



RUSS 327 (3 credits)

Reading Russian Poetry: Voicing Dissent

Fall 2020

Meeting Times: MW 4:05pm – 5:25 pm (online)

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Office: online Fall 2020

Office Hours: Mondays 3-4 pm, Wednesdays 11:30 am-12:30 pm, or by appointment

General information and course objectives: This course offers an introduction to writings by the prominent Russian poets of the XIX, XX, and XXI centuries, including Pushkin, Lermontov, Tyutchev, Yesenin, Mayakovsky, Brodsky, and others. Reading poems in the original Russian will help students expand their vocabulary, review and learn new grammar concepts and structures at the Intermediate level, and continue to develop listening, speaking, and writing skills. Students will acquaint themselves with the basics of literary analysis and concepts useful in discussing poetic works in Russian (rhyme, meter, etc.). The course intends to prompt students' creativity through writing assignments and participation in group projects. Readings selected by the instructor put special emphasis on the importance of the phenomena of dissent, dissidence, heterodoxy, and resistance in Russian literary culture.

Learning outcomes: By the end of this course, students will speak, read, listen, and write at a level equivalent to Intermediate Mid (ACTFL Proficiency Scale), or higher; and demonstrate increasing control over aspects of Russian grammar. This growing accuracy will allow them to analyze, critically approach, and reflect (orally and in writing) on Russian poetry, in particular through the prism of the phenomena of dissent and dissidence. Students will also demonstrate a developing awareness of Russian literary culture.

Required materials: All required readings and assignments are available via myCourses (please make sure to access regularly).

Pre-requisites: The course is open to students who have completed RUSS 311/RUSS 316, or higher. Experience in literary analysis, previous completion of courses in Russian literature are **not required**. Students who have not taken the designated McGill RUSS courses, may be admitted upon passing the placement test. Heritage speakers may be admitted with instructor's permission. Please note: If you are a near-native or heritage speaker of Russian, you may be required to do additional readings and assignments, and a different length requirement will apply to your writing assignments.

Remote delivery: I understand and acknowledge that the remote learning presents a challenge for every participant, and I am committed to creating a meaningful, comfortable learning environment, which will allow all students to accomplish their goals. In order to help mitigate the effects of the remote learning and address the potential difficulties learners may face in Fall 2020 due to COVID-19, I have introduced the following measures:

1. Classwork activities which do not rely significantly on speaking and group/pair work, will be completed asynchronously, rather than during class time. All related materials are available to students who are not able to participate in Zoom sessions.
2. Following the Faculty of Arts guidelines, class time will thus be reduced to one hour (4:05-5:05pm) and will be dedicated to developing students' speaking in Russian.
3. Attendance will not be taken.
4. Tests will be assigned asynchronously.
5. Final projects follow a flexible format.

Student participation. While attendance will not be taken in Fall 2020, I encourage you to attend our MWF Zoom sessions to practice your speaking and get extra feedback on tricky grammar material. It is my goal as your instructor that each student be given ample opportunity to learn and apply the material. In order for this to happen, it is important that we all work together to make the Zoom learning environment a truly productive one. The classroom atmosphere should be one where all students feel comfortable trying out the language and experimenting with language production without fear of making mistakes. To this end, I will **not** record our Zoom sessions, and I **do not consent** to them being recorded by any participant. Please respect one another, fully participate in all group/pair activities, and come prepared. Your name (or preferred name) may be displayed on screen, and your instructor may call your name during the lecture. As such, this personal information will be disclosed to classmates.

Technical requirements. All students are required to have access to a computer, the internet, a microphone, and a webcam. We will use **Zoom** and the link to the meetings is available on myCourses. Before you join the course, please complete the following steps:

- Create a basic account by clicking on the following link: <https://mcgill.zoom.us/> You must sign in with your McGill username/password. Having a Zoom account will help you facilitate virtual meetings for collaborative assignments.
- Read this article on [getting started](https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/articles/201362033-Getting-Started-on-Windows-and-Mac). If the link does not work, go to: <https://support.zoom.us/hc/en-us/articles/201362033-Getting-Started-on-Windows-and-Mac>
- Students who do not have a webcam and/or a microphone should contact the instructor *in the beginning of the term*.

