

Term Information

Effective Term Autumn 2015

General Information

Course Bulletin Listing/Subject Area Russian
Fiscal Unit/Academic Org Slavic/East European Lang&Cul - D0593
College/Academic Group Arts and Sciences
Level/Career Graduate, Undergraduate
Course Number/Catalog 5225
Course Title Russian Émigré Literature
Transcript Abbreviation Rus Emigre Lit
Course Description Analysis of the three "waves" of Russian emigration -- post-Revolutionary, post-WWII, and the so-called "third wave" in the 1970s and 80s through the poetry, fiction, and memoirs by such writers as: Ivan Bunin, Vladislav Khodasevich, Vladimir Nabokov, Nina Berberova, Sergei Dovlatov, Vasily Aksyonov, and Joseph Brodsky.
Semester Credit Hours/Units Fixed: 3

Offering Information

Length Of Course 14 Week
Flexibly Scheduled Course Never
Does any section of this course have a distance education component? No
Grading Basis Letter Grade
Repeatable No
Course Components Lecture
Grade Roster Component Lecture
Credit Available by Exam No
Admission Condition Course No
Off Campus Never
Campus of Offering Columbus

Prerequisites and Exclusions

Prerequisites/Corequisites English 1110 or equivalent OR any 4000-level Russian literature, culture or linguistics course
Exclusions

Cross-Listings

Cross-Listings

Subject/CIP Code

Subject/CIP Code 16.0402
Subsidy Level Doctoral Course
Intended Rank Junior, Senior, Masters, Doctoral

Requirement/Elective Designation

The course is an elective (for this or other units) or is a service course for other units

Course Details

Course goals or learning objectives/outcomes

- Develop an understanding of the various "waves" of Russian emigration and the authors of Russian emigre literature

Content Topic List

- Post-Revolutionary Russian emigration
- Post-WW2 Russian emigration
- "Third Wave" of 1970s and 80s Russian emigration
- Russian emigre "infrastructure"
- Post-Soviet emigration and literature composed in English by recent emigres

Attachments

- Curriculum Maps Russian Major_Revised 2015.docx: Curriculum Map

(Other Supporting Documentation. Owner: Peterson,Derek)

- Russ5225.emigre.syllabus.pdf

(Syllabus. Owner: Peterson,Derek)

Comments

- Added language about prereqs; submitting updated curriculum map *(by Peterson,Derek on 03/02/2015 02:29 PM)*
- See 2-10-15 e-mail to A. Brintlinger and D. Peterson. *(by Vankeerbergen,Bernadette Chantal on 02/10/2015 08:42 AM)*

Workflow Information

Status	User(s)	Date/Time	Step
Submitted	Peterson,Derek	12/03/2014 11:15 AM	Submitted for Approval
Approved	Peterson,Derek	12/03/2014 11:15 AM	Unit Approval
Approved	Heysel,Garett Robert	12/05/2014 10:32 AM	College Approval
Revision Requested	Vankeerbergen,Bernadette Chantal	12/15/2014 01:53 PM	ASCCAO Approval
Submitted	Peterson,Derek	12/17/2014 09:54 AM	Submitted for Approval
Approved	Peterson,Derek	12/17/2014 09:54 AM	Unit Approval
Approved	Heysel,Garett Robert	01/22/2015 09:16 PM	College Approval
Revision Requested	Vankeerbergen,Bernadette Chantal	02/10/2015 08:42 AM	ASCCAO Approval
Submitted	Peterson,Derek	03/02/2015 02:29 PM	Submitted for Approval
Approved	Brintlinger,Angela Kay	03/02/2015 02:38 PM	Unit Approval
Approved	Heysel,Garett Robert	03/19/2015 12:58 PM	College Approval
Pending Approval	Nolen,Dawn Vankeerbergen,Bernadette Chantal Hanlin,Deborah Kay Jenkins,Mary Ellen Bigler Hogle,Danielle Nicole	03/19/2015 12:58 PM	ASCCAO Approval

Russian 5225
Russian Émigré Literature
MWF

Prof. Angela Brintlinger
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office hours: xxx

This UG/G course will be taught in English, with readings (and/or discussion if appropriate) available in Russian as well. Prerequisite: English 1110 or equivalent OR any 4000-level Russian literature, culture or linguistics course.

