



RUSS 328

Winter 2021

Prof. Lyudmila Parts

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Tuesday and Thursday 1:05-2:05 – live Zoom classroom

Virtual office hours Tuesday 3:30-4:00 on Zoom; or by email.

RUSS 328: Readings in Russian

Course Objectives:

This course offers an introduction to writings by the prominent Russian authors of the 19th, 20th, and 21st centuries, including Gogol, Tolstoy, Chekhov, Bunin, Platonov and others. Reading short works and excerpts in the original Russian will help you to expand your vocabulary, learn new grammar concepts and structures (such as participles, gerunds, various impersonal constructions etc.), and continue to develop your listening, speaking, and writing skills. In addition, you will acquaint yourself with the basics of literary analysis and concepts useful in discussing literary works in Russian. The course also intends to prompt students' creativity through creative writing assignments and participation in a theater project.

Class Policies:

- 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. If you need outside help in English, please see me in my office hours

NOTE! **Regarding (near)native/heritage speakers:**

If you are a (near)native or heritage speaker of Russian, you will be required to do additional reading and assignments, and a different length requirement will apply to your writing assignments. For details see Weekly Schedule and writing assignments guidelines on MyCourses.

Live Zoom discussions; familiarize yourself with Zoom:

<https://www.mcgill.ca/tls/students/remote-learning-resources/learning-zoom>

The link to the meetings will be posted on MyCourses. Out of respect for the other students and your professor, please turn the video on. If your technical setup does not allow it, let me know.

Our lives have been disrupted. I realize some of you might be in a situation when participating in fixed activities, such as Zoom discussions, is difficult. Make an effort to participate in as many as you can. If you cannot attend live sessions, you are still expected to complete all assignments

Readings, class participation, and attendance:

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. All required texts and corresponding materials will be available on MyCourses. Reading of the assigned texts is a crucial component of this course. For each class complete the readings and all assignments. Attendance is essential and mandatory. For each class, prepare questions regarding the most difficult or unclear passages in your reading. Your preparation will be evaluated based on your willingness to ask and answer questions and to participate in the discussion about the text, as well as on the quality of your questions and answers. This will count toward your participation grade. There may be occasional “spot-checks” based on the assigned reading as an extra motivator for keeping up. Two (2) follow-up **film assignments** will count as 4% of your participation grade.

Graded assignments:

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). For the written ones provide full, robust answers. All written homework must be submitted for each class, Tuesday and Thursday, by 1:00 pm.

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.

Tests (контрольные работы)

There will be three tests, to be completed asynchronously. They will include questions and assignments based on the studied texts, 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:

Final project is a group theater project where 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 final projects will take place in class in the last week (dates TBA). 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.

Final grade breakdown:

Attendance and participation 10%

Homework 15%

Writing assignments 30%

Контрольные работы 30%

Final project 15%

- In the event of extraordinary circumstances beyond the University’s control, the content and/or evaluation scheme in this course is subject to change.
- “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.” (Approved by Senate on 21 January 2009).

- **“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 www.mcgill.ca/students/srr/honest/ for more information).” (Approved by Senate on 29 January 2003).
- Copyright: 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.
- Students with grades of D, F or J do NOT have the option of doing additional work to upgrade their final standing.
- *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.*