

**DEPARTMENT OF MODERN LANGUAGES
AND CULTURAL STUDIES**

<https://uofa.ualberta.ca/modern-languages-and-cultural-studies>

**2015-2016 Russ 499 B1 Special Topics in Russian Literature (Winter Term)
Soviet Russian Literature of the 1920's**

Instructor: Prof. Peter A. Rolland Time: TBA
Office: Arts 442-D Place: TBA
E-mail : peter.rolland @ ualberta.ca
Personal Website Under construction Website: N/A

Course Prerequisites: RUSS 325 or 326 or consent of the department

Course-based Ethics Approval in place regarding all research projects that involve human testing, questionnaires, etc .

Yes x No, not needed, no such projects approved

Community Service Learning component

Required Optional x None

Past or Representative Evaluative Course Material available

- Exam registry – Students' Union
<http://www.su.ualberta.ca/services/infolink/exam/>
- See explanations below
- Document distributed in class
- Other (*please specify*)
- x NA

Additional mandatory Instructional fees (approved by Board of Governors)

Yes x No

Course Description and Objectives:

The course will introduce the students to representative works of Russian Literature of the 1920's grouped around such themes as "The Revolution", "The New Society", "Socialist Construction", "Socialist Realism". At the end of the course the student will:

1. Be able to define, contrast, and explain the terms " Symbolism", "Ornamental Prose", "Socialist Construction" and "Party Mindedness" and "Eurasianism" as they relate to the texts read.
2. Be able to interpret the ideological tendencies underlying each of these works.
3. Be able to explain or interpret Formalist literary critical terms such as bestrangement "ostranenie", *skaz*, or " art as device".
4. By comparing and contrasting different authorial attitudes toward the New Soviet Reality, the student will be able to measure the significant developments in Russian literature which reflect the often violent transformation of Russian life and society in the period.

All lectures, assignments and readings will be in English, although Russian speakers and Russian minors will be encouraged to read some texts or portions of texts in the original. Students will be expected to present several short presentations/reports and a final paper which will explore in depth any aspect of the chosen text or texts. The choice of text(s) and critical approach will be made in consultation with the instructor.

Grade Distribution:

Class participation	20%
Reports (5x 8%)	40%
Final Paper 10-15 pages (Due April 15)	<u>40%</u>
	100%

Marks for assignments, tests, and exams are given in percentages, to which letter grades are also assigned, according to the table below (“MLCS Grading Scale”).

“MLCS UNDERGRADUATE GRADING SCALE”

A+	95-100%	4	Excellent: Superior performance showing understanding and knowledge of the subject matter far exceeding expectations.
A	90-94%	4	Excellent: Superior performance showing comprehensive understanding of subject matter.
A-	86-89%	3.7	Excellent: Clearly above average performance with complete knowledge of subject matter.
B+	82-85%	3.3	Good
B	75-81%	3	Good: average performance with knowledge of subject matter generally complete
B-	70-74%	2.7	Good
C+	66-69%	2.3	Satisfactory: Basic understanding of the subject matter
C	61-65%	2.0	Satisfactory
C-	58-60%	1.7	Satisfactory
D+	55-57%	1.3	Poor: Marginal performance; generally insufficient preparation for subsequent courses in the subject matter.
D	50-54%	1.0	Minimal Pass: Marginal performance; generally insufficient preparation for subsequent courses in the subject matter.
F	0-49%	0.0	Failure: Unsatisfactory performance or failure to meet course requirements.

Class participation –involves regular attendance at all classes, participation in class discussion of the text or text to be read for that class period. Reports will concentrate on a specific aspect or a limited number of aspects (theme, style, structure, ideological content) of the selected text or problem. Reports and the final paper may be given in English or in Russian for those whose Russian is sufficient to the task.

Required Reading:

Alexander Blok, “ The Twelve”, “ Scythians”

Isaac Babel, *Red Cavalry*
Alexander Fadeev, *The Rout*
Mikhail Sholokhov, “The Azure Steppe”,
Boris Pllnyak, *The Naked Year*
Vladimir Mayakovsky, “The Bedbug”, Selected verse
Yuriy Olesha *Envy*
Evgeniy Zamyatin *We*
Mikhail Bulgakov, *The White Guard, The Fatal Eggs, The Heart of A Dog*

Required Critical Literature:

Brown, Edward J., *Russian Literature Since the Revolution* (Revised and Enlarged Edition), Cambridge, Mass. And London England: Harvard University Press, 1982. (Introduction, Ch.1, 3, 4,5,6,,7, 9,11,12,13)

Lenin, V.I. “Party Organization and Party Literature ” (Handout)

Recommended:

Clark, Katerina, *The Soviet Novel: History as Ritual*, 3rd edition, Bloomington and Indianapolis: Indiana University Press, 2000

Jones, Malcom V, Miller, Robin Feur, *The Cambridge Companion to the Classic Russian Novel*, Cambridge, 1998

Mathewson, Rufus, *The Positive Hero In Russian Literature*, 2nd edition, Stanford, California: Stanford University Press, 1975

Moser, Charles ed. *The Cambridge History of Russian Literature*, Cambridge : Cambridge University Press ,1992

Rzhevsky, Nicholas, ed. *The Cambridge Companion to Modern Russian Culture*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press , 1998

Date of Deferred Final Exam (if applicable): *please consult the following site:*
[http://www.registrar.ualberta.ca/calendar/Regulations-and-Information/Academic-Regulation/23.5.html#23.5.6\(3](http://www.registrar.ualberta.ca/calendar/Regulations-and-Information/Academic-Regulation/23.5.html#23.5.6(3)

Explanatory Notes on Assignments:

Reports: There will be 5 reports consisting of a 2-5 page typed analysis of a work to be chosen by the student in consultation with the instructor. The timing of the report will depend upon which work from the required reading. The language of the assigned reading will also be chosen in consultation with the instructor. The reports and the final normally will be given in English.