Students will become acquainted with the three "waves" of Russian emigration -- post-Revolutionary, post-WWII, and the so-called "third wave" in the 1970s and 80s. We will study together poetry, fiction, and memoirs by such writers as: Ivan Bunin, Vladislav Khodasevich, Vladimir Nabokov, Nina Berberova, Sergei Dovlatov, Vasily Aksyonov, Joseph Brodsky. We will also consider issues such as Russian emigre "infrastructure" (publishers, bookshops, journals and magazines, organizations). We will consult some articles about the various waves of emigration, but primarily read works by the emigres themselves. We will also look at post-Soviet emigration and literature composed in English by recent emigres.

Finally, students will each choose their own author (in consultation with instructor and using resources such as the Russian Emigre volume of the Dictionary of Literary Biography) and spend the term learning about, reading, and writing about that particular emigre.

Requirements for the course include extensive reading of fiction, poetry and memoirs; attending classes regularly, prepared to discuss; individual research and writing; presentation of own research to classmates.

- 2 short analytical papers (4-5 pages) [20% each = 40%]
- one research proposal with bibliography (500+ words and at least 5 bibliographic entries) [10%]
- one course paper (10-12 pages UG; 15-20 pp. G) [30%]
- class presentation [10%]
- attendance and active participation [10%]

Disability Statement:

Students with disabilities that have been certified by the Office for Disability Services will be appropriately accommodated, and should inform the instructor as soon as possible of their needs. The Office for Disability Services is located in 150 Pomerene Hall, 1760 Neil Avenue; telephone 292-3307, TDD 292-0901; <http://www.ods.ohio-state.edu/>.

Academic Misconduct Statement:

It is the responsibility of the Committee on Academic Misconduct to investigate or establish

procedures for the investigation of all reported cases of student academic misconduct. The term “academic misconduct” includes all forms of student academic misconduct wherever committed; illustrated by, but not limited to, cases of plagiarism and dishonest practices in connection with examinations. Instructors shall report all instances of alleged academic misconduct to the committee (Faculty Rule 3335-5-487). For additional information, see the [Code of Student Conduct](#).

Absences:

This course meets for 40 academic hours in the classroom. This means that four class meetings equals 10% of the course; if you miss 4 or more classes you will not pass the course. In other words, it is essential that you attend every class.

We do have several dates designated as “research days” when we will not meet, and you will get additional time to immerse yourself in your own research. On “consultation days” you will be able to schedule an appointment to consult further with the professor about your project.

Keep in mind that you are responsible for the reading material. You are also expected to participate in class discussions, and I will keep track of who is involved in the work of the classroom and who is not. Your 10% attendance and participation grade will be based on this, and anyone who is on the border of two grades will be bumped up or down based on your contributions to that work.

Texts and Topics

Novels and short story collections will be ordered in English, as feasible, and made available at SBX bookstore. I recommend obtaining the Russian versions as well (or instead) if you can read in the original. Libraries are a good option, as are internet bookstores such as Panorama of Russia (www.panrus.com). Poetry and articles will be made available on CARMEN and/or in handout form.

Russian Europe

Bunin, “The Mission of the Russian Emigration” (1924, on Carmen)

“Mitya’s Love” (1924); “Caucasus” (1937); “In Paris” (1940); “Tanya” (1940) [in Graham Hettlinger, translator, *Collected Stories of Ivan Bunin* (Chicago: Ivan Dee, 2007) ISBN: 1566637589]
About Chekhov: The Unfinished Symphony (excerpts on Carmen)

Khodasevich, *Derzhavin* (excerpts on Carmen)

“About Chekhov” (on Carmen)

Poetry: Ballad, In Berlin, Beneath the Earth, Petersburg, Windows on the Yard (on Carmen)

Nabokov, poetry

Nabokov, “On Khodasevich” (in Karlinsky)

“Russian Spoken Here” (1923)

“Torpido Smoke” (1935) (in Karlinsky)

“A Visit to a Museum” (1938, on Carmen)

“Spring in Fialta” (1938, on Carmen)

Berberova, *The Accompanist* (1934, New Directions, 2003, ISBN 0811215342)

“The Lackey and the Slut” (1937, on Carmen)

Post WWII America

Nabokov *Pnin* (1957, Vintage, ISBN 0679723412)

Third Wave

Dovlatov, *The Suitcase* (1986; translated by Antonina W. Bouis, Berkeley: Counterpoint, 2011, ISBN 1582437330)

Dovlatov and Marianna Volkov, *Not Just Brodsky: Russian Culture in Portraits and Anecdotes* (New York: Slovo, 1988).

