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3. **Other academic misconduct** includes, but is not limited to, tampering or attempts to tamper with examination scripts, class work, grades and/or class records; failure to abide by directions by an instructor regarding the individuality of work handed in; the acquisition, attempted acquisition, possession, and/or distribution of examination materials or information not authorized by the instructor; the impersonation of another student in an examination or other class assignment; the falsification or fabrication of clinical or laboratory reports; the non-authorized tape recording of lectures.

4. Any student who voluntarily and consciously aids another student in the commission of one of these offences is also guilty of academic misconduct.

COPYRIGHT LEGISLATION

All students are required to read the University of Calgary policy on Acceptable Use of Material Protected by Copyright (<https://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/acceptable-use-of-material-protected-by-copyright.pdf>) and requirements of the copyright act (<https://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/C-42/index.html>) to ensure they are aware of the consequences of unauthorised sharing of course materials (including instructor notes, electronic versions of textbooks etc.). Students who use material protected by copyright in violation of this policy may be disciplined under the Non-Academic Misconduct Policy.

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION AND PRIVACY (FOIP) ACT

Graded assignments will be retained by the Department for three months and subsequently sent for confidential shredding. Final examinations will be kept for one calendar year and subsequently sent for confidential shredding. Said material is exclusively available to the student and to the department staff requiring to examine it. Please see <https://www.ucalgary.ca/legalservices/foip> for complete information on the disclosure of personal records.

ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATIONS

It is the student's responsibility to request academic accommodations according to the University policies and procedures listed below. The student accommodation policy can be found at: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/access/accommodations/policy>.

Students needing an Accommodation because of a Disability or medical condition should communicate this need to Student Accessibility Services in accordance with the Procedure for Accommodations for Students with Disabilities (<https://www.ucalgary.ca/policies/files/policies/procedure-for-accommodations-for-students-with-disabilities.pdf>).

Students needing an Accommodation in relation to their coursework or to fulfil requirements for a graduate degree, based on a Protected Ground other than Disability, should communicate this need, preferably in writing, to their Instructor or the Department Head/Dean or to the designated contact person in their Faculty.

FACULTY OF ARTS PROGRAM ADVISING AND STUDENT INFORMATION RESOURCES

Have a question, but not sure where to start?

The Arts Students' Centre is the overall headquarters for undergraduate programs in the Faculty of Arts. The key objective of this office is to connect students with whatever academic assistance they may require.

In addition to housing the Associate Dean (Undergraduate Programs and Student Affairs) and the Associate Dean (Teaching, Learning & Student Engagement), the Arts Students' Centre is the specific home to:

- Program advising
- Co-op Education Program
- Arts and Science Honours Academy
- Student Help Desk

Location: Social Sciences Room 102

Phone: 403-220-3580

Email: ascarts@ucalgary.ca

Website: arts.ucalgary.ca/undergraduate.



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For registration (add/drop/swap), paying fees and assistance with your Student Centre, contact Enrolment Services at 403-210-ROCK [7625] or visit them at the MacKimmie Block.

Contacts for the Students' Union Representative for the Faculty of Arts: arts1@su.ucalgary.ca, arts2@su.ucalgary.ca, arts3@su.ucalgary.ca, arts4@su.ucalgary.ca.

INTERNET AND ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATION DEVICES

Devices such as laptops, palmtops and smartbooks are allowed provided that they are used exclusively for instructional purposes and do not cause disruption to the instructor and to fellow students. Cellular telephones, blackberries and other mobile communication tools are not permitted and must be switched off.

SUPPORT AND RESOURCES

A link to required information that is not course-specific related to student wellness and safety resources, can be found on the Office of the Registrar's website: <https://www.ucalgary.ca/registrar/registration/course-outlines>.