
Term Information

Effective Term Autumn 2017

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 5250.04
Course Title The Russian Writer: Nabokov
Transcript Abbreviation Nabokov
Course Description This course will cover several of Vladimir Nabokov's major works in their cultural, biographical, philosophical, and aesthetic context.

Some students will be more familiar with the Russian literary tradition on which Nabokov richly draws, and others will be less familiar with it. Either is completely fine, as sufficient context will be provided in class and in optional background readings.

Semester Credit Hours/Units Variable: Min 3 Max 4

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
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

- Analyze Vladimir Nabokov's major works in their cultural, biographical, philosophical, and aesthetic context.
- Develop a knowledge of the extensive criticism around Nabokov

Content Topic List

- Inter-textuality and literary influence
- Emigration and translation
- Literature's ethical obligations
- Time, space, ghosts, the supernatural

Attachments

- Curriculum Maps Russian Major Oct. 10.docx: curriculum map

(Other Supporting Documentation. Owner: Peterson, Derek)

- Credit hour rationale-4.pdf

(Other Supporting Documentation. Owner: Peterson, Derek)

- Nabokov 5250.docx

(Syllabus. Owner: Peterson, Derek)

Comments

- Previous documentation about proposed variable credit hours in 5250 series attached. This course will fall under 5250 in the curriculum map. *(by Peterson, Derek on 10/21/2016 12:15 PM)*

Workflow Information

Status	User(s)	Date/Time	Step
Submitted	Peterson, Derek	01/20/2017 10:38 AM	Submitted for Approval
Approved	Suchland, Jennifer Anne	01/20/2017 11:23 AM	Unit Approval
Approved	Heysel, Garrett Robert	01/20/2017 12:52 PM	College Approval
Pending Approval	Nolen, Dawn Vankeerbergen, Bernadette Chantal Hanlin, Deborah Kay Jenkins, Mary Ellen Bigler	01/20/2017 12:52 PM	ASCCAO Approval

Russian 5250.04
Lecture, 3-4 credit hours (3-4)
The Russian Writer: Vladimir Nabokov
Meeting time & place TBD

Prof. Alisa Ballard
Dept. of Slavic and East European Languages and Cultures
Office: 219 Hagerty Hall
Office hours: TBD
ballard.215@osu.edu

Description:

This course will cover several of Vladimir Nabokov's major works in their cultural, biographical, philosophical, and aesthetic context. We will read Nabokov's most ambitious, acclaimed, and difficult novels, including his modernist Russian masterpiece *The Gift* (1938); the shocking *Lolita* (1955)—a wonderland of 1950s America and the English language; and his last big novel, *Invitation to a Beheading* (1969)—an intricate, violent, post-modernist homage to Leo Tolstoy and classical Russian literature. Alongside these and other novels, we will read selections from Nabokov's memoir, short stories, lectures on literature, essays, interviews for American magazines, and one play. The vast Nabokov critical industry will help to guide us through our texts. Our themes will include inter-textuality and literary influence, emigration and translation, literature's ethical obligations, time, space, ghosts, the supernatural, the authority of the author, theatricality, sexuality, misogyny, the *femme fatale*, and all manner of wordplay, puns, meta-textuality, and verbal trickery.

Some students will be more familiar with the Russian literary tradition on which Nabokov richly draws, and others will be less familiar with it. Either is completely fine, as sufficient context will be provided in class and in optional background readings.

Class format:

Our course will be run as a seminar. I will lecture on essential historical and cultural context and will guide our critical approach to the readings, but the bulk of the interpretative and analytical work will be done by *all* of us in collaboration. Thus, you should come to class having thoughtfully and carefully done the assigned readings, and ready to share ideas and questions. All readings are in English; however, graduate students specializing in Russian literature should read Nabokov's Russian texts in the original. The reading load is approximately 200-225 pages per week, plus two films, which you will watch on your own. For Nabokov's trickiest texts, the reading load is lower to encourage you to read especially closely.

Required books (all by Nabokov):

1. *Speak, Memory*
2. *Despair*
3. *Invitation to a Beheading*
4. *The Gift*
5. *The Annotated Lolita*
6. *Pale Fire*
7. *The Tragedy of Mister Morn*
8. *Ada, or Ardor: A Family Chronicle*

Assessment:

Participation	20%
Reading quizzes	10%
Midterm paper	30%
Final paper	40%

I will use the OSU standard grading scale for calculating the final letter grade:

93-100 (A)	73-76.9 (C)
90-92.9 (A-)	70-72.9 (C-)
87-89.9 (B+)	67-69.9 (D+)
83-86.9 (B-)	60-66.9 (D)
77-79.9 (C+)	Below 60 (E)

Active, enthusiastic, collegial **participation** is expected, since this course is a seminar. As part of this expectation, each student will be asked to open up class discussion of a primary or secondary text at least once during the semester. Opening up discussion entails posing to the class a few well-formulated, provocative thoughts and questions about the reading, taking no more than five minutes. We will assign these informal ‘mini-presentations’ on a week-by-week basis.