Voinovich, *The Fur Hat* (1989; translated by Susan Brownberger, Mariner Books, 1991, ISBN 0156340305)

Nekrasov, “A Sad Little Story” (1987; on Carmen)

Brodsky, *Watermark* (Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 1993, ISBN: 0374523827)

Brodsky, selected essays from *Less than One* (Farrar, Straus, 1986; on Carmen)

Post-Soviet Émigré Fiction

Ulinich, *Petropolis: A Novel* (Viking Penguin 2007, ISBN: 067003819)

Grushin, *The Dream Life of Sukhanov* (Penguin 2007, ISBN: 0143038400)

Secondary Literature:

Alexandrov, Vladimir, ed. *The Garland Companion to Vladimir Nabokov* (New York: Garland, 1995).

Bethea, David. “Emigration and Heritage,” *SEEJ* 31 (1987) 141-164.

Bethea, David. “Following in Orpheus' Footsteps: A Rereading of Xodasevic's *Ballada*,” *SEEJ* 25.3 (Autumn 1981) 54-70.

Boym, Svetlana. "Estrangement as a Lifestyle: Shklovsky and Brodsky," in Susan Rubin Suleiman, ed., *Exile and creativity : signposts, travelers, outsiders, backward glances* (Duke UP, 1998) 241-262.

Glad, John. *Russia Abroad: Writers, History, Politics* (Tenafly, NJ/Washington DC: Hermitage and Birchbark Presses, 1999). [treats expatriate writers, travellers, pilgrims, and political exiles of all kinds from the beginnings of Russia through the immediate post-Soviet period; includes information on geography, political groups, word events, etc.]

Karlinsky, Simon and Alfred Appel, Jr., eds. *The Bitter Air of Exile: Russian Writers in the West, 1922-1972* (Berkeley: U of California P, 1977). [includes discussions of major émigré writers Remizov, Khodasevich, Tsvetaeva, G. Ivanov, Nabokov, Poplavsky and selections from their works; also selections from minor poets and prose writers]

Raeff, Marc. *Russia Abroad: A Cultural History of the Russian Emigration, 1919-1939* (Oxford: Oxford UP, 1990).

Rubins, Maria, ed. *Twentieth Century Émigré Writers*, Dictionary of Literary Biography, vol. 317 (Detroit: Thompson Gale, 2005) [a biographical dictionary with extensive articles and references]

Raymond, Boris and David R. Jones, *The Russian Diaspora, 1917-1941* (Lanham, MD and London: The Scarecrow Press, 2000). [a concise biographical dictionary]

Robinson, Mark, ed. *Altogether Elsewhere: Writers on Exile* (Winchester, MA: Faber and Faber, 1994).

Seifrid, Thomas. "Getting Across: Border-Consciousness in Soviet and Emigre Literature" *SEEJ* 38.2 (Summer 1994) 5245-260.

Struve, Gleb. *Ruskaia literatura v izgnanii*, 2nd ed. (Paris: Ymca-Press, 1984). [discussion of literary figures, groups, and journals from 1920 through the end of the war]

Struve, Gleb. "The Art of Ivan Bunin," *Slavonic and East European Review* 11.32 (January 1933) 423-436.

Struve, Gleb. "Russian Writers in Exile: Problems of an Emigre Literature," *Comparative Literature* 2 (1958): 592-606.

Schedule:

Week 1:

22 August: Introduction to course; Three Waves of Emigration into Europe, Asia, America

choose a presentation topic and date

24 August: Problems of Emigre/Exilic Literature

reading: Ivan Bunin, "The Mission of the Russian Emigration" (1924)

Gleb Struve, "The Art of Ivan Bunin," *Slavonic and East European Review* 11.32
(January 1933) 423-436.

Week 2:

27 August: Returning Home: writing about the past

reading: Ivan Bunin, "Mitya's Love" (1924)

29 August: Home and Away: themes of creation and location I

reading: Khodasevich, poetry: Ballad, In Berlin

David Bethea, "Following in Orpheus' Footsteps: A Rereading of Xodasevic's
Ballada," *SEEJ* 25.3 (Autumn 1981) 54-70.

presentation: the Russian diaspora

31 August: Home and Away: themes of creation and location II

reading: Khodasevich, poetry: Beneath the Earth, Petersburg, Windows on the Yard

presentation: "Days of Russian Culture"

Week 3:

3 September: Labor Day (no class)

5 September: Auto/biography: writing about writers I

reading: Bunin on Chekhov (chs. 1-3 from *About Chekhov*)

Bethea, David. "Emigration and Heritage," *SEEJ* 31 (1987) 141-164.