Required Notes:

“Policy about course outlines can be found in Section 23.4(2) of the University calendar.”

Academic Integrity :

“The University of Alberta is committed to the highest standards of academic integrity and honesty. Students are expected to be familiar with these standards regarding academic honesty and to uphold the policies of the University in this respect. Students are particularly urged to familiarize themselves with the provisions of the Code of Student Behaviour (online at <http://www.governance.ualberta.ca/en/CodesofConductandResidenceCommunityStandards/CodeofStudentBehaviour.aspx>) and avoid any behaviour which could potentially result in suspicions of cheating, plagiarism, misrepresentation of facts and/or participation in an offence. Academic dishonesty is a serious offence and can result in suspension or expulsion from the University.”

Learning and Working Environment:

The Faculty of Arts is committed to ensuring all students; faculty and staff are able to study and work in an environment safe and free of discrimination and harassment. It does not tolerate behaviour that undermines that environment. The Department urges anyone who feels this policy has been or is being violated to:

- Discuss the matter with the person whose behaviour is causing concern; or
- If that discussion is unsatisfactory, or there is concern that directs discussion is inappropriate or threatening, discuss it with the Chair of the Department.

For additional advice or assistance regarding this policy you may contact the student ombudservice (<http://www.uofaweb.ualberta.ca/ombudservice/ca/>).

Information about the University of Alberta Discrimination and Harassment Policy and Procedures can be found in UAPPOL available at <http://policiesonline.ualberta.ca/PoliciesProcedures/Pages/DispPol.aspx?PID=110>

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Academic Honesty:

All students should consult the information provided by the [Office of Judicial Affairs](#) regarding avoiding cheating and plagiarism in particular and academic dishonesty in general (see the [Academic Integrity Undergraduate Handbook](#) and [Information for Students](#)). If in doubt about what is permitted in this class, ask the instructor.

Students involved in language courses and translation courses should be aware that on-line “translation engines” produce very dubious and unreliable “translations.”

Students in languages courses should be aware that, while seeking the advice of native or expert speakers is often helpful, **excessive editorial and creative help** in assignments is considered a form of “cheating” that violates the code of student conduct with dire consequences.

An instructor or coordinator who is convinced that a student has handed in work that he or she could not possibly reproduce without outside assistance is obliged, out of consideration of fairness to other students, to report the case to the Associate Dean of the Faculty. See the [Academic Discipline Process](#).

Recording of Lectures:

Audio or video recording of lectures, labs, seminars or any other teaching environment by students is allowed only with the prior written consent of the instructor or as a part of an approved accommodation plan. Recorded material is to be used solely for personal study, and is not to be used or distributed for any other purpose without prior written consent from the content author(s).

Student Accessibility Services:

If you have special needs that could affect your performance in this class, please

let me know during the first week of the term so that appropriate arrangements can be made. If you are not already registered with Specialized Support & Disability Services, contact their office immediately (2-800 SUB; Email sasrec@ualberta.ca; Email; phone 780-492-3381; WEB www.ssds.ualberta.ca).

Attendance, Absences, and Missed Grade Components:

Regular attendance is essential for optimal performance in any course. In cases of potentially excusable absences due to illness or domestic affliction, notify your instructor by e-mail within two days. Regarding absences that may be excusable and procedures for addressing course components missed as a result, consult sections 23.3(1) and 23.5.6 of the University Calendar. Be aware that unexcused absences will result in partial or total loss of the grade for the “attendance and participation” component(s) of a course, as well as for any assignments that are not handed-in or completed as a result.

Homework and policy for late assignments:

Students who consult in advance with an instructor regarding contingencies preventing the timely completion of an assignment may, at the discretion of the instructor, be granted an extension. Otherwise, assignments may be handed in one class-day after the stated deadline without penalty, with a 10% -per-class-day penalty assessed for each subsequent class-day of lateness.

Consultations

Students are encouraged to consult with the instructor about any questions or problems with the course. Do not hesitate to ask for help as soon as there is a problem. The percentage mark resulting from the entire term work and examination then produces the final letter grade for the course.

Awards

Each year Slavic and east European Studies distributes almost \$9,000 in awards to its best undergraduate students. Our graduate students cash in on \$ 150,000 each year in assistantships and fellowships.

For more advanced levels:

Variable number to a maximum of \$1,000: The Ulean and Eudoxia Kushnirevs’ka-Tkachenko Travel Bursaries are to be awarded annually as a travel bursary for undergraduate U of A students pursuing degree programs at the U of A in Russian and/or Ukrainian Studies. This award may be offered to a student registered in a minimum of 18 credits.

For students continuing in Russian studies: There are several other awards; please consult the department.

If you would like to pursue Minor in Russian or take Slavic Courses see:

Please contact the Undergraduate Advisor in Slavics
Prof. Peter. A Rolland
Arts 442-d
peter.rolland@ualberta.ca