

SLL 501
Fall 2019
W 2:00-4:50pm
WPH 204

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PROSEMINAR IN RUSSIAN LITERATURE



Фото: Эйзенштейн. Музей кино. <https://gorky.media/context/ko-mne-lnut-knigi/>

COURSE OVERVIEW:

This course introduces the major schools and trends in literary and critical theory with a particular focus on the twentieth and twenty-first centuries. It aims to equip students with an array of scholarly tools essential to work in the field of Russian literary studies and to promote reflection on what it means to be a scholar of literature.

COURSE OBJECTIVES:

- Gain proficiency in discussing various theoretical paradigms;
- Apply a diverse set of critical methodologies, comparing and evaluating their efficacy;
- Develop critical reading and writing skills;
- Become familiar with professional jargon and conventions of scholarly conversation;
- Hone research skills by using relevant databases (MLA International Bibliography, ABSEES, WorldCat).

REQUIRED COURSE MATERIALS:

- 📖 *The Norton Anthology of Theory and Criticism*, Third Edition (the edition matters!).
- 📖 Additional readings, including Andrei Platonov's story «Река Потудань» (1937 text will be available on our Blackboard site.

SCHEDULE OF ASSIGNMENTS:

- 📌 *This is a writing-intensive course that includes peer review. Please mark the following dates on your calendar and plan your reading and writing assignments (for this and other courses) carefully.*

Throughout the semester you will be required to write six short essays (3-5 pages) on Platonov's story «Река Потудань», demonstrating various critical approaches considered in class. **Your first drafts for Papers 2-5 will undergo peer review in class on the first draft due date. Please bring two printed copies, one for the reviewer and one for me.**

- Paper 1 Free style. Aug. 28 (first week of class)
- Paper 2 Formalism, New Criticism. First draft: Sept. 11; final: Sept. 18
- Paper 3 Reader-Oriented Theories. First draft: Sept. 25; final Oct. 2
- Paper 4 Psychoanalysis. First draft: Oct. 9; final: Oct. 16
- Paper 5 Marxism. First draft: Oct. 23; final: Oct. 30
- Paper 6 Feminism/Gender Studies. Nov. 6 **OR**
Posthumanism/New Ontologies. Monday, Dec. 9 (reading day)
- Final paper. Critique of Paper 1. Friday, Dec. 13

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

- Each reading assignment must be completed by the day for which it is assigned. Students are expected to bring the texts to class.
- Students are expected to participate in class discussion. The frequency and quality of participation will contribute towards the course grade. Absences will negatively affect the course participation grade.
- Cell phones must be turned off before the start of class.

GRADING

Class participation, including peer review: 30%
Short Papers: 50%
Final paper: 20%

SCHEDULE OF READINGS AND ASSIGNMENTS (subject to change)

Readings listed under the heading Suggested are optional. I suggest them if you wish to read more about a given paradigm.

AUG. 28 (I) INTRODUCTION. CLASSICAL THEORY.

Due: Paper 1

Платонов, «Река Потудань» in Bb

Plato, Book X of *The Republic* (pp. 78-89); Aristotle, *Poetics* (pp. 99-111 [through discussion of plot]); Horace, *Ars Poetica* (pp. 133-144).

SEPT. 4 (II) FORMALISM AND NEW CRITICISM

Виктор Шкловский, «Искусство, как прием» in Bb

Борис Эйхенбаум, «Как сделана шинель Гоголя» in Bb

Eichenbaum, “The Theory of the ‘Formal Method’” pp.99-111 (through section 2 is required; pp.111-139 is optional) in Bb

William Wimsatt Jr and Monroe C. Beardsley, “The Intentional Fallacy” (1198-1211)

Cleanness Brooks, “The Heresy of Paraphrase” from *The Well Wrought Urn* (1183-1195)

Suggested:

Юрий Тынянов, «О литературной эволюции» 1927 (pp.189-205)

Владимир Пропп, *Морфология сказки*, глава 2 'Метод и материал' (23-28)

SEPT. 11 (III) STRUCTURALISM AND SEMIOTICS

Due: Paper 2, draft 1

Precursor: Ferdinand de Saussure *Course in General Linguistics*, from the Introduction (824-826) and from Part One (826-830).

Northrop Frye, “The Archetypes of Literature” (1250-1262)

Tsvetan Todorov, “Structural Analysis of Narrative” (1918-1925)

Roman Jakobson, “Linguistics and Poetics” (1067-1074) 1958

Yurii Lotman “Structure of the Artistic Text” (BB) [1970], ch. 1 (Art as Language, 7-25 [up to the section ‘Magnitude of Entropy’])

Suggested:

Ю. Лотман, «Символика Петербурга и проблемы семиотики города» (Bb)

Gerard Genette, “Structuralism and Literary Criticism” (Bb)

Claude Levi-Strauss, “The Structural Study of Myth” (Bb)

Franco Moretti, From *Graphs, Maps, Trees: Abstract Models for a Literary History* (pp. 2255-2277)

SEPT. 18 (IV) READER-ORIENTED THEORIES

Due: Paper 2, final draft

Precursor: Immanuel Kant, *Critique of the Power of Judgment* (429-445)

Roland Barthes, "The Death of the Author" (1268-1272)

Wolfgang Iser "Interaction Between Text and Reader" (1452-1461)

Stanley Fish "How to Recognize a Poem When You See One" from *Is there A Text in This Class?* (1898-1909)

SEPT. 25 (V) POSTSTRUCTURALISM

Due: Paper 3, first draft

Precursors: Friedrich Nietzsche, "On Truth and Lying in a Non-Moral Sense" (752-762)

Martin Heidegger, "Language" (914-927)

Jacques Derrida, "*Différance*" (Bb, 1-22)

Michel Foucault "What Is an Author?" (1394-1409)

Paul de Man "Semiology and Rhetoric" (1314-1327