



McGill

Department of Languages,
Literatures, and Cultures
Russian Studies

Winter 2024

Prof. Lyudmila Parts, office SH 332
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Office hours: Thursday 11:30-12:30 or by appt.

Supernatural and Absurd in Russian Literature

Themes of absurd, bizarre, surreal, supernatural, and fantastic in works by Pushkin, Lermontov, Gogol, Dostoevsky, Bulgakov, Kharmis, Bitov, Petrushevskaya, Pelevin, and others.

Focus on the Russian literary imagination and the historical and political conflicts that haunt it.

Theories of the gothic, fantastic, fairy-tale, and absurd.

Course requirements and policies:

Attendance and participation: this is a discussion-format seminar, therefore regular attendance and active participation is expected from all students. Unexcused absence will result in reduction of the attendance and participation part of the grade. Additionally, if you miss 10 or more classes you receive a failing grade (F). No makeup assignments. Note that emailing me about a missed class does not constitute an excused absence.

Use of Laptops. Given the type of participation that is expected, and out of respect for your fellow students, laptops, iPads, and other mobile computing and communication devices will not be permitted. If you have special circumstances requiring you to use one of these devices, you must speak to me about it during my office hours.

Reading assignments: required texts **for every class**. Most texts and critical sources are in the course pack, some on MyCourses; additionally, two short novels are in the McGill bookstore: Pelevin and Bulgakov. You should finish all readings for the week by Tuesday.

MyCourses postings: you will submit 4 (four) short (one paragraph to one page) postings on MyCourses. They will vary: a focused application of a theoretical point to a primary text, a close reading, etc. See Schedule and MyCourses for dates and topics.

Discussion Question Posts: once this semester you will post a discussion question (DQ) on MyCourses by 7 pm the evening before class at the latest (see schedule). This question will be integrated in the class discussion, and you should be prepared to present in class. This assignment will not be graded but will constitute most of your participation grade. You can submit more than once if you wish.

Final paper: detailed analysis of one or more of the texts. See MyCourses. Paper requires use of critical sources. **Due April 18**, submit on MyCourses, 4-5 pages.

Our liaison librarian, Tatiana Bedjanian, will be happy to assist you in finding necessary literature:
tatiana.bedjanian@mcgill.ca

Grade:

Attendance/participation (incl. DQ) – 20%

MyCourses postings – 50% [8%, 10%, 14%, 18%]

Final paper – 35%

Students with any grades including grades of D, F or J do NOT have the option of doing additional work to upgrade their final standing.

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.

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).