



CIEE St. Petersburg, Russia

Course name:	Analytical Readings, 19 th Century Russian Literature
Course number:	LIT 3001 RLPR
Programs offering course:	St. Petersburg Russian Language Program
Language of instruction:	Russian
U.S. Semester Credits:	3
Contact Hours:	45
Term:	Fall 2019

Course Description

This analytical reading course consists of annotated readings and analysis of works of prominent Russian writers and poets of the nineteenth century. The content of the course includes theoretical (overview of the life and work of writers and poets studied) and practical (text of the works) material.

Learning Objectives

By the end of this course, the students will:

- acquire knowledge on the life and the work of prominent nineteenth-century Russian writers;
- master the skills of various types of analysis of a literary text: cultural, literary, and linguistic analysis

Course Prerequisites

Successful completion of this course requires knowledge of a higher level of Russian grammar and vocabulary. This level, in our opinion, corresponds to an advanced level of Russian.

Methods of Instruction

The course combines lecture mode of teaching with the class open discussion model. The teaching process will include the use of PowerPoint material presentation, poems and short stories (in Russian), films and video clips relating to discussed topics.

Assessment and Final Grade

The final grade is composed of attendance and class participation, grades on essays and final examinations:

• Class Participation	20%
• Homework	35%
• Essays	30% (5% each)
• Oral Examination	25%
Total:	100 %



Course Requirements

Class participation. Active participation in class discussions is required. Students are expected to complete class readings for the assigned date and come to class ready to analyze and debate issues raised by the readings.

Essays. In the course of the semester, each student will write a total of 6 essays, each essay being approximately top-page long. The topic of the essays will be chosen in consultation with the instructor.

Oral exam. At the end of the course there is an oral exam, which will test the students' factual knowledge and their ability to analyze literary texts covered in this class.

Class Attendance

Attendance is crucial for successful completion of the class. Students are allowed to have two unexcused absences for each course for the whole semester program. These allowed unexcused absences should be used for situations such as minor illnesses without a doctor's note or personal situations that prevent the student from attending the class. Allowed unexcused absences should not be used in a planned way for travel or other activities. Unexcused absences beyond the limit of two will lower a student's grade by 2 points on the 100-point scale each. For example, if your overall score in the class is 90 (an equivalent of A) and you have had three unexcused absences, your final score will be 88 (B+).

Weekly Schedule

Week 1

Class 1. Life and creative work of Alexander Pushkin
Love lyrics by A. Pushkin. Poem "I loved you"

Class 2. Philosophical lyrics by Pushkin: "Anchar," "Upon the Hills of Georgia,"

Week 2

Class 1. Pushkin's novella *The Squire's Daughter* (from the cycle *The Belkin Tales*):
commentated reading

Possible topics for essay:

1. Pushkin's love poems
2. "Anchar" as an allegorical poem
3. Image of the Russian landed gentry as seen through Pushkin
4. The problem of "East vs. West in the novella *The Squire's Daughter*

Class 2. Film *The Squire's daughter* (1995, dir. Mikhail Sakharov)
Commentated screening of selected fragments

❖ **Essay 1 is due**

Week 3

Class 1. Life and creative works of Mikhail Lermontov



Class 2. Mikhail Lermontov's lyrics

Commentated reading of the poems: "The Sail," "The Cliff," "I Go Out on the Road Alone," "Fatherland"

Week 4

Class 1. Mikhail Lermontov, novel *A Hero of our Time* (fragments).

Possible topics for essay:

1. The theme of loneliness in Lermontov's poems
2. Describe the 'strangeness' of Lermontov's love to his fatherland.
3. The fault and the tragedy of Pechorin
4. Generational portrait of the 1930s through the creative works by Lermontov

Class 2. Novel *A Hero of our Time* Psychological portrait of the main character.

❖ **Essay 2 is due**

Week 5

Class 1. Life and creative works of Nikolai Gogol (a survey)

Class 2. Gogol's novella, *The Overcoat*. Multiple interpretations of the novel: social, philosophical, religious, mythological

Possible topics for essay:

1. The motif of the 'small man' in Gogol's novella *The Overcoat*.
2. Images of Petersburg in Gogol's creative works
3. Film adaptation of Gogol's novella *The Overcoat*

Week 6

Class 1-2. Film adaptation: *The Overcoat* (1959; dir. Alexei Batalov)

Commentated screening of the film. Discussion.

❖ **Essay 3 is due**

Week 7.

Class 1. Life and creative works of Ivan Turgenev

Class 2. Novella *First Love*. Psychologism of Turgenev's prose

Possible topic for essay:

Problem of 'fathers' and 'children' in Turgenev's novella *First Love*.

Week 8.

Class 1. Film screening *First Love* (1968, dir. Vassily Ordynsky).

Discussion and interpretations

❖ **Essay 4 is due**

Class 2. Life and creative works of Fyodor Dostoevsky

Week 9.

Class 1. Dostoevsky's short story "Fir tree and violin": commented readings

Class 2. Problem of social inequality in creative works by Dostoevsky.

❖ **Essay 5 is due**

Week 10.

Class 1. Film adaptation: *Crime and Punishment* (1969, dir. Leo Kulidzhanov)
Interpretations and discussion

Class 2. Image of St. Petersburg in creative works by Dostoevsky

Possible topics for essay:

1. "Poor people" in creative works by Dostoevsky
2. "Child's tear" in Dostoevsky's story *Fir-tree and Violin*
3. The image of misalliance in Dostoevsky's prose
4. The image of social predator in Dostoevsky's prose

Week 11.

Class 1. Leo Tolstoy, his life and creative works: a survey.

❖ **Essay 6 is due**

Class 2. *Three Hermits*: philosophical parable by Tolstoy. 2. Tolstoy's views on faith, religion and church

Week 12.

Class 1. Review for final exam

Class 2.

❖ **Final exam**

Course Materials

Readings

Dostoevsky Fyodor. *A Gentle Creature and Other Stories: White Nights; A Gentle Creature; The Dream of a Ridiculous Man* (Oxford World's Classics). Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2009

Gogol Nikolai. *The Overcoat*. NY: Crow Press, 2015.

Lermontov Mikhail. *Lermontov Poems (Russian Edition)*

Pushkin Alexander. *Novels, Tales, Journeys: The Complete Prose of Alexander Pushkin*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 2016.

Pushkin, Alexander. *Pushkin Poems: A Russian Dual Language Book*. NY: Maestro Publishing Group, 2017.

Tolstoy Leo. *Father Sergius. English-Russian edition illustrated*. Independent Publishers, 2017.

Turgenev Ivan. *First Love and Other Stories*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2009.