

## Term Information

Effective Term Autumn 2019

## 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 5230  
Course Title Utopia and Dystopia in Russian Literature  
Transcript Abbreviation Uto/Dystop Rus Lit  
Course Description Russian writers of the past two centuries have been fascinated with both the idea of utopia and its reverse image of a dystopian society whose aim of perfection has led to the very opposite. In this course, we will explore realist, modernist, Soviet, and post-Soviet utopian and dystopian novels, stories, plays, and essays.  
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 Russian 2250 or another course on Russian literature or culture is recommended for undergraduates.  
Exclusions  
Electronically Enforced No

## 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

- Students will read major Russian literary works that can be considered utopian and dystopian, considering the specific historical, political, social, and cultural circumstances in which the authors wrote as well as broader ancient and modern ideas.
- Students will analyze literary characters, settings, authorial style, and other elements of the works, interpreting them in light of both their contemporary audiences and our twenty-first-century perspective on utopia and dystopia.
- Students will learn to clearly express original ideas based on textual evidence, historical background, and relevant theoretical perspectives in written and oral form through papers, presentations, and class participation.

### Content Topic List

- The Origins of Utopia
- Utopia and Russian Radicalism
- Anti-Utopianism and Religious Utopia
- Soviet Dystopia
- Dystopian Satire
- Postmodern Dystopia

### Sought Concurrence

No

## Attachments

- Curriculum Maps Russian Major July 26.docx: Curriculum Map

*(Other Supporting Documentation. Owner: Peterson,Derek)*

- Utopia Proposal.doc

*(Syllabus. Owner: Peterson,Derek)*

## Comments

## Workflow Information

| Status           | User(s)   | Date/Time           | Step                   |
|------------------|---|---------------------|------------------------|
| Submitted        | Peterson,Derek  | 07/26/2018 12:49 PM | Submitted for Approval |
| Approved         | Stepanova,Larysa  | 07/26/2018 01:20 PM | Unit Approval          |
| Approved         | Heysel,Garett Robert  | 07/26/2018 02:10 PM | College Approval       |
| Pending Approval | Nolen,Dawn<br>Vankeerbergen,Bernadette Chantal<br>Oldroyd,Shelby Quinn<br>Hanlin,Deborah Kay<br>Jenkins,Mary Ellen Bigler | 07/26/2018 02:10 PM | ASCCAO Approval        |

**Proposed Course: Russian 5230**  
**Utopia and Dystopia in Russian Literature**  
**3 cr./hr, Lecture**

**Prof. Alexander Burry**  
**345 Hagerty Hall**  
**burry.7@osu.edu**

**Course Description**

Russian writers of the past two centuries have been fascinated with both the idea of utopia and its reverse image of a dystopian society whose aim of perfection has led to the very opposite. In this course, we will explore realist, modernist, Soviet, and post-Soviet utopian and dystopian novels, stories, plays, and essays. In addition to the Russian texts, readings will include excerpts from the Bible, Plato's *Republic*, and Thomas More's *Utopia*, as well as criticism of the fictional works. This course is designed for both undergraduate and graduate students. It will be taught in English, and all readings will be available in translation.

**Prerequisites**

Russian 2250 or another course on Russian literature or culture is recommended for undergraduates.

**Course Goals**

- Students will read major Russian literary works that can be considered utopian and dystopian, considering the specific historical, political, social, and cultural circumstances in which the authors wrote as well as broader ancient and modern ideas and theories on the perfection of society.
- Students will analyze literary characters, settings, authorial style, and other elements of the works, interpreting them in light of both their contemporary audiences and our twenty-first-century perspective on utopia and dystopia.
- Students will learn to clearly express original ideas based on textual evidence, historical background, and relevant theoretical perspectives in written and oral form through papers, presentations, and class participation.

