

# RUSS 361.01

## Russian Literature of the 19th and 20th Centuries

Winter Term 2017

### COURSE DESCRIPTION

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This course will acquaint you with the works of major Russian writers of the artistic period called the 'Silver Age of Russian Art' which ran from the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> century to the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

You will read, in Russian, the short stories and poems written in 1892 --1918. We will analyze the texts as independent and self-sufficient works of literature, but will take into account the social and political situation of the period they were produced.

Knowledge of Russian is necessary, although the course is conducted mainly in English. Your assignments and papers can be written in Russian or in English.

### PREREQUISITES

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RUSS 303  
RUSS 355 or RUSS 317.

### COURSE REQUIREMENTS AND GRADING

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There will be a number of **pop-up quizzes**. Missed quizzes cannot be repeated.

You are expected to write two **assignments**, 4 to 5 pages each, double-spaced, with bibliography (MLA [<https://style.mla.org/>] or APA [<https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/560/01/>]). Submission can be done as a hard copy (preferable) or electronically. The topics will be assigned at least ten days prior. Late papers will be penalized at 10% per day.

For the **presentation** you have to choose a topic from the list provided below. The presentation should be 15 minutes or longer. You can follow your own plan or seek advice from the instructor. You are encouraged to use PowerPoint, video, prepare handouts, organize a class discussion, or act out the content.

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| Topic 1 | Фёдор Сологуб и его стихи.                 |
| Topic 2 | Владимир Маяковский и его поэма "Человек." |
| Topic 3 | Женщины-поэтессы Серебряного Века."        |

The materials provided on **D2L** are vital for the preparation for the midterm and final paper. Definitions given in bold should be memorized for the midterm exam. I also expect that you use them in your assignments and final paper.

The **final paper** should be 8 to 10 pages long, double-spaced, written in English or Russian. If written in Russian, the paper can be handwritten. MLA or APA style bibliography is required. Submission can be done in a hard copy or electronically. The topic should be discussed with the instructor. It is strongly advised that the content and secondary sources are discussed as well.

## **ATTENDANCE & GRADING**

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Attendance is required. Absences are excused for usual reasons: illness, religious observance, UVM sports or debate participation. If you miss a class, it is your responsibility to obtain the lecture: you can ask your fellow students or come see the instructor during regular office hours.

Grading criteria:

97-100% = A+	78-84% = B	57-59% = C-	0-48% = F
93-96% = A	72-77% = B-	54-56% = D+	
90-92% = A-	66-71% = C+	52-53% = D	
85-89% = B+	60-65% = C	49-51% = D-	

## **IMPORTANT DATES**

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Midterm	<b>1<sup>st</sup> March</b>
1 <sup>st</sup> assignment	<b>10<sup>th</sup> February</b>
2 <sup>nd</sup> assignment	<b>6<sup>th</sup> April</b>
Final Paper	<b>16<sup>th</sup> April</b>

## **SCHEDULE**

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- **January 9** Introduction: Russia at the end of the 19th century.
- **January 11** Teaching of Vladimir Solovyov (Владимир Соловьёв).  
“Милый друг,” “Три встречи.”
- **January 13** Дмитрий Мережковский. “О причинах упадка и о новых течениях современной русской литературы.”
- **January 16** Western Symbolism (Baudelaire, Mallarme, Verlaine, Rimbaud).
- **January 18** ‘Old’ and ‘Young’ Russian symbolists.
- **January 20** Валерий Брюсов. Стихотворения.  
Recommended reading: Андрей Белый. “Символизм как миропонимание.”

- **January 23** Валерий Брюсов. Стихотворения. Recommended reading: Peterson, Ronald E. *A History of Russian Symbolism*. John Benjamins Publishing Company, 1993. Pp. 21- 25.  
Link: <http://site.ebrary.com.ezproxy.lib.ucalgary.ca/lib/ucalgary/detail.action?docID=10513341>
- **January 25** Зинаида Гиппиус. Стихотворения.
- **January 27** Зинаида Гиппиус. Стихотворения.
- **January 30** Decadence.  
Recommended reading: Peterson, Ronald E. *A History of Russian Symbolism*. John Benjamins Publishing Company, 1993. Pp. 33-36.  
Link:  
<http://site.ebrary.com.ezproxy.lib.ucalgary.ca/lib/ucalgary/detail.action?docID=10513341>
- **February 1** Literary atmosphere in Russia at the beginning of the 20th century.  
Film “Александр Блок.”
- **February 3** Literary atmosphere in Russia at the beginning of the 20th century.  
**PRESENTATION** - “Фёдор Сологуб.”
- **February 6** Константин Бальмонт. Стихотворения.
- **February 8** Symbolism and Socialist Realism.  
Recommended reading: Максим Горький. “Двадцать шесть и одна.”
- **February 10** Symbolism and Socialist Realism.
- **February 13** Symbolism and theater. Anton Chekhov.
- **February 15** Вячеслав Иванов. Стихотворения.
- **February 17** Вячеслав Иванов. Стихотворения.
- **February 20** Mid-Term Break
- **February 22** Mid-Term Break
- **February 24** Mid-Term Break
- **February 27** Вячеслав Иванов. Стихотворения.
- **March 1** **MIDTERM EXAM**
- **March 3** Viacheslav Ivanov’s theory of literature.

- **March 6** "Tower" of Viacheslav Ivanov.
- **March 8** Political situation in Russia before Russian-Japanese War.
- **March 10** Andrey Bely and his novel "Petersburg." Recommended reading: Pyman, Avril. "The City as myth. Petersburg in Russian literature of the Silver Age." *Journal of European Studies*. 20.3 (1990). Pp.1-27
- **March 13** Life of Alexander Blok.  
Recommended reading: Peterson, Ronald E. A History of Russian Symbolism. John Benjamins Publishing Company, 1993. Pp. 71-77  
Link: <http://site.ebrary.com.ezproxy.lib.ucalgary.ca/lib/ucalgary/detail.action?docID=10513341>
- **March 15** Александр Блок. "Стихи о Прекрасной Даме."
- **March 17** Александр Блок. "Стихи о Прекрасной Даме."
- **March 20** Александр Блок. "Скифы."
- **March 22** Александр Блок. *Балаганчик*.  
Recommended reading: Rylkova, Galina. The Archeology of Anxiety: The Russian Silver Age and Its Legacy. U of Pittsburg Press, 2007. Pp. 45-65.  
Link:  
<http://site.ebrary.com.ezproxy.lib.ucalgary.ca/lib/http://site.ebrary.com.ezproxy.lib.ucalgary.ca/lib/ucalgary/reader.action?docID=10905431&ppg=56>
- **March 24** Political situation in Russia on the brink of the First World War. Decline of Symbolism.
- **March 27** Futurism and Akmeism.  
**PRESENTATION** - "Владимир Маяковский и его поэма *Человек*."
- **March 29** Александр Блок. *Двенадцать*.
- **March 31** Александр Блок. *Двенадцать*.
- **April 3** Russian Avant Garde.
- **April 5** Marina Tsvetaeva's Martyrdom.
- **April 7** **PRESENTATION** - "Женщины-поэтессы Серебряного Века."
- **April 10** Influence of the Silver Age on the twentieth century Russian literature.
- **April 12** Consultation on writing the final paper.

