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RUSS 440.01: Russian Poetry

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RUSS 440: Russian Poetry

Spring 2016, 3 credits

Professor: Ona Renner-Fahey

Time: MWF 1:10-2:00

Location: Liberal Arts 420

Office hours: *M 10:10-11:00, W 2:10-3:00,
F 8:10-9:00 and by appt.*

Office: Liberal Arts 316

E-mail: ona.renner@mso.umt.edu

Course description:

Russian 440, a “hybrid” language and literature course, is structured around texts in the original Russian that belong to the genre of poetry. Biographies of poets will also be covered in this course. This course has a prerequisite of Russian 202 or requires the consent of the instructor. It may be used to fulfill an upper-division elective for Russian majors and minors.

Goals and outcomes:

In this course students increase their familiarity with Russian literature and will continue to improve their Russian language proficiency. The course structure will consist of occasional lectures and frequent class discussion. The students will have assignments for every class period. We will work with different skills in the Russian language through reading and discussion of texts, written grammar assignments and compositions, and listening comprehension. Throughout the semester the students will work on three individual poetry projects that they will present to the class.

Classroom expectations:

It is essential to the learning process that students treat each other and the instructor with respect. Under the Student Conduct Code, students who are found to be disruptive may be asked to leave the classroom. Disruptive behaviors may include but are not limited to:

- Using electronic communication devices, including cell phones and laptops for purposes unrelated to ongoing class activities.
- Carrying on side conversations that are distracting to the instructor and other students.
- Verbally interrupting the class with comments or questions not relevant to the course or to the current discussion.
- Failure to participate in assigned group activities.
- Arguing about elements of the syllabus, such as course structure and grading methods.
- Significantly interfering with the instructor’s work activities during or outside of class.

Disability accommodations:

If you are a student with a disability who will require reasonable accommodation in this course, please meet with Disability Services for Students in Lommasson 154 for assistance in developing a plan to address program accommodations. If you are already working with Disability Services, then you should arrange to meet with your instructor during her office hours to discuss accommodations that may be necessary.

Percentage distribution of final course grade:

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------|
| ✓ General participation: 25% | ✓ Final exam: 20% |
| ✓ Homework: 16% | |
| ✓ Individual Projects: (3 @ 8%) 24% | |
| ✓ Midterm: 15% | |

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

Assessment:

- **Attendance, preparation, and active participation are required.** The students will receive participation grades of 0-3: 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 participation grades are: 1.) arriving to class late and 2.) being unprepared or unwilling to contribute when called upon. On scheduled discussion days students will receive a grade out of 100 percentage points. The grade will be based not only on how much students speak but whether they prove that they have learned vocabulary and phrases from the unit. **Each student may be absent twice without his/her grade being affected. Each absence after that will result in a two-point deduction from the student's final course grade.** If a student is going to miss a discussion day, s/he must let the professor know before class and then must arrange to make it up within one week. Each missed discussion day that is not made up will result in a one-point deduction from the final course grade.
- **Students should bring their small Grammar and Verbs textbook with them to class every day,** except on the discussion days and quiz days.
- Each student will again have a Russian pen pal in Vladimir through the program American Home. This program will be administered by American Home via e-mail. **It is the student's responsibility to write to her/his pen pal on time. When a student sends an essay or set of corrections late, one percentage point will be deducted from the pen pal participation grade. Each time the communication appears to be done sloppily or with too much dependence on the Internet, a point will be deducted.**
- Compositions must be neatly handwritten, skipping lines. Please use both sides of the paper but avoid dark pens that bleed through. Because the sizes of paper and of handwriting vary so much, a specific number of pages is not assigned. Students will be told once in a while how the word count of their essays compares to their classmates'. **The most important requirement is that you cover all the questions brought up in the readings and actively use a lot of the new vocabulary.** Dictionaries and reference books may be used when writing the essays; the Internet, however, should be avoided. If the Internet is used at all, it must be limited to standard on-line dictionaries, NOT Google translate or anything comparable. If the language of an essay seems to be too advanced, I will meet with the student to discuss the writing process and content and may require the essay to be rewritten. **Inappropriate use of the Internet has been increasing the last few years and will not be tolerated.** Finally, if essays are handed in late, they will be marked down 2 points per day, 6 points over a weekend. After class the same day will result in a 1-point reduction. The compositions on the films should be approximately twice as long as the unit compositions and are weighted more heavily. They should incorporate vocabulary and grammar from *all* the related units, as well as from the film. The same grading rubric will be used on these compositions. The first draft will comprise 70% of the final/revised composition grade. The grading rubric (out of 70%) is as follows:

Significant use of new vocabulary: 20%

Grammatical Accuracy: 15%

Thoroughness (addressed most topics; answered most questions): 10%

Organization (introduction, conclusion, cohesive paragraphs): 10%

Stylistics (varied word choice, good transitions): 10%

Mechanics (Handwriting, punctuation, capitalization): 5%

Required materials:

1. Selected readings from Kul'kova's *Я хочу тебя спросить [I Want to Ask You]* will be provided through Moodle.
2. A good English-Russian/Russian-English dictionary is required (Katzner or Oxford is recommended) and a book of verb conjugations is highly suggested.