**Materials to Purchase (all materials are available at the Campus Bookstore at Barnes and Noble, 1598 N High St.)**

Nikolai Chernyshevsky, *What is To Be Done?* (Barnes and Noble)

Fyodor Dostoevsky, *Notes from Underground* (Barnes and Noble)

Evgeny Zamyatin, *We* (Barnes and Noble)

Fyodor Gladkov, *Cement* (Barnes and Noble)

Andrei Platonov, *The Foundation Pit* (Barnes and Noble)

Vladimir Mayakovsky, *The Bedbug* (Barnes and Noble)

Vladimir Sorokin, *The Day of the Oprichnik* (Barnes and Noble)

A course packet containing additional fiction, criticism, and religious and philosophical works about utopia and dystopia will be available from Foreign Language Publications (100 Hagerty Hall)

## Grading

The final course grade will be based on the following:

|                        |     |
|------------------------|-----|
| Attendance             | 10% |
| Participation          | 10% |
| Oral Presentations (2) | 20% |
| Midterm Paper          | 20% |
| Final Paper            | 40% |

The final courses grade will be calculated using the following scale:

A (93-100), A- (90-92), B+ (88-89), B (83-87), B- (80-82), C+ (78-79), C (73-77), C- (70-72), D (60-69), E (below 60)

## Required Readings

### Fiction

Nikolai Chernyshevsky, *What is To Be Done?* (1863)  
Fyodor Dostoevsky, *Notes from Underground* (1864)  
Evgeny Zamyatin, *We* (1921)  
Fyodor Gladkov, *Cement* (1925)  
Andrei Platonov, *The Foundation Pit* (1930)  
Vladimir Mayakovsky, *The Bedbug* (1928)  
Viktor Pelevin, "Vera Pavlovna's Ninth Dream" (1991)  
Vladimir Sorokin, *The Day of the Oprichnik* (2006)

### Religious, Philosophical, and Political Texts

The Bible: Genesis, Revelation  
Plato, *The Republic*, Tr. G.M.A. Grube (Indianapolis: Hackett, 1974), pp. 29-140.  
Thomas More, *Utopia* (Oxford UP, 1999), pp. 49-88.  
Fyodor Dostoevsky, "The Utopian Conception of History," *A Writer's Diary*, v. 1, tr. Kenneth Lantz (Evanston: Northwestern UP, 1994), pp. 525-31.  
Lev Tolstoy, *The Kingdom of God is Within You* (excerpts TBD)

### Critical Readings

Andrew Drozd, "Utopianism, Co-ops, and Dreams," "Conclusion," *Chernyshevskii's "What is to be Done?": A Reevaluation* (Evanston: Northwestern UP, 2001), 141-79.  
James Scanlan, "The Case Against Rational Egoism in Dostoevsky's 'Notes from Underground'," *Journal of the History of Ideas* 60:3 (July 1999), 549-67.  
Julia Vaingurt, "Human Machines and the Pains of Penmanship in Yevgeny Zamyatin's *We*," *Cultural Critique* 80 (Winter 2012), 108-29.

- Katerina Clark, *The Soviet Novel: History as Ritual*, 3rd. ed. (Bloomington: Indiana UP, 2000), 3-24, 68-89.
- Eric Laursen, "'A New Enigmatic Language': The Spontaneity-Consciousness Paradigm and the Case of Gladkov's *Cement*," *Slavic Review* 65:1 (Spring 2006), 66-89.
- Thomas Seifrid, "Platonov and the Culture of the Five-Year Plan (1929-1931)," *Andrei Platonov: Uncertainties of Spirit* (Cambridge UP, 1992), 132-60.
- Natalia Olshanskaya, "De-coding intertextuality in classic and postmodern Russian narratives," *Translation and Interpreting Studies* 6:1 (2011), 87-102.
- Marina Aptekman, "Forward to the Past, or Two Radical Views on the Russian Nationalist Future: Pyotr Krasnov's *Behind the Thistle* and Vladimir Sorokin's *Day of an Oprichnik*," *Slavic and East European Journal* 53:2 (2009), 241-60.

## **Course Requirements**

### **Class Structure**

There will be brief lectures on background information and critical perspectives on the texts we cover, but the sessions will consist mostly of class discussion. Students will also give presentations on criticism and other relevant topics.

