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### RUSS 305L.01: Introduction to Russian Literature I

Ona Renner-Fahey

*University of Montana - Missoula*, [Ona.Renner@mso.umt.edu](mailto:Ona.Renner@mso.umt.edu)

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# ***RUSSIAN 305L***

## ***INTRODUCTION TO RUSSIAN LITERATURE I***

*Fall 2003*

*Time: MWF 1:10-2:00*

*Location: LA 234*

*Credits: 3*

**Professor: Ona Renner-Fahey**  
**Office hours: MTW 2:10 - 3:30, Th F 9-10.**  
**And by appointment.**  
**Office: LA 316**  
**Office phone: 243-4602**  
**E-mail: Ona.Renner@mso.umt.edu**  
**E-mail hours: 9:00 – 5:00**

### **Course description:**

A survey of Russian prose, poetry, and drama from their beginnings through their development into the early nineteenth century. No language or literature prerequisites. Course may be taken for a traditional letter grade only. Cross-listed with FLLG 305L and LS 305L. May be applied to General Education Perspective 2 (Literary and Artistic Studies). Required for Russian majors.

### **Goals and outcomes:**

In this course students will find out how and why Russian literature began and will trace its development into the nineteenth century. The course structure will consist of occasional lectures and frequent class discussion. The students will have readings assigned for nearly every class period and will work on writing and analytic skills by keeping a journal of their reactions to the readings. The readings will be arranged into units and quizzes will be administered at the end of each unit to prepare students for the final exam. Through attentive reading, analytical writing, and active participation, the students will finish the semester with a general yet solid knowledge of Russian literature from the medieval period into its “Golden Age.”

### **Assessment:**

Attendance, preparation, and active participation are required. The students will be given a participation grade of 0-3 every day: 0 for being absent, 1 for present without contributing to the discussion (letter grade of C), 2 for adequate participation (letter grade of B), 3 for high quality (not just quantity) of participation (letter grade of A). Other factors figured into the daily participation grade are: 1.) arriving to class late and 2.) being unprepared to contribute when called upon. Each student may be absent one time without his/her grade being affected. No make-ups are allowed for absences or missed quizzes. Each student may, however, drop his/her lowest quiz grade. The final exam may not be taken early or made-up after its scheduled time.

There will be both an assigned reading and a written response (“journal” entry) to be completed for almost every class day. The journals are: 1.) to familiarize students with writing about literature and 2.) to prepare them for class discussion. The readings will be grouped into units. At the end of each unit the students will: 1.) hand in all their journal entries and 2.) take a quiz on the material covered in that unit. Guidelines and expectations for the journal entries will be discussed in class.

**Percentage distribution of final course grade:**

Participation: 20%  
Journals: 30%  
Quizzes: 25%  
Final exam: 25%

**Grading scale:**

	88-89 B+	78-79 C+	68-69 D+
93-100 A	83-87 B	73-77 C	65-67 D
90-92 A	80-82 B-	70-72 C-	64 & below E

**Required reading:**

**I. Books:** (Available at the University Bookstore)

- 1.) Zenkovsky, Serge. *Medieval Russia's Epics, Chronicles, and Tales*.
- 2.) Durova, Nadezhda. *The Cavalry Maiden: Journals of a Russian Officer in the Napoleonic Wars*.
- 3.) Lermontov, Mikhail. *A Hero of Our Time*.

**II. Texts on reserve:**

The following works may be accessed through electronic reserve (<http://eres.lib.umt.edu/coursepage.asp?cid=823>) or found on traditional reserve at the Mansfield Library. The password for electronic reserve is: **LITERATURA**

Princess Dolgorukii (Excerpt from her *Memoirs*)

Derzhavin ("Felitsa")

Lomonosov ("Morning Meditations" and "Evening Meditations")

Chulkov ("The Comely Cook")

Fonvizin ("The Brigadier")

Karamzin ("Poor Liza")

Pushkin ("The Bronze Horseman")

Baratynsky ("Death")

Lermontov ("The Sail" and "The Death of a Poet")

## COURSE SCHEDULE:

\*This schedule is subject to change.

W 9/3 Introduction

### *MEDIEVAL LITERATURE: KIEVAN*

F 9/5 *The Primary Chronicle*

Reading: Zenkovsky pp. 65-71 ("Vladimir Christianizes Russia"),  
pp. 101-105 ("The Martyrdom of Boris and Gleb")

M 9/8 *The Lay of Igor's Campaign*

Reading: Zenkovsky pp. 167-193 (*The Lay of Igor's Campaign*)

W 9/10 Military Tales

Reading: Zenkovsky pp. 211-224 ("Sofony of Riazan: Zadonschina")

F 9/12 **Quiz, Journal due**

### *MEDIEVAL LITERATURE: MUSCOVITE*

M 9/15 Saints' Lives

Reading: Zenkovsky pp. 290-300 ("Peter and Fevronia of Murom")

W 9/17 Ideological Writing

Zenkovsky pp. 323-333 ("The Tale of the White Cow")

F 9/19 Folk Tales (TBA)

M 9/22 Folk Tales (TBA)

W 9/24 **Quiz, Journal due**

### *THE SEVENTEENTH CENTURY*

F 9/26 Autobiography

Zenkovsky pp. 399-449 ("The Life of Archpriest Avvakum by Himself")

M 9/29 Secular Tales

Reading: Zenkovsky pp. 449-487 ("Shemiaka's Judgement," "The Tale of  
Savva Grudtsyn," and "Frol Skobeev, the Rogue.")

W 10/1 Poetry

Reading: Zenkovsky pp. 489-501 ("Misery, Luckless, Plight")

F 10/3 **Quiz, Journal due**

### *THE EIGHTEENTH CENTURY*

M 10/6 Reading: Lomonosov (On Reserve)

W 10/8 Reading: Derzhavin (On Reserve)

M 10/13 Reading: Princess Dolgorukii (on Reserve)

F 10/10 Reading: Chulkov (On Reserve)

W 10/15 Reading: Chulkov (On Reserve)

F 10/17 Reading: Fonvizin (On Reserve)

M 10/20 Reading: Fonvizin (On Reserve)

W 10/22 Reading: Karamzin (On Reserve)

F 10/24 **Quiz, Journal due**

*PUSHKIN*

M 10/27 "The Bronze Horseman" (On Reserve)

*DUROVA*

W 10/29 "My Childhood Years" and Ch. 1

F 10/31 Chaps. 2 & 3

M 11/3 Chaps. 4 & 5

W 11/5 Ch. 6

F 11/7 Ch. 7

M 11/10 Chaps. 8 & 9

W 11/12 Ch. 10

F 11/14 Ch. 11

M 11/17 Chaps. 12 & 13

W 11/19 **Quiz, Journal due**

*LERMONTOV*

W 11/21 Introduction

F 11/24 Ch. 1

*\* Thanksgiving Break*

M 12/1 Ch. 2

W 12/3 Ch. 3

F 12/5 Ch. 4

M 12/8 Ch. 5

W 12/10 **Quiz, Journal due**

F 12/12 Review

**\* Final Exam:** Tues., Dec. 13. 1:10-3:10