RUSSIAN LITERATURE IN ENGLISH (RULE)

RULE205 Murder and Adultery: Dostoevsky, Tolstoy, and the 19th-Century Russian Novel
The 19th-century novel is widely regarded as the supreme achievement of Russian literature. This course will trace its development from Pushkin’s elegant, witty novel in verse, Eugene Onegin, through the grotesque comedy of Gogol, to the realist masterpieces of Dostoevsky and Tolstoy, with their complex depiction of human psychology and the philosophical struggles of late 19th-century society. We will consider the historical background in which the novels were produced and the tools developed by Russian critical theory, especially the Russian formalists and Mikhail Bakhtin, for understanding 19th-century Russian prose.
Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: OPT
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-REES
Identical With: REES205, RUSS205, WLIT241
Prereq: None

RULE208F Otherness & Belonging (FYS)
One of the many haunting utterances of Fyodor Dostoevskys’s most famous antihero, the Undergound Man, is “I am alone, I thought, and they are everyone.” Like him, the other protagonists of this course are outcasts, disidents, and strangers — jaded office clerks and repressed misanthropes, queer activists and “enemies of the state” — who refuse to conform to societal norms, disrupt conventions by saying the unsayable, and write and make art from the margins, the realm of undesirables. Focusing mainly on Russia and Eastern Europe, we will analyze representations of otherness and belonging in fiction, non-fiction, and film. We will explore narratives of undesirability through the thematic prisms of exile and immigration; gender and sexuality; mental illness; prison writing; ethnic difference; religion; and unrequited love. The concept of undesirability will also be our point of entry for constructing arguments about community, privilege, and a society without outsiders.
Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: OPT
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-REES
Identical With: REES208F, RUSS208F, WLIT245F
Prereq: None

RULE220 Speak, Memory: The Russian Memoir
Memoirs offer a chance for individuals to make sense of their relationship to larger historical forces and allow writers of fiction and poetry to reflect on the tensions between biography and the creative process. We will read memoirs of prison and of Stalinist terror by Fyodor Dostoevsky and Nadezhda Mandelstam; visions of childhood by Lev Tolstoy, Vladimir Nabokov, and poets Osip Mandelstam and Marina Tsvetaeva; and works of autobiography by Viktor Shklovsky and Sergey Gandlevsky that create their own worlds of literary experimentation. The course will also consider the theoretical problems of autobiographical writing. Students will write a memoir of childhood (3-5 pages) to better understand the technical problems faced by Tolstoy in writing about his childhood. Students will also write a piece of memoiristic prose, or a parody or imitation of one of the writers in the course (minimum 10 pages), as one of their three papers. We will devote one class session to a writing workshop session on the creative project.
Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: OPT
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-REES

RULE222 Russian and American Poetic Encounters
The fascination of Russian poets with American authors, and the curiosity of Anglophone poets about the culture of Russia and the USSR, are trends that accompany the turbulent twentieth century, when the political relationships between Russia and the USA were largely inimical. But it was also a period when poetry mattered. In this course, we will focus on some of the most significant poets of the twentieth century.

We will study six Russian poets (Vladimir Mayakovsky, Boris Pasternak, Osip Mandelstam, Joseph Brodsky, Olga Sedakova, and Arkadii Dragomoschenko), and six American poets (William Carlos Williams, Robert Frost, T. S. Eliot, Langston Hughes, John Ashbery, and Lyn Hejinian), and also one Caribbean poet (Derek Walcott).

We will learn how to analyze lyric poetry, and how to study it comparatively. We will explore the poets’ dialogues with each other across cultures. For example, we will learn how Mayakovskys’s “ladder” might have influenced Williams’ vers libre, or how Joseph Brodsky learned T. S. Eliot’s theory of impersonality in poetry even though Eliot was banned in the USSR. We will also explore where poetry and politics meet. For example, we will discuss why Langston Hughes found his visit to the USSR inspirational as an African-American poet, and we will see whether the myth that Robert Frost’s visit to the USSR contributed to the Cuban Missile Crisis is true.

