



RUSS 327 (3 credits)

Reading Russian Poetry

Fall 2023

Meeting Times: MW 1:05pm – 2:25 pm, 680 Sherbrooke, suite 1145

Instructor: Dr. Maria Ivanova (Мария Владимировна)

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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.

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. Students will also demonstrate a developing awareness of Russian literary culture.

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

Course content and Required materials:

All required readings, assignments, media files and theory will be available via MyCourses. Please make sure **to have a ready copy** of the studied text, as well as any other handouts, before coming to class.

© 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. Thank you very much for your help with this.

Instructional method:

Class time will be a mixture of lecture, discussion, film/media, speaking, writing, and other activities designed to deepen your understanding of a text as well as to enhance your speaking and writing skills. This class is given almost entirely in Russian, with occasional grammar explanations in English. If you need outside help in English, please see me in my office hours. If you are a (near)native or heritage speaker of Russian, you may be required to do additional reading and assignments, and different length requirements will apply to your essays.

Homework:

Reading of the assigned texts is a crucial component of this course. Please always bring them to class. For each class students complete the readings, making sure they work with unknown vocabulary and translate it, as well as prepare grammar exercises. Assignments should be submitted by due dates: discussions of texts and grammar cumulatively include discussions of the previously assigned material, so it is important that everything is read and mastered by due times. **Late assignments will NOT be accepted. Assignments submitted by email will NOT be accepted.** Homework will be graded for completion. HW completed in full, with detailed answers to questions – 2 points. HW completed in full, but answers are short – 1 point. Late/incomplete/sloppy/absent/submitted by email HW – 0 points.

Class attendance and participation:

For each class, prepare questions regarding the most difficult or unclear passages in your reading. Your preparation will be judged according to your willingness to ask and answer questions and to participate in the discussion about the text; quality of your questions and answers will be taken into account as well. 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 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 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.

As most language learning takes place in the classroom in communicative situations, where students need to speak with one another in Russian, absence can be particularly damaging not only to a student's progress, but also to the progress of others who must then work with someone who is inadequately prepared. For this reason, this course follows a fairly strict attendance policy:

- There are no excused absences in this course.
- Each day of class is essential to your mastery of the language. The participation grade is critical because it cannot be made up.
- Because tardiness is disruptive, students are expected to arrive on time and not to leave before the end of the class session. While occasional tardiness may sometimes be unavoidable, frequent or chronic tardiness will be counted as absence. Three late arrivals (15 min) will count as one absence.
- In case of absence students are responsible for catching up with the class, completing homework and coming to the next class prepared. To catch up with the missed material students are encouraged to use all the uploaded files on MyCourses, tutoring services, study groups and other resources.
- There are no make-up tests, or quizzes, or assignments. Any medical emergencies and/or hospitalizations must be verified by a doctor's note and/or medical certificate submitted no later than 10 workdays since the day of the absence. The instructor reserves the right to verify this information, and all final decisions are at the instructor's discretion. If a student's health repeatedly prevents the student from completing graded activities (e.g., tests, quizzes etc.) and actively participating in class (which will inevitably significantly affect the grade), the student should consider taking time off to take care of their health and retake the class when their health is strong enough not to disrupt their studying.

• Vacations, family gatherings, tickets booked in advance, dates immediately preceding/following holidays etc. are not legitimate excuses for a make-up test consideration. Absences for McGill Athletics events and holy days follow McGill University guidelines.

All absences are reflected in the attendance register. The following will also apply:

- 4 absences – 50% of participation grade;
- 5 absences – 0 grade for participation
- 6 absences – F for the course grade (failed the course)

Writing assignments (сочинения):

There will be three creative writing assignments (сочинения). There will be two drafts of each composition. Topics and guidelines are posted on MyCourses.

Tests (контрольные работы):

There will be three extensive in-class tests (контрольные работы). They will include questions and assignments based on the studied texts, vocabulary, grammar, and literary theory. You may be asked to write a short essay as a part of контрольная работа.

Group project:

For the group theater project, you will participate in the performance of a play of one of the famous Russian playwrights. Plays and roles will be distributed in advance. Presentations of the projects will take place live at the end of the semester. 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. Detailed instructions and rubrics are posted on MyCourses.

Extra Credit:

RUSS program at McGill offers plenty of opportunities for extracurricular activities (Conversation Club, Movie Nights, Help Desk, Russian Evening), which also allow to earn extra credit. All requirements, as well as logs and forms to print out and complete, are available on MyCourses. Detailed schedule will be posted upon funding approval.

Assignments and methods of evaluation:

Participation	10%
Homework	25%
Compositions	18%
Контрольные работы	27%
Group project	20%
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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.