### **Attendance**

You are expected to attend all sessions, barring serious illness, family emergencies, or religious holidays. Documentation must be provided as far in advance as possible in these cases. Absences for undocumented illnesses, job interviews, travel, advising appointments, and other on-campus activities will not be excused.

### **Participation**

You are expected to participate actively in all classes. This involves reading all materials by the date indicated and preparing thoughtful responses to the readings ahead of time. A running list of questions to be discussed during the following class will be available on Carmen to help guide you to think of topics you'd like to discuss and write about. The following criteria will be used to determine participation grades:

10/10 points: active, frequent participation all discussions.

8-9/10 pts: participation in most discussions.

6-7/10 pts: inconsistent participation.

1-6/10 pts: rare contributions to the discussions.

0/10 pts: no participation in any of the discussions.

### **Oral Presentations**

Each student will be responsible for two 10-15-minute presentations on a critical article and a political, historical, or cultural topic related to the readings. The instructor will provide a choice of presentation topics and guidelines early in the course.

### **Midterm Paper**

A 7-8-page double-spaced midterm paper will be due in **Week 7**. This paper should closely analyze one of the fictional texts to that point of the course, and should include at least 2-3 critical, theoretical, or philosophical sources; graduate students must use as many sources as are needed to engage the broader critical discussion of the primary text. Papers will be reduced by one grade (A to B, B to C, etc.) for each day after the deadline.

### **Final Paper**

A 10-page double-spaced final paper will be due during **Finals Week** (for graduate students, this paper should be 12-15 pages). Undergraduates must include at least 5-7 research sources; graduate students are expected to use as many sources as are needed to engage the broader critical discussion of the work(s) being analyzed. To get full credit for the final paper, you must also prepare a 100-200-word abstract of your idea and a bibliography by **Week 14**. Papers will be reduced by one grade (A to B, B to C, etc.) for each day they are turned in after the deadline.

### **Disabilities**

The University strives to make all learning experiences as accessible as possible. If you anticipate or experience academic barriers based on your disability (including mental health, chronic or temporary medical conditions), please let me know immediately so that we can privately discuss options. You are also welcome to register with Student Life Disability Services to establish reasonable accommodations. After registration, make arrangements with me as soon as possible to discuss your accommodations so that they may be implemented in a timely fashion. SLDS contact information: [slds@osu.edu](mailto:slds@osu.edu); [614-292-3307](tel:6142923307); [slds.osu.edu](http://slds.osu.edu); 098 Baker Hall, 113 W. 12th Avenue.

### **Academic Misconduct**

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 more information, see the Code of Student Conduct: <http://studentlife.osu.edu/csc/>.

### **Diversity**

The Ohio State University affirms the importance and value of diversity in the student body. Our programs and curricula reflect our multicultural society and global economy and seek to provide opportunities for students to learn more about persons who are different from them. We are committed to maintaining a community that recognizes and values the inherent worth and dignity of every person; fosters sensitivity, understanding,

and mutual respect among each member of our community; and encourages each individual to strive to reach his or her own potential. Discrimination against any individual based upon protected status, which is defined as age, color, disability, gender identity or expression, national origin, race, religion, sex, sexual orientation, or veteran status, is prohibited.

### **Sexual Misconduct/Relationship Violence**

Title IX makes it clear that violence and harassment based on sex and gender are Civil Rights offenses subject to the same kinds of accountability and the same kinds of support applied to offenses against other protected categories (e.g., race). If you or someone you know has been sexually harassed or assaulted, you may find the appropriate resources at <http://titleix.osu.edu> or by contacting the Ohio State Title IX Coordinator, Kellie Brennan, at [titleix@osu.edu](mailto:titleix@osu.edu)

## **Schedule of Classes and Assignments (subject to change)**

### **Week 1: Introduction, The Origins of Utopia: Bible, Plato, More**

Readings: The Holy Bible: *Genesis*, *Revelation*; Plato, *The Republic*; More, *Utopia* (excerpts)

### **Week 2: Utopia and Russian Radicalism**

Chernyshevsky, *What is To Be Done*, i-ii, Preface, Ch. 1-2 (pp. 39-169)