The course is taught in English. No knowledge of Russian is required.
Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: OPT
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-REES
Identical With: REES222, RUSS222, ENGL238, WLIT267
Prereq: None

RULE223 After Communism: Animals, Avatars, Hybrids
During the last two decades of the 20th century, a wide array of Soviet and post-Soviet writers either replaced or merged the traditional human protagonist with another: the animal. Whether featuring a penguin avatar or disillusioned insects; a human centipede or a pack of werewolves, these literary works directly and indirectly shed light on the historical context in which they were written: the last decade before and the one immediately following the dissolution of the Soviet Union. Keeping in mind this historical and social context, we will analyze representations of hybridity, violence, sexuality, and (imagined) communities—all through texts that challenge us to consider what the animal represents and how it affects our expectations of narrative. The secondary readings will situate the animal in a broader philosophical and theoretical framework, and special attention will be paid to modernism as a movement in literature and art.

Conducted in English.
Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: OPT
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-REES
Identical With: RUSS223, REES223, WLIT256
Prereq: None

RULE224 Performing Russian Culture: From Peter the Great to the Russian Revolution
This course offers a survey of Russian culture from 1700-1917 through the perspective of performance studies. Starting with the reign of Peter the Great...
and ending on the eve of the revolution, we read some of the seminal works of the Russian literary canon, including plays, poems, short stories, and novels. We also consider examples from visual and material culture: paintings, sculptures, and everyday objects. Alongside these primary sources, we discuss theoretical pieces from the field of performance studies in order to expose and reflect on the social and political mechanisms embedded in the shaping of various forms of “Russianness.” The course will explore ever-relevant questions of belonging, display of power, and ideology, and ask how, why, and by whom cultural identities are contrived and performed. The course is conducted in English.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: OPT
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-REES
Identical With: RUSS224, REES224, WLIT257
Prereq: None

**RULE233 Introduction to Russian and Soviet Cinema**

This course provides an introduction to the history and poetics of imperial Russian, Soviet, and post-Soviet Russian cinema. From the avant-garde experimentation of Lev Kuleshov, Sergei Eisenstein, and Dziga Vertov to the masterpieces of Andrei Tarkovsky, Sergei Parajanov, and Kira Muratova, the course will explore the development of film from the Soviet and post-Soviet periods as artistic medium and as national tradition. The discussion and comparative analyses of different forms and genres, including silent cinema, propaganda films, blockbusters, and auteur cinema, will be situated within the cultural, political, and aesthetic contexts of the Soviet Union and contemporary Russia, Ukraine, and Armenia.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: OPT
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-REES
Identical With: REES233, RUSS233, FILM333, WLIT255
Prereq: None

**RULE235 Queer Russia**

Russia is accustomed to playing the role of the “evil empire.” The current ongoing war in Ukraine has resurrected the Cold War-era narratives about Russia as a dark, aggressive, and ruthless military power. The notorious legislation of recent years—whose functions range from barring Americans from adopting Russian orphans to criminalizing the so-called “gay propaganda”—have further solidified Russia’s reputation as a country with little regard for human rights. Yet generations of Russian poets, artists, and writers have transformed the country’s systematic oppression and violence into spectacular forms of protest and self-expression. This course focuses on gender and sexuality in exploring an alternative cultural history of Russia, which highlights its queer legacy from the nineteenth century to the present. We will examine poetry, fiction, art, memoirs, plays, films, performances, and discursive texts that showcase uniquely Russian conceptions of marriage, gender relations, gender expression, and sexual identity. Attention will be paid to the ways in which Russian and Western narratives of queerness align and diverge. In English. No knowledge of Russian is required or expected.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: OPT
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-REES
Identical With: REES235, RUSS235, FGSS234
Prereq: None