COURSE SCHEDULE (* Schedule is subject to change.)

M 1/25	Introduction	M 3/28	Poetry presentations
W 1/27	Scansion, genre, the literary device	W 3/30	Introduction to the Soviet Period
F 1/29	Державин	F 4/1	TBA
M 2/1	Пушкин	M 4/4	NO CLASSES
W 2/3	Пушкин	W 4/6	NO CLASSES
F 2/5	Тютчев	F 4/8	NO CLASSES
M 2/8	Лермонтов	M 4/11	Окуджава
W 2/10	Лермонтов	W 4/13	Ахмадулина
F 2/12	Фет	F 4/15	Бродский
M 2/15	NO CLASSES	M 4/18	Бродский
W 2/17	Некрасов	W 4/20	
F 2/19	TBA	F 4/22	Film
M 2/23	Poetry presentations	M 4/25	Film
W 2/24	Introduction to The Silver Age	W 4/27	Film
F 2/26	Блок	F 4/29	Film
M 2/29	Блок	M 5/2	Review, Compositions on film due
W 3/2	Гумилев	W 5/4	Review
F 3/4	Ахматова	F 5/6	Discussion day / First drafts <u>returned</u>
M 3/7	Ахматова		
W 3/9	Пастернак		
F 3/11	Пастернак		
M 3/14	Мандельштам		
W 3/16	Мандельштам		
F 3/18	Цветаева		
M 3/21	Цветаева		
W 3/23	Есенин		
F 3/25	TBA		

Final exam: 10:10 – 12:10 on Tuesday, May 12th

*Revised compositions will be due at the final exam

Attendance / Participation Policy:

Attendance, preparation, and active participation are required. The students will periodically receive participation grades of 0-3: 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). (Students will always receive a grade for a scheduled discussion day, which will be calculated differently.) Such days are considered the most important of the semester. Other factors figured into participation grades are: 1.) arriving to class late and 2.) being unprepared or unwilling to contribute when called upon. Each student may be absent twice without his/her grade being affected. Each absence after that will result in a two-point deduction from the student's final course grade. If a student is going to miss a discussion day, s/he must let the professor know before class and then must arrange to make it up within one week. Tardiness may also have an effect upon participation grades. For example, if your course grade averages to a 91% but you were absent 3 times, your course grade would be changed to an 89%. If you were absent 4 times, your course grade would be changed to an 87%. If a student does not miss any classes (and was not regularly tardy) over the course of the semester, two percentage points will be added to her/his final course grade. If a student is late and marked absent, it is his/her responsibility to make sure that absence is removed.

Absences will only be excused for serious illnesses or university-sponsored events that have been approved ahead of time by your Russian instructor. Scheduled doctors' appointments, weddings, colds, etc., will not be excused. It is up to your instructor to determine whether your absence can be excused.

I have read and understand the above attendance policy for third-year Russian at the University of Montana.

Signature

Date

General participation:

Attendance, preparation, and active participation are required. Toward their general participation grade, students will periodically receive participation grades of 0-3: 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 participation grade are: 1.) arriving to class late and 2.) being unprepared or unwilling to contribute when called upon. Students are expected to have poems and homework assignments with them in class. **Each student may be absent twice without his/her grade being affected. Each absence after that will result in a two-point deduction from the student's final course grade.** In order to avoid a teacher-centered classroom, students should sit facing one another in a semicircle. This will likely require that students move the desks at the start and at the end of class.

Homework:

Homework will be assigned for virtually every class. It often won't be collected but will be checked to see it's been done. Sometimes a small quiz will be given if a homework assignment involved learning new vocabulary. Students will be expected to print readings off Moodle and bring them to class.

Individual projects:

For each project, the students will work in depth with a poem chosen in conjunction with the professor. Those students who have been studying Russian for longer will be expected to work with longer and/or more complex poems. Specific requirements are as follows:

1. In-depth work with the language (identification of cases, identification of verbal aspect, analysis of word order, identifying stress).
2. A word list of the most important words with translations and accents, in dictionary form.
3. A one-page typed analysis in English.
4. A Russian visual that reflects something about the poem. (A famous painting, a photograph, etc.)
5. Presentation/Recitation:
 - Present your word list to the students on screen, to prep them for vocabulary
 - Explain in Russian – without notes – what the poem is about, in a way that is comprehensible to ALL of your classmates.
 - Hand out poem to everyone.
 - Recite poem from memory, with visual on-screen.

Midterm and final exam:

Students are required to take a midterm and a final exam. Specifics will be shared at a later date but the basic format of the tests will be: biographical information of poets, translation of poetic lines from Russian to English, “dehydrated” lines from poems, dictation of poetic lines, and poetic analysis.