Netiquette.

- The University recognizes the importance of maintaining teaching spaces that are respectful and inclusive for all involved. To this end, offensive, violent, or harmful language arising in contexts such as the following may be cause for disciplinary action:
 1. Username (use only your legal or preferred name)
 2. Visual backgrounds
 3. "Chat" boxes
- To maintain a clear and uninterrupted learning space for all, you should keep your microphone muted throughout your class period, unless invited by the instructor to speak.
- When logging-in to Zoom, please acknowledge your presence by typing Здравствуйте!
- Please use the wave hand signal or the chat to alert the instructor that you have a question or want to make a comment.
- Feel free to use the chat for the purpose of asking me questions.

Remote learning resources. Since learning remotely is a new skill for everyone, I would encourage you to look at the resources that McGill's Teaching and Learning Services compiled: <https://www.mcgill.ca/tls/students/remote-learning-resources>. Consider looking at all the tips, particularly the following points:

- [5 Strategies for Success](#)

- [Study Tactics](#)
- [Learning Strategies Inventory](#)
- [Learning with Zoom](#)

Course content: All assigned readings, grammar materials, Задания, media, as well as the detailed schedule of all submissions are available on myCourses.

© Instructor-generated course materials (e.g., handouts, notes, summaries, exam questions, etc.) are protected by law and may not be copied or distributed in any form or in any medium without explicit permission of the instructor. I remind everyone of their responsibility in ensuring that the instructor's materials are not reproduced or placed in the public domain. This means that each of you can use it for your educational (and research) purposes, but you cannot allow others to use it, by putting it up on the Internet or by giving it or selling it to others who may also copy it and make it available. Please refer to McGill's [Guidelines for Instructors and Students on Remote Teaching and Learning](#) for further information. Thank you very much for your help with this.

Instructional method: The course will be taught almost entirely in Russian, with occasional grammar explanations in English. Online classroom time is optimized for communicative practice and interactive activities. Because classroom time is used for the development of interactive proficiency, it is essential that you spend at least 2 hours per day for each class. A thorough study session includes reviewing the material covered in class, writing out homework assignments, reviewing grammar and vocabulary and thinking about the material (making attempts to connect new texts to ones previously discussed). Class will begin by reviewing items from both the previous class meeting and answering questions about that class homework. The remainder of class will be spent discussing new material, practicing it in groups or pairs.

Homework (домашняя работа). Reading of the assigned texts is a crucial component of this course. For each class, complete the readings, making sure to work with unknown vocabulary and translate it. Prepare questions regarding the most difficult or unclear passages in your reading. Complete the Assignments (Задания) in writing. Please provide full, robust answers. Assignments should be submitted by due dates and times. **No late assignments will be accepted.** Homework will be graded for completion. HW completed in full, with robust responses – 2 points. Sloppy HW, short answers – 1 point. Late/incomplete/absent HW – 0 points.

Classwork. Students will complete activities previously scheduled for classroom time, asynchronously. This component uses videos, songs, visual materials, cultural information, etc. Detailed schedule and instructions are available on myCourses.

Writing assignments (сочинения). There will be three (3) creative writing assignments, to be completed asynchronously. There will be two drafts of each composition. Topics and detailed guidelines are posted on MyCourses.

Oral checks (устные проверки). There will be three (3) oral checks, testing your knowledge and understanding of the assigned readings. OC will be based on the questions and prompts assigned as homework. Topics and detailed guidelines are posted on MyCourses.

Tests (контрольные работы). There will be three tests, to be completed asynchronously. They will include questions and assignments based on the studied grammar and vocabulary. You will have a time window within which you will be able to write the test. Topics and detailed guidelines are posted on MyCourses.

