



HUMS 203 / RUSS 253

MASTERPIECES OF RUSSIAN LITERATURE II: REVOLUTION

SPRING 2014

MW 1:00 – 2:15 WHC B-02

MARIJETA BOZOVIC

OFFICE: 2708 HGS

marijeta.bozovic@yale.edu

DESCRIPTION:

A survey of the major writers and literary movements, focusing on the intersection of art and revolution in twentieth-century Russian literature. The Symbolists and Decadents at the turn of the century; the reception of the 1917 Revolution by Russian writers in the 1920s; the formation of the Stalinist literary orthodoxy and reactions against it; contemporary literary rebellions against the political and artistic legacies of the past. Works by Bely, Blok, Babel, Mayakovsky, Kharms, Platonov, Gladkov, Bulgakov, Pasternak, Solzhenitsyn, Brodsky, Sorokin, Pelevin, and selections from the most contemporary materials coming of the Russian protest culture today. All readings and discussion in English, with Russian originals available for interested students.

REQUIREMENTS:

Attendance and participation	20%
Regular reading responses (Facebook group/Twitter)	20%
Two 5-page close-reading papers	25%
Final term paper (10-12 pages)	35%

- You will be asked to post a short response, question, or intervention (1–2 paragraphs; other media also welcome) based on the readings prior to each session (by midnight the night before class). We will experiment with social media platforms as part of our ongoing collaborative attempt to enhance and extend discussion beyond the classroom—and to think about medium and technology even as we try to find creative ways to (mis)use the latter.
- The writing assignments for the course are designed to help you grow as a reader and a writer. The first two papers will focus on close readings of passages of your choice; you will be asked to dwell on details and interpret the words on the page in a creative, analytical, informed fashion. We will meet individually to discuss each of these papers, giving you plenty of feedback before you embark on the final paper, an original and well-argued thesis.

COURSE MATERIALS:

- Bely, *Petersburg*
- Blok, Mayakovsky, Khlebnikov, Kharms, selected poems
- Babel, selected stories
- Platonov, *The Foundation Pit*
- Gladkov, *Cement*
- Zamyatin, *We*
- Bulgakov, *Master and Margarita*
- Pasternak, *Doctor Zhivago*

- Solzhenitsyn, *One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich*
 - Shepitko, *Wings* (film)
 - Brodsky, selected essays and poems
 - Sorokin, *The Queue*
 - Pelevin, *Homo Zapiens (Generation P)*
 - selections from Russian protest culture today
- The underlined titles are waiting for you at the Yale Bookstore, library, or through Amazon used books; I also often have an extra copy or two. All other materials will be available in digital form via ClassesV2 or USB stick.

SYLLABUS:

Mon. Jan. 13	introduction; <u>Bely, <i>Petersburg</i></u>
Wed. Jan. 15	<u>Bely, <i>Petersburg</i></u>
Fri. Jan. 17	<u>Bely, <i>Petersburg</i></u>
Wed. Jan. 22	<u>Bely, <i>Petersburg</i></u>
Mon. Jan. 27	Blok, Mayakovsky, Khlebnikov, Kharms, selected poems
Wed. Jan. 29	Babel, selected stories
Mon. Feb. 3	<u>Platonov, <i>The Foundation Pit</i></u>
Wed. Feb. 5	<u>Platonov, <i>The Foundation Pit</i></u>
Mon. Feb. 10	<u>Gladkov, <i>Cement</i></u>
Wed. Feb. 12	<u>Gladkov, <i>Cement</i></u>
* Fri. Feb. 14	first papers due via email by 3pm *
Mon. Feb. 17	<u>Zamyatin, <i>We</i></u>
Wed. Feb. 19	<u>Zamyatin, <i>We</i></u>
Mon. Feb. 24	<u>Bulgakov, <i>Master and Margarita</i></u>
Wed. Feb. 26	<u>Bulgakov, <i>Master and Margarita</i></u>
Mon. Mar. 3	<u>Bulgakov, <i>Master and Margarita</i></u>
Wed. Mar. 5	<u>Pasternak, <i>Doctor Zhivago</i></u>
Mon. Mar. 24	<u>Pasternak, <i>Doctor Zhivago</i></u>
Wed. Mar. 26	<u>Pasternak, <i>Doctor Zhivago</i></u>
* Fri. Mar. 28	second papers due via email by 6pm *
Mon. Mar. 31	<u>Solzhenitsyn, <i>One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich</i></u>
Wed. Apr. 2	<u>Solzhenitsyn, <i>One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich</i></u>
Mon. Apr. 7	Shepitko, <i>Wings</i> (film)
Wed. Apr. 9	Brodsky, selected essays and poems
Mon. Apr. 14	<u>Sorokin, <i>The Queue</i></u>
Wed. Apr. 16	<u>Pelevin, <i>Homo Zapiens (Generation P)</i></u>
Mon. Apr. 21	<u>Pelevin, <i>Homo Zapiens (Generation P)</i></u>
Wed. Apr. 23	selections from Russian protest culture today
* Fri. Apr. 25	final papers due via email by 6pm *