**RULE240F Reading Stories: Great Short Works from Gogol to Petrushevskaya (FYS)**

This course is designed to help students improve their writing through the close reading and analysis of short stories and novellas by Russian masters of the form. Students will be asked to bring to each class their ideas on how to construct an argument that could be developed into a written interpretation of the work being discussed. These discussions, along with work on building logical arguments, recognizing propaganda and disinformation, and polishing grammar and style, will inform students' own writing (four 5-page papers). We will read works from the 19th century to the late 20th century that include Tolstoy’s novellas of faith, adultery, and facing death; Gogol’s surreal comedies and urbanistic fantasies; Chekhov’s subtle psychological tales; Bunin’s reflections from exile on a lost Russia; Bulgakov’s sketches of life as a country doctor; and Petrushevskaya’s modern stories of the tortured lives of women in the late Soviet period.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: OPT
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-REES
Identical With: RUSS240F, REES240F, WLIT240F
Prereq: None

**RULE251 Dostoevsky**

Dostoevsky is widely recognized as one of the world’s greatest novelists. His career begins at the end of Russian Romanticism, is interrupted by nine years of prison and exile in Siberia, and resumes at the beginning of the age of the great realist novel. Dostoevsky’s major works grapple with the themes of sin and crime, the disintegration of the family, and the difficulty of believing in God in a world full of evil.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: OPT
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-REES
Identical With: RUSS251, RUSS251, WLIT244
Prereq: None

**RULE252 Tolstoy**

During the 19th century when Tolstoy wrote his novels and stories, literature was viewed in Russia as the intelligentsia’s primary medium for debating its big questions (such as how to resolve the inequalities that had been institutionalized under serfdom, or how to choose between new and old values as Russia experienced modernization). Writers like Tolstoy and Dostoevsky willingly assumed the responsibility to address a broad range of political, historical, and philosophical-religious questions in their fiction, and they wrote novels with radical formulations as well as solutions to these questions. However, they also viewed literature, particularly the novel, as a medium with rich potential for innovative formal experimentation, and so they resisted the call for conventional ideological novels. Each of Tolstoy’s best works is an innovative formal experiment that creates an unprecedented, new type of novel. This course will study how Tolstoy’s writings both responded to and transcended their times by creating new novelistic forms and new truths within those forms.

For native speakers and learners who have studied Russian for at least four semesters, a half-credit course is available in which we will read excerpts from Tolstoy’s works (CGST 330).

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: OPT
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-REES
Identical With: RUSS252, REES252, COL262, WLIT252
Prereq: None

**RULE254 Nobel Laureates: The Politics of Literature**

The course examines key cultural and socio-historical moments in the development of twentieth-century Russian literature by focusing on the prose and poetry of authors awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature—Ivan Bunin (1933), Boris Pasternak (1958), Mikhail Sholokhov (1965), Alexander Solzhenitsyn (1970),
Joseph Brodsky (1987), and Svetlana Alexievich (2015). Additionally, the students will read Lev Tolstoy, who rejected being nominated for the prize, as well as Vladimir Nabokov and Anna Akhmatova, who arguably merited the award but never received it. On the broader level, the class will ponder literature’s relevance for shaping public discourse on cultural policies, national identities, and international relations.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: OPT
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-REES
Identical With: REES254, RUSS254
Prereq: None

RULE255 Prague, Vienna, Sarajevo: 20th-Century Novels from Central and Eastern Europe

This course is a survey of 20th-century prose fiction of Central and Eastern Europe, with an emphasis on the Czech novel. The novels we will read make history come alive through the eyes of vividly individual characters. In Joseph Roth’s Radetzky March, the collapse of the Austro-Hungarian Empire is viewed through the lens of a single brokenhearted family; in Bohumil Hrabal’s I Served the King of England, the Czech experience in World War II and postwar Stalinization is embodied in the figure of a diminutive hotel waiter; Volodymyr Radyenko’s Mondegreen is an experimental narrative told through the eyes of a refugee from the Ukrainian Donbas region in Kyiv who struggles with language and identity; Nobel Prize-winner Olga Tokarczuk’s Flights provides a constellation of short narratives that attempt to capture the place of the body in the world when their home countries (Poland and Yugoslavia, respectively) are torn apart by war. All the works we will read exemplify the high level of narrative sophistication, in realist, absurdist, and experimental modes, that is a hallmark of Central and Eastern European literature.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: OPT
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-REES
Identical With: RUSS255, REES255, WLIT259
Prereq: None