Final project (итоговый проект). Students have a choice of format: a) Final project can be a group theater project where you will participate in the performance of a play of one of the famous Russian poet-playwrights. Plays and roles will be distributed in advance. Presentations of the final projects will take place in over Zoom in the last week, or pre-recorded Please note that since it is a group project each participant is expected to contribute to the success of the entire production. Therefore your final project grade will depend on both your own and your group performance. b) Students can choose a poem of their liking and, upon instructor's approval, analyze it from the point of view of poetic features, as well as its content in the context of voicing dissenting views. Students can either present it via Zoom or pre-record. c) Students can choose to submit their own poem in Russian. Detailed guidelines for all formats are posted on MyCourses.

Extra credit. Pending funding approval. Detailed information will be posted on MyCourses.

Assignments and methods of evaluation:

Classwork (async/flexible)	10%
Homework	20%
Compositions (3)	30%
Oral checks (3)	15%
Tests (3)	15%
Final project	10%
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	100%

Grade	Percentages
A	100%-85%
A-	84%-80%
B+	79%-75%
B	74%-70%
B-	69%-65%
C+	64%/-60%
C	59%-55%
D	54%-50%
F	49%-0%

McGill policy statements:

Language of submission: In accord with McGill University's Charter of Students' Rights, students in this course have the right to submit in English or in French any written work that is to be graded. This does not apply to courses in which acquiring proficiency in a language is one of the objectives. Conformément à la Charte des droits de l'étudiant de l'Université McGill, chaque étudiant a le droit de soumettre en français ou en anglais tout travail écrit devant être noté (sauf dans le cas des cours dont l'un des objets est la maîtrise d'une langue).

Additional policies governing academic issues which affect students can be found in the McGill Charter of Students' Rights" (The Handbook on Student Rights and Responsibilities is available here <https://www.mcgill.ca/deanofstudents/rights>)

Academic integrity: McGill University values academic integrity. Therefore, all students must understand the meaning and consequences of cheating, plagiarism and other academic offences under the Code of Student Conduct and Disciplinary Procedures" (see [McGill's guide to academic honesty](#) for more information).

In the event of extraordinary circumstances beyond the University's control, the content and/or evaluation scheme in this course is subject to change.

Copyright of lectures: All slides, video recordings, lecture notes, etc. remain the instructor's intellectual property. As such, you may use these only for your own learning (and research, with proper referencing/citation) ends. You are not permitted to disseminate or share these materials; doing so may violate the instructor's intellectual property rights and could be cause for disciplinary action.

As the instructor of this course I endeavor to provide an inclusive learning environment. However, if you experience barriers to learning in this course, do not hesitate to discuss them with me and the [Office for Students with Disabilities](#), 514-398-6009.

Health and wellness resources at McGill. Student well-being is a priority for the University. All of our health and wellness resources have been integrated into a single Student Wellness Hub, your one-stop shop for everything related to your physical and mental health. If you need to access services or get more information, visit the Virtual Hub at mcgill.ca/wellness-hub or drop by the Brown Student Services Building (downtown) or Centennial Centre (Macdonald Campus). Within your faculty, you can also connect with your Local Wellness Advisor (to make an appointment, visit mcgill.ca/lwa).

End-of-course evaluations are one of the ways that McGill works towards maintaining and improving the quality of courses and the student's learning experience. You will be notified by e-mail when the evaluations are available. Please note that a minimum number of responses must be received for results to be available to students.

Note that to support academic integrity, your assignments may be submitted to text-matching or other appropriate software.

Land acknowledgment: McGill University is on land which has long served as a site of meeting and exchange amongst Indigenous peoples, including the Haudenosaunee and Anishinabeg nations. We acknowledge and thank the diverse Indigenous people whose footsteps have marked this territory on which peoples of the world now gather. L'Université McGill est sur un emplacement qui a longtemps servi de lieu de rencontre et d'échange entre les peuples autochtones, y compris les nations Haudenosaunee et Anishinabeg. Nous reconnaissons et remercions les divers peuples autochtones dont les pas ont marqué ce territoire sur lequel les peuples du monde entier se réunissent maintenant.