There will be a short **quiz** at the beginning of each class period to assess how well you are keeping up with the reading. (Nabokov gave frequent quizzes to the students he taught at American universities, so this ‘meta’ exercise is consistent with Nabokov’s own pedagogical approach!) The quizzes will require of you very brief factual information about plot, characters, key ideas, etc. Quizzes cannot be made up if missed; however, your three lowest quiz grades will be dropped at the end of the term, which may include quizzes for which you were absent.

The **mid-term paper** (7-8 pages, double-spaced, 12-pt Times New Roman) should be a close reading of any of the works we cover through *The Gift*, i.e., our texts from Nabokov’s “Russian period.” Students will submit a one-page proposal for their paper topic two weeks before the deadline. An assignment sheet and grading rubric will be distributed and discussed in class a month in advance.

The **final paper** (10-12 pages), due on the official exam date for our class, should combine close analysis of one of Nabokov’s texts with substantial research into secondary criticism on your chosen topic. You may write about any of Nabokov’s works *except* the one to which you devoted your mid-term paper. Students will submit a proposal and bibliography for their topic three weeks before the paper deadline. In the final week of class, you will exchange a draft of your paper with a classmate for a peer review.

IMPORTANT POLICIES

Phones, laptops, tablets: Laptops are discouraged in class as a distraction both to yourself and to those around you. Should you choose to use a laptop, be sure that you are an engaged member of the class and are not using your laptop for anything unrelated to class, such as social media, email, or online shopping. You will lose participation credit as you lose yourself in your computer. Additionally, do not use your cell phone in class. Use of your phone in class will lead to loss of participation credit.

“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 <http://studentlife.osu.edu/csc/>.”

“Students with disabilities (including mental health, chronic or temporary medical conditions) that have been certified by the Office of Student Life Disability Services will be appropriately accommodated and should inform the instructor as soon as possible of their needs. The Office of Student Life Disability Services is located in 098 Baker Hall, 113 W. 12th Avenue; telephone 614- 292-3307, slds@osu.edu; slds.osu.edu.”

SCHEDULE OF CLASSES AND ASSIGNMENTS

- Reading assignments are listed on the day they are due. In other words, come to class having read the material that is listed next to the date of that class period.
- Readings marked with an asterisk (*) will be available as pdfs on Carmen. Our two films will be available for viewing through the Secured Media Library.
- Our selection of secondary critical texts will be determined as the semester progresses, depending on students’ interests.

I. INTRODUCTIONS

Week 1	Date A	Introduction to Nabokov and the course
	Date B	VN, <i>Speak, Memory</i> (1966), Chapters 1, 2, and 6 (p. 3-34, 90-106) VN, “Good Readers and Good Writers” (1940), from <i>Lectures on Literature</i> , p. 1-6* VN, “The Art of Literature and Commonsense” (1940), from <i>Lectures on Literature</i> , p. 371-80*

II. NABOKOV’S RUSSIAN PERIOD: AN ÉMIGRÉ IN EUROPE

Week 2	Date A	VN, <i>Despair</i> (1934), p. xi-xiv, 3-115
	Date B	VN, <i>Despair</i> , p. 117-212
Week 3	Date A	VN, “A Guide to Berlin” (1925), from <i>Stories</i> , p. 155-60* VN, “The Potato Elf” (1929), from <i>Stories</i> , p. 228-47* Rainer Werner Fassbinder, dir., <i>Despair</i> (1978), 120 min. Secondary articles on <i>Despair</i> *

- Date B VN, *Invitation to a Beheading* (1936), p. 5-116
- Week 4** Date A VN, *Invitation to a Beheading*, p. 117-223
Secondary articles on *Invitation to a Beheading**
- Date B VN, *The Gift* (1938), p. 3-76
- Week 5** Date A VN, *The Gift*, p. 77-145
VN, *Nikolai Gogol*, Chapter 1 and Commentary (p. 1-34, 151-55)*
- Date B VN, *The Gift*, p. 146-211
- Week 6** Date A VN, *The Gift*, p. 212-300
Excerpt from Nikolai Chernyshevsky, *What is to be Done?* (1863)*
- Date B VN, *The Gift*, p. 301-366
Secondary articles on *The Gift**
- III. TAKING AMERICA BY STORM
- Week 7** Date A VN, *Lolita* (1955), p. 3-93
- Date B VN, *Lolita*, p. 93-176
- Week 8** Date A VN, *Lolita*, p. 176-253
****Mid-term paper due****
- Date B VN, *Lolita*, p. 253-317
VN, Interview for *Playboy* (1963), from *Strong Opinions*, p. 20-45*
Stanley Kubrick, dir., *Lolita* (1962), 152 min.
Secondary articles on *Lolita**
- Week 9** Date A VN, *Pale Fire* (1962), p. 13-93
VN, Foreword and Translator's Introduction to Alexander Pushkin, *Eugene Onegin* (1833, trans. to English by VN in 1964), p. vii-xiv, 1-59* [*skim*]
- Date B VN, *Pale Fire*, p. 93-215
- Week 10** Date A VN, *Pale Fire*, p. 215-315
Secondary articles on *Pale Fire**
- Date B VN, "The Vane Sisters" (1951), from *Stories*, p. 619-31*