### **Week 3: Utopia and Russian Radicalism**

Chernyshevsky, *What is To Be Done*, Ch. 3 (pp. 170-313)

### **Week 4: Utopia and Russian Radicalism**

Chernyshevsky, *What is To Be Done*, Ch.4-6 (pp. 314-445); Drozd

### **Week 5: Anti-Utopianism and Religious Utopia**

Dostoevsky, *Notes from Underground*, Parts I-II (pp. 3-91); “The Utopian Conception of History”; Scanlan; Tolstoy, *The Kingdom of God is Within You* (excerpts)

### **Week 6: Soviet Dystopia**

Zamyatin, *We*, Ch. 1-20

### **Week 7: Soviet Dystopia**

Zamyatin, *We*, Ch. 21-40; Vaingurt; **Midterm Paper Due**

### **Week 8: Socialist Realism**

Reading: Gladkov, *Cement*, Ch. 1-9 (pp. 1-149); Clark

### **Week 9: Socialist Realism**

Reading: Gladkov, Ch. 10-26 (pp. 150-198); Laursen

**Week 10: Dystopian Satire**

Reading: Platonov, *The Foundation Pit*; Seifrid

**Week 11: Dystopian Satire**

Mayakovsky, *The Bedbug*; Pelevin, “Vera Pavlovna’s Ninth Dream”; Olshanskaya

**Week 12: Postmodern Dystopia**

Reading: Sorokin, *The Day of the Oprichnik* (pp. 3-146)

**Week 13: Postmodern Dystopia**

Reading: *The Day of the Oprichnik* (pp. 147-191); Aptekman

**Week 14: Final Discussions**

**Final Paper Abstract and Bibliography Due; Final Paper Due During Finals Week**



## Curriculum Map for Russian Major

|  | Program Goals                  |                           |                              |
|--|--------------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------|
|  | Goal 1<br>Lang. Proficiency    | Goal 2<br>Analytic Skills | Goal 3<br>Cult. Appreciation |
| <b>Prerequisites</b>                                     |                                |                           |                              |
| Russian 1101   | Novice Low/Mid                 | NA                        | Novice Low                   |
| Russian 1102   | Novice Mid/High                | NA                        | Novice Mid                   |
| Russian 1103   | Novice High                    | NA                        | Novice High                  |
| Russian 1133   | Intermediate Low               | NA                        | Intermediate Low             |
| <b>Required Courses</b>                                  |                                |                           |                              |
| Russian 2104   | Novice High/ Intermediate Low  | NA                        | Novice High/Intermediate Low |
| Russian 2144   | Intermediate Low/Mid           | NA                        | Intermediate Mid             |
| Russian 3101   | Intermediate Low               | NA                        | Intermediate Low             |
| Russian 3102   | Intermediate Mid               | NA                        | Intermediate Med             |
| Russian 4575   | Intermediate High              | Advanced                  | Advanced                     |
| <b>Language Elective Courses</b>                         |                                |                           |                              |
| 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                     |
| <b>Literature, Culture, Linguistics Elective Courses</b> |                                |                           |                              |
| 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 5230   | NA                             | Advanced                  | Advanced                     |

|   |                       |              |              |
|---|-----------------------|--------------|--------------|
| Russian 5250<br>-(including all decimal suffixes) | NA                    | Advanced     | Advanced     |
| Russian 5530                                      | Intermediate          | Advanced     | Advanced     |
| Russian 5601                                      | Advanced              | Advanced     | Advanced     |
| Russian 5630                                      | Intermediate/Advanced | Advanced     | Advanced     |
| Russian 5701                                      | Advanced              | Advanced     | Advanced     |
| Slavic 2330                                       | NA                    | Novice       | Novice       |
| Slavic 3360                                       | NA                    | Intermediate | Intermediate |
| Slavic 3310                                       | NA                    | Intermediate | Intermediate |
| Slavic 3333                                       | NA                    | Intermediate | Intermediate |
| Slavic 3800                                       | 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     |