7 September: Auto/biography: writing about writers II

reading: Khodasevich, *Derzhavin* (ch. 9, on Carmen); Nabokov on Khodasevich (in
Karlinsky)

presentation: Emigre Writers' Organizations

First paper due

Week 4:

10 September: Nabokov, poetry; Berberova and the Independent Woman

reading: Berberova, *The Accompanist* (Part 1)

presentation: the "Paris Note"

12 September: Berberova, continued

reading: Berberova, *The Accompanist* (Part 2)

Nadya Peterson, "The Private 'I' in the Works of Nina Berberova," *Slavic Review* 60.3 (Autumn 2001) 491-512.

presentation: "Chisla"

14 September: Research Day

Read in *Twentieth Century Emigre Writers* and other resources about emigre writers of your chosen period; narrow down your personal choices to 2-3 and begin to collect a bibliography and read around in their works. Make an appointment to discuss your plan with Prof.

Brintlinger. **Research proposal with bibliography due 21 September**

Week 5:

17 September: Berlin: point of view

reading: Nabokov: "Torpido Smoke" (1935) (in Karlinsky)

Selections from *The Garland Companion to Vladimir Nabokov*, ed. Vladimir Alexandrov (New York: Garland, 1995).

19 September: Between Worlds

reading: Nabokov: "Russian Spoken Here" (1923); "A Visit to a Museum" (1938)

presentation: Russian Berlin: Soviet Ties and Nazi Rumblings

21 September: Chekhov Redux

reading: Nabokov: "Spring in Fialta" (1938)

[reread Chekhov's "Lady with a Dog" if you haven't read it recently]

Research proposal due

Week 6:

24 September: Bunin on Russia

reading: Bunin: "Caucasus" (1937)

- presentation: 1937 Pushkin Commemorations
- 26 September: Bunin on émigré life
reading: Bunin: “In Paris” (1940); “Tanya” (1940)
presentation: Teffi
- 28 September: Berberova on émigré life
reading: “The Lackey and the Slut”

Post WWII America

Week 7:

- 1 October: The Emigre Professor I
reading: Nabokov, *Pnin* (chs. 1-3)
Stanislaw Baranczak, “Tongue-Tied Eloquence: Notes on Language, Exile and Writing” in *Altogether Elsewhere*, 242-51.
presentation: Berberova's *The Italics are Mine*
- 3 October: The Emigre Professor II
reading: Nabokov, *Pnin* (chs. 4-5)
presentation: Roman Gul' and *Novyi zhurnal* (*New Review*)
- 5 October: The Emigre Professor III
reading: Nabokov, *Pnin* (chs. 6-7)
presentation: *Pniniad: Vladimir Nabokov and Marc Szeftel* (Galya Diment)

Third Wave: US, Germany, Paris

Week 8:

- 8 October: What They Carried (emigre style) I
reading: Dovlatov, *The Suitcase* (5-52, 3 stories)
Vasily Aksyonov, “Lungs and Gills” in *Altogether Elsewhere* 234-37.
- 10 October: What They Carried (emigre style) II
reading: Dovlatov, *The Suitcase* (53-95, next 3 stories)
presentation: Russian Writers and *The New Yorker*
- 12 October: What They Carried (emigre style) III
reading: Dovlatov, *The Suitcase* (97-128, final 2 stories)
presentation: *Ardis Publishing House* and the Third Wave

Week 9:

15 October: The Writer and the Soviet Bureaucracy

reading: Vladimir Voinovich, *The Fur Hat* (part 1)

[reread Gogol's "Overcoat" if you haven't read it recently]

Second paper due

17 October: The Clothes Make the Man: Fear and Anti-Semitism

reading: Vladimir Voinovich, *The Fur Hat* (part 2)

19 October: Viktor Nekrasov, "A Sad Little Story"

presentation: *Notes of a Flâneur (Zapiski zevaki)*

Week 10:

22 October: Space and Place, Water and Mirrors

reading: Brodsky, *Watermark* (part 1)

24 October: Home and Abroad

reading: Brodsky, *Watermark* (part 2)

presentation: Brodsky's *Nativity Poems*

26 October: What is Exile?

reading: Brodsky, *Watermark* (part 3)

Brodsky, "The Condition We Call Exile" in *Altogether Elsewhere*, 3-11.