VN, "Signs and Symbols" (1958), from *Stories*, p. 598-603*
VN, "First Love" (1958), from *Stories*, p. 604-11*
VN, "Scenes from the Life of a Double Monster" (1958), from *Stories*, p. 612-18*

IV. A RUSSIAN-AMERICAN DYSTOPIA

- Week 11** Date A VN, *The Tragedy of Mister Morn* (1924)
 Date B VN, *Ada, or Ardor: A Family Chronicle* (1969), p. 3-93
 VN, excerpt from "Lecture on *Anna Karenina*" (1940), from *Lectures on Russian Literature*, p. 137-51*
- Week 12** Date A VN, *Ada*, p. 94-206
 Date B VN, *Ada*, p. 207-325
- Week 13** Date A VN, *Ada*, p. 329-446
 Date B VN, *Ada*, p. 449-532
- Week 14** Date A VN, *Ada*, p. 535-89
 Secondary articles on *Ada**
 Date B VN, *Speak, Memory*, Chapters 13-15 and Appendix (p. 197-261)

****Final paper due on official final exam date****

Heysel, Garrett

Subject: Re: Russian 5250

Date: Monday, December 1, 2014 9:56:54 AM Eastern Standard Time

From: Peterson, Derek

To: Heysel, Garrett

Good Morning Garrett,

Here is the response from Dr. Burry:

"Russian 5250.01 requires all students to meet for an additional hour per week beyond the regular class time. For students learning Russian language at an advanced level, this extra meeting involves reading and discussing passages of the novel in Russian. For students not studying Russian (or not studying it at an advanced level), it consists of discussion of additional criticism and/or primary works relating to the material discussed in class. The amount of reading has also increased."

Please let me know if you need any additional details.

Best,

Derek

From: <Heysel>, Garrett <heysel.1@osu.edu>

Date: Monday, December 1, 2014 7:40 AM

To: Derek Peterson <peterston.636@osu.edu>

Cc: "Vankeerbergen, Bernadette" <vankeerbergen.1@osu.edu>

Subject: RE: Russian 5250

Hello Derek,

I was reviewing the course and I noticed that you also want to increase the credit hours from 3 to 4. That is possible but I see no justification or rationale why the course is now worth 4 credit hours. In the instructional manual there is a section on how to calculate credit hours with contact time, etc. Is there a difference in the amount of time the instructor meets with the students from the previous version?

Can you look into that and let me know?

Thanks,

Garrett

From: Peterson, Derek

Sent: Wednesday, November 26, 2014 12:30 PM

To: Heysel, Garrett

Subject: Russian 5250

Hi Garrett,

I just wanted to let you know that we don't want to get rid of Russian 5250, but just add additional offerings with .01, .02 etc. for specific authors. We would not want to put too specific restraints on the content by giving every course a suffix, but just the few that our committee decided on. Please let me know if I need to clarify this a bit more.

Thanks and happy Thanksgiving!

Derek

Curriculum Map for Russian Major

		Program Goals		
		Goal 1	Goal 2	Goal 3
		Lang. Proficiency	Analytic Skills	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
Language 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
Russian 5101/5102	Intermediate High/Advanced Low		Advanced	Advanced
Literature, Culture, Linguistics Elective Courses				
Medren 2513	NA		Novice	Novice
Russian 2250	NA		Novice	Novice
Russian 2335	NA		Novice	Novice
Russian 2345	NA		Novice	Novice
Russian 3460	NA		Intermediate	Intermediate
Russian 3350	NA		Intermediate	Intermediate
Russian 3470	NA		Intermediate	Intermediate
Russian 4220/4221	NA		Advanced	Advanced
Russian 4600	Novice		Advanced	Advanced
Russian 5225	NA		Advanced	Advanced
Russian 5250	NA		Advanced	Advanced
-(including all decimal suffixes)				
Russian 5530	Intermediate		Advanced	Advanced

Russian 5601	Advanced	Advanced	Advanced
Russian 5701	Advanced	Advanced	Advanced
Slavic 2330	NA	Novice	Novice
Slavic 3360	NA	Intermediate	Intermediate
Slavic 3310	NA	Intermediate	Intermediate
Slavic 4520H	NA	Advanced	Advanced
Slavic 4560H	NA	Advanced	Advanced
Slavic 4260H	NA	Advanced	Advanced
Slavic 4597	NA	Advanced	Advanced
Slavic 5450	NA	Advanced	Advanced