RULE256 The Soviet Century

This course begins and ends with two of the most important dates of the 20th century. On November 7, 1917, the Bolshevik party launched a revolution against the government of the Russian Empire with the aim of overthrowing not just the state but capitalism, the economic and social system that defined modern civilization. Over the coming decades, the state they created (eventually named the USSR) embarked on an unprecedented project to transform human beings and remake the world. On December 26, 1991, the Soviet Union collapsed into 15 European and Asian countries.

The Soviet project raises fundamental questions about political systems, economics, and human nature—questions that are a long way from being answered. It also shaped modern history all over the world, including in the United States, which confronted the Soviet Union as its political and ideological archenemy during the Cold War. In charting the USSR’s trajectory from pariah nation after World War II to global superpower following World War II, we will move beyond the clichéd view of the Soviet Union as the Evil Empire. Instead, we will examine the ways in which socialist modernity offered an alternative to its capitalist twin.

In an effort to understand the contradictions of Soviet life leading up to and during the Cold War, the class will examine how the Soviets sought to rethink issues of class struggle, family structure, education, gender dynamics, race, religion, sexuality, and patriotism. We will consider the theoretical writings of Marx, Lenin, and Trotsky in addition to poetry and prose by Babel, Mayakovsky, Akhmatova, Platonov, Pasternak, Tsvetaeva, Berggoelts, and Nabokov, among others. Particular attention will be paid to underground cultures that arose in response to the repression of free speech, ethnic discrimination, and the Gulag prison system. All readings are in the English translation.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: OPT
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: SBS-REES
Identical With: REES256, RUSS256, WLIT246
Prereq: None

RULE267 Parody: Humor, Artistic Evolution, and Restoration of the Sacred

Parody is a form of artistic expression that has played a major role in literary history, largely through its power of critical revision. According to Russian formalist theorists of the early 20th century, parody is a driving force in literary evolution. Linda Hutcheon’s formulation, that parody is “repetition with critical distance, which marks difference rather than similarity,” provides perhaps the broadest and most fruitful point of departure. The course will consider various definitions of parody offered by Russian and Western theorists. After examining parody as pure humor (Woody Allen, MAD magazine, Hot Fuzz) and parody as a tool of literary evolution (Gogol and Dostoievsky), we will study the more complicated case of “restorative parody,” as exemplified in the medieval practice of parodia sacra (sacred parody), discussed by theorists Mikhail Bakhtin and Olga Freidenberg. We will look at the modern manifestation of parodia sacra in Andrew Lloyd Webber and Tim Rice’s Jesus Christ Superstar, and of restorative parody in Lin-Manuel Miranda’s Hamilton. The course will also include discussion of legal issues raised by parody, in the case of 2 Live Crew / Roy Orbison (which led to a 1994 Supreme Court decision, Campbell v. Acuff-Rose Music, in which Justice David Souter offered his own definition of parody). At the end of the semester, students will present their own research or creative projects related to parody.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: OPT
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-REES
Identical With: RUSS267, REES267
Prereq: None

RULE276 Contemporary Russian Literature

The course offers a survey of contemporary Russian literature, with a focus on the post-Soviet period. We will discuss how Russian literature relates, aesthetically and anthropologically, to the dynamic historical period roughly starting in 1985: perestroika, the collapse of the Soviet Union, the liberal 1990s and the emerging market economy, ethnic conflicts, and the era of Putinism. We will read works written in different aesthetic modes: documentary genre (Svetlana Alexievich, Maria Stepanova), Russian postmodern prose (Liudmila Petrushevskaya, Viktor Pelevin, Vladimir Sorokin), realist writers (German Sadulaev), as well as the most recent popular best-sellers and movies.