Week 11:

29 October: Memories and Memoirs

reading: selections from *Less than One* ("Guide to a Renamed City," "In a Room and a Half"); Svetlana Boym, "Estrangement as a Lifestyle: Shklovsky and Brodsky," in *Exile and creativity* 241-262.

presentation: Recent Emigre Poetry: Kunina

31 October: Recent Emigres

reading: Anya Ulinich, *Petropolis* (Part 1, 3-87)

presentation: Gary Shteyngart

2 November: Russia and «The Foreign Land»

reading: Anya Ulinich, *Petropolis* (Part 2, 91-149)

Week 12:

5 November: «ESL»

- reading: Anya Ulinich, *Petropolis* (Part 3, 153-230)
- 7 November: American or Anti-American?
- reading: Anya Ulinich, *Petropolis* (Part 4 and epilogue, 233-324)
- 9 November: Art or Life, Soviet-style?
- reading: Grushin, *The Dream Life of Sukhanov* (part 1)

Week 13:

- 12 November: “The Art of the World”
- reading: Grushin, *The Dream Life of Sukhanov* (part 2)
- presentation: David Bezmoglis
- 14 November: Ends and Beginnings
- reading: Grushin, *The Dream Life of Sukhanov* (part 3)
- presentation: Lara Vapnyar
- 16 November: When Exiles become Emigres and Beyond
- reading: Eva Hoffman, “Obsessed with Words” in *Altogether Elsewhere*, 229-33.

Week 14:

- 19 November: Consultations
- 21-23 November: Thanksgiving Break
- 3 December: **Final Class Meeting to share research findings**

Final papers due at the time of our final exam.

Curriculum Map for Russian Major

	Program Goals		
	Goal 1 Lang. Proficiency	Goal 2 Analytic Skills	Goal 3 Cult. Appreciation
Prerequisites			
Russian 1101	Novice Low/Mid	NA	Novice Low
Russian 1102	Novice Mid/High	NA	Novice Mid
Russian 1103	Novice High	NA	Novice High
Required Courses			
Russian 2104	Novice High/ Intermediate Low	NA	Novice High/Intermediate Low
Russian 3101	Intermediate Low	NA	Intermediate Low
Russian 3102	Intermediate Mid	NA	Intermediate Med
Russian 4575	Intermediate High	Advanced	Advanced
Elective Courses			
Russian 3121/3122	Intermediate Low	NA	Intermediate High
Russian 4101/4102	Intermediate Low/Mid	NA	Advanced
Russian 4135	Novice/Intermediate	Intermediate	Novice
Russian 4136	Intermediate/Advanced	Advanced	Intermediate/Advanced
MRS 2213	NA	Novice	Novice
Russian 2250	NA	Novice	Novice
Russian 2345	NA	Novice	Novice
Russian 2335	NA	Novice	Novice
Russian 3460	NA	Intermediate	Intermediate
Russian 3530	NA	Intermediate	Intermediate
Russian 3535	NA	Intermediate	Intermediate
Russian 4220	NA	Advanced	Advanced
Russian 4221	NA	Advanced	Advanced
Russian 4600	Novice	Advanced	Intermediate
Russian 5250	NA	Advanced	Advanced
Russian 5225	NA	Advanced	Advanced
Russian 5530	Intermediate	Advanced	Advanced

Russian 5674	NA	Advanced	Advanced
Russian 5601	Advanced	Advanced	Advanced
Russian 5701	Advanced	Advanced	Advanced
Russian 5797	Intermediate/Advanced	Advanced	Advanced
Slavic 2330	NA	Novice	Novice
Slavic 3460	NA	Intermediate	Intermediate
Slavic 3320	NA	Intermediate	Intermediate
Slavic 3351	NA	Intermediate	Intermediate
Slavic 4520	NA	Advanced	Advanced
Slavic 4560H	NA	Advanced	Advanced
Slavic 4260H	NA	Advanced	Advanced
Slavic 4597	NA	Advanced	Advanced
Slavic 4600	Intermediate	Advanced	Advanced
Slavic 4800	Novice	Advanced	Advanced