

WESTERN UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF MODERN LANGUAGES AND LITERATURES (UC 115)

CLC 3393G: *The Russian Novel*¹

Winter (2nd semester) 2012-13

Instructor: Vlad Tumanov (vtumanov@uwo.ca)

Office hours: by appointment

Time: T. 11³⁰-12³⁰ Th. 10³⁰-12³⁰

Location: UC85



Course Content and Aims

This is a survey of the Russian novel spanning the 19th and 20th centuries. From N. Gogol to G. Vladimov, the reading list covers two key authors who wrote before the 1917 Bolshevik Revolution, as well as the work of writers from the Soviet period. The course will concentrate on the sociopolitical development of the Russian/Soviet empire and its history of ideas as they are reflected in important works of fiction. All books will be available in **English translation**.

The course aims to achieve the following:

- show the place of the Russian novel in the larger context of world literature
- demonstrate the development of Russian fiction from realism onward
- analyze the relationship between Russian fiction and the authors' historical reality
- explore the Russian novel in connection to the history of ideas and political phenomena
- reflect on the relationship between the political and religious aspects of the texts
- consider the question of power and the individual as it is reflected in Russian fiction
- investigate what it means to read and process literary works in translation
- enrich the cultural experience of students by supplementing the literary works with **films**

Learning Outcomes

It is expected that, upon the successful completion of this course, the students will have:

- acquired a familiarity with certain key works of Russian fiction
- understood the differences between various literary movements in Russia
- grasped the role of the author in the social fabric of Russia
- gained insight into the differences between the literary experiences of pre- and post-Soviet authors
- pondered the role of the authorial imagination, its potential and its limits
- improved their ability to express themselves on these and other related topics orally (through in-class presentations) and in writing (through essays and exams).



¹ Former CLC 391G. All former courses are antirequisites.

² Essays are due any time before midnight on the last day of classes.

Course Requirements

Attendance.....	7%
Oral presentation.....	15%
Midterm (in class)	15%
Main essay (3,000 words) ² Submit to Turnitin.com	33%
Final Exam (3 hrs.).....	30%



Texts in Sequence (available at the UWO bookstore)

1. Gogol, Nikolai. *Dead Souls*. Penguin (ISBN- 0140448071)
2. Dostevsky, Fiodor. *Crime and Punishment*. Signet [Penguin] (ISBN- 0451530063)
3. Pasternak, Boris. *Doctor Zhivago*. Random House. (ISBN- 0679774386)
4. Bulgakov, Mikhail. *The Master and Margariata*. Vintage (ISBN- 0679760806)
5. Vladimov, Georgy. *Faithful Ruslan*. Melville House (ISBN-1935554670)

Films will be shown in class.

Plagiarism (see <http://westerncalendar.uwo.ca/2012/pg113.html>)

Plagiarism is a major academic offense. Plagiarism is the inclusion of someone else's verbatim or paraphrased text in one's own written work without immediate reference. Verbatim text must be surrounded by quotation marks or indented if it is longer than four lines. A reference must follow right after borrowed material (usually the author's name and page number). Without immediate reference to borrowed material, a list of sources at the end of a written assignment does not protect a writer against a possible charge of plagiarism. This also applies to work facilitated or written for students by third parties. **Submit all essays to Turnitin.com.**

Absenteeism

Students seeking academic accommodation on medical grounds for any missed tests, exams, participation components and/or assignments must apply to the Academic Counseling office of their home Faculty and provide documentation. Academic accommodation cannot be granted by the instructor or department.

•Accommodation for Medical Illness:

https://studentservices.uwo.ca/secure/medical_accommodations_link_for_OOR.pdf

•Downloadable Medical Certificate:

<http://www.uwo.ca/univsec/handbook/appeals/medicalform.pdf>

N.B. Please make sure your Western e-mail account is in order.

Please Note: You are responsible for ensuring that you have successfully completed all course prerequisites (or have special permission from your Dean to waive the prerequisite) and that you have not taken an antirequisite course. If you are not eligible for the course, you may be removed from it at any time, and it will be deleted from your record. In addition, you will receive no adjustment to your fees. These decisions cannot be appealed.

² Essays are due any time before midnight on the last day of classes.

Word # to page # converter: <http://www.wordstopages.com/>





Course Schedule

Introduction	Jan. 8
N. Gogol. <i>Dead Souls</i>	Jan. 8, 10, 15, 17
Presentation 1: <i>Inspector General</i>	Jan. 29
F. Dostoevsky. <i>Crime & Punishment</i>	Jan. 17, 22, 24, 29, 31 (Film)
B. Pasternak. <i>Doctor Zhivago.</i>	Feb. 5, 7, 12, 14, 26 (Film)
Presentation 2: <i>The Gambler</i>	Feb. 12
Midterm (in class)	Feb. 28
M. Bulgakov. <i>The Master & Margarita</i>	March 5, 7, 12, 14, 19 (Film: <i>Incident in Judea</i>)
Presentation 3: <i>White Guard</i>	March 21
G. Vladimov. <i>Faithful Ruslan</i> (± CH)	March 21, 26, 28, Apr. 2, 4, 11
Presentation 4: <i>One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich</i>	Apr. 9

N.B. The reading list schedule is approximate.
The presentation schedule is firm.

Presentation Topics and Format:

- 20 min. (1-3 presenters [if more than 1, the grade is shared]³)
- Historical background; **brief** plot summary; characters; themes; structure; analysis; connection to class lectures, e-mail list of references
- see Sample Presentation - Rasmus:
http://publish.uwo.ca/~vtumanov/Most_Recent_Courses.html



Cornell notes: <http://coe.jmu.edu/learningtoolbox/cornellnotes.html> — an excellent note-taking method for lectures.

³ One person can speak for all or presenters can take turns. Speak clearly and project. Use PPT.