The course is taught in English. No knowledge of Russian is required.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: A-F
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-REES
Identical With: REES276, WLIT266, RUSS276
Prereq: None
**RULE277 Gogol and His Legacy: Witches, Con Men, and Runaway Noses**
Nikolai Gogol (1809-1852), hailed as one of Russia’s greatest and most distinctive writers, created a phantasmagorical world of devils and witches coexisting with the gritty details of life in Ukraine, St. Petersburg, and the Russian provinces. Gogol’s satirical observations delighted socially conscious contemporary critics, while his linguistic experimentation and subversion of the rules of logic inspired later modernist writers. Roughly half of the course is devoted to major writers of the twentieth century. We will consider Gogol’s interest in the demonic; his complex identity as a bilingual writer claimed by both Ukraine and Russia as one of their greatest cultural figures; the influence of his formal and linguistic experimentation on later writers such as Dostoevsky, Nabokov, and Bulgakov, with his vision of the Devil visiting Soviet Moscow; and Gogol’s reception by modern Russian and Western writers and critics. The course is conducted in English.
Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: OPT
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-REES
Identical With: REUS277, REUS277, WLIT242
Prereq: None

**RULE279 Chekhov: Prose vs. Drama**
This course explores the oeuvre of Anton Chekhov (1860-1904), one of the most influential modern dramatists—the author of such classic plays as The Seagull, Uncle Vanya, Three Sisters, and The Cherry Orchard. Chekhov also wrote profound prose works, such as “Ward No. 6,” “The Black Monk,” “Rothschild’s Violin,” and “The Lady with a Lapdog.”

As one of Chekhov’s biographers put it, “Of all the Russian ‘classics’ he is, to non-Russians especially, the most approachable and the least alien, whether on the stage or the printed page. He lets his reader and spectator react as they wish, draw their own conclusions. He imposes no philosophy” (Donald Rayfield).

Poetic, dense, and elusive, Chekhov’s writing continues to attract readers, spectators, and theater-makers of all kinds. Some of Chekhov’s admirers believe that the quality of his fiction surpasses that of his most famous plays. This course approaches Chekhov by focusing on the tension between his prose and drama: what can a Chekhov short story accomplish that a Chekhov play cannot, and vice versa? After all, a concern with the purpose of human existence undergirds his short stories and plays alike. More specifically, studying Chekhov enables a fresh understanding of happiness and joy, of grief and sorrow in a relentlessly brutal world. An extraordinary storyteller capable of spotting dramatic conflict in the most mundane situations, Chekhov allows for rich discussions of the passage of time, conflict between generations, professional failure, the pressures of gender norms, and the costs of colonialism in late Russian Imperial society.

In addition to literary analysis, the course offers an opportunity to get acquainted with the basics of Chekhov’s influence on contemporary performance. Expert guest lecturers will facilitate workshops on acting and directing Chekhov.

Film adaptations and recordings of stage performances will supplement readings. All readings and discussion are in English.
Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: OPT
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-REES
Identical With: REUS279, RUSS279, WLIT265

**RULE290 Tolstoy Part One: War and Peace and Other Works**
Lev Tolstoy (1828 -1910) lived longer than any of the other major nineteenth-century Russian writers. His career began in the 1850s, as Russian literature was moving out of the age of Romanticism, and extended into the twentieth century, as modernism was becoming the dominant mode of Russian literature. His influence in Russia went far beyond literature. By the end of his life, he was the leader of a moral movement known as Tolstoyanism, the major tenets of which were pacifism, vegetarianism, and a resistance to state power verging on anarchism. This course begins with Tolstoy’s mid-career masterpiece Anna Karenina, in which Tolstoy explores the problematic nature of the Russian family through the experiences of two main characters: an adulterous wife, for whom the novel is named, and an autobiographical stand-in, Konstantin Lyovin, who is a mouthpiece for many of Tolstoy’s own concerns about the post-emancipation Russian economy and the pernicious influence of the West. We will also read Tolstoy’s final major novel, Resurrection, which calls into question all the bases of modern society, with the prison system as the primary embodiment of societal evil. The course will be conducted in English.
Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: OPT
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-REES
Identical With: REUS291, COL276, RUSS291, WLIT263
Prereq: None

