



RUSS 340

Fall 2020

Prof. **Lyudmila Parts**

email: lyudmila.parts@mcgill.ca

Tuesday 2:35-3:35 – live Zoom discussion

Thursday 2:35-3:35 – office hours, questions, etc., on Zoom.

September 3rd, first day of classes – live Zoom session 2:35 – 3:05

Virtual office hours Thursday 2:35-3:35 on Zoom, or by email.

Russian Short Story

Topics and objectives. You will learn about:

- the genre of the short story; correlation between form and content; relationship to realist, modernist, and postmodernist aesthetics.
- the major aesthetic and thematic concerns of Russian short story; recurrent themes of language's power and limits, of childhood and old age, of art and sexuality, and of cultural, individual, and artistic memory.

All texts are in the Course Pack available through McGill Bookstore in electronic format:

Pushkin, Gogol, Turgenev, Chekhov, Bunin, Zoshchenko, Babel, Olesha, A. Tolstoy, Nabokov, Platonov, Shalamov, Shukshin, Tolstaya, Makanin, Ulitskaya, Petrushevskaya, Erofeev, Pelevin, Goralik.

Instructional Method: the class will be a combination of (fixed) live Zoom discussions and flexible activities, such as short papers and discussion board posts.

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. To use Zoom, you will need a computer, a microphone, and a webcam (these can be internal to your computer).

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. All live sessions will be held on Tuesday except the first day of classes Thursday, September 3.

Important Note: Not everything will go right every time, and as far as possible, I will make every effort to ensure that the learning experience works for everyone. If you are having consistent issues, or if you have particular concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Zoom Etiquette:

- Only use your official McGill Zoom with your full name.
- Upon entering, please write in the chat, saying “here” or “present” or even just “hi” so I have a record of everyone who is there (I do not record the meetings, but I do keep the chats).
- You do not need to use your camera over Zoom.
- Please turn your microphone off when you are not speaking.
- Please use the wave hand signal or the chat to alert me that you have a question or want to make a comment. I will call on you.
- If you do not have a microphone, feel free to use the chat function to engage with the Zoom conversation. I will happily include chats into the broader discussion.
- I will not record class time to ensure the privacy of all students, and I do not consent to having the class recorded.

Course Materials:

Posted on MyCourses, for each author, there is a ‘Lecture’ document and a ‘Questions’ document. Read the stories, read both documents, and prepare to discuss the questions. Learn your way about MyCourses: <https://www.mcgill.ca/mycourses/tips-students>

Graded assignments:

Discussion posts and portfolio. Each week post your response to the discussion prompt and respond to a posting of at least one other student. Submit any time by 4:00 pm on Thursday. You must submit a minimum of 9 posts and 9 responses. See detailed instructions on MyCourses. This will allow all students to participate regardless of their ability to join live discussions on Zoom. You can suggest your own topic for discussion. I will read all posts and reply occasionally but will not grade individual posts. At the end of the semester you will submit your discussion portfolio and I will grade the full portfolio taking into consideration the quantity and quality of all your posts and responses.

Two short papers: formulating a thesis, close reading, structuring an argument. Topics and stories will be assigned in advance on MyCourses.

1st paper: thesis and close reading, due October 8.

2nd paper: thesis and argument outline, due November 5.

Final Paper: tracing a theme essay; due December 8, by email.

Grade breakdown:

discussion posts and responses – 40%

paper 1 – 15%

paper 2 – 20%

final paper – 25%

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- 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.