**RULE291 Tolstoy Part Two: Anna Karenina and Later Works**
Lev Tolstoy (1828 -1910) lived longer than any of the other major nineteenth-century Russian writers. His career began in the 1850s, as Russian literature was moving out of the age of Romanticism, and extended into the twentieth century, as modernism was becoming the dominant mode of Russian literature. His influence in Russia went far beyond literature. By the end of his life, he was the leader of a moral movement known as Tolstoyanism, the major tenets of which were pacifism, vegetarianism, and a resistance to state power verging on anarchism. This course begins with Tolstoy’s mid-career masterpiece Anna Karenina, in which Tolstoy explores the problematic nature of the Russian family through the experiences of two main characters: an adulterous wife, for whom the novel is named, and an autobiographical stand-in, Konstantin Lyovin, who is a mouthpiece for many of Tolstoy’s own concerns about the post-emancipation Russian economy and the pernicious influence of the West. We will also read Tolstoy’s final major novel, Resurrection, which calls into question all the bases of modern society, with the prison system as the primary embodiment of societal evil. The course will be conducted in English.
Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: OPT
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-REES
Identical With: REUS291, COL276, RUSS291, WLIT264
Prereq: None

**RULE321 Moscow/Berlin: Dreamworld and Catastrophe**
The October Revolution of 1917 in Russia and the November Revolution of 1918 in Germany ushered in an era of imagining and building an anti-capitalist world based on the ideals of universal equality, freedom, and comradeship. Between World War I and World War II, Soviet Moscow and Weimar Berlin developed into centers of the international leftist movement that was committed to the cause of global proletarian revolution. While the revolutionary cause proved to be unattainable and costly, the period’s artistic and intellectual achievements, known as the avant-garde, offer an extraordinary archive of utopian experimentation across borders.

Focusing on Moscow and Berlin, this course maps the socialist modernist aesthetic in interwar Europe and provides a comparative review of the
transnational circulation of leftist and reactionary ideas registered in a variety of -isms: dadaism, expressionism, futurism, suprematism, and constructivism, as well as the New Objectivity, Bauhaus, and the practice of factography. The alignment of art and ideology will be explored through literature, art, and film and will consider the entanglements of egalitarian aspirations with nationalist agendas and emancipatory ideals with patriarchal residues. The course will also review the cultural production of Russian exiles living in Weimar Berlin and their conception of an "off-modern" path. The course will conclude with a discussion of the revolutionary avant-garde's legacy in the East Berlin underground and post-Soviet Moscow.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: OPT
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-REES
Identical With: REES321, RUSS321, GRST221, WLIT341
Prereq: None

RULE340 Reading Theories
In this survey of theories that have shaped the reading of literature and the analysis of culture, emphasis is on key concepts--language, identity, subjectivity, gender, power, and knowledge--and on key figures and schools such as Marx, Freud, Nietzsche, Saussure, Barthes, Gramsci, Benjamin, Althusser, Foucault, Lacan, Deleuze, Jameson, Berlant, Moten, postmodernism, and U.S. feminism.

Offering: Crosslisting
Grading: OPT
Credits: 1.00
Gen Ed Area: HA-ENGL
Identical With: ENGL295, COL339, CLST393, CEAS340, RL&L290, GRST231, RUSS340, REES340
Prereq: None

RULE401 Individual Tutorial, Undergraduate
Topic to be arranged in consultation with the tutor.

Offering: Host
Grading: OPT

RULE402 Individual Tutorial, Undergraduate
Topic to be arranged in consultation with the tutor.

Offering: Host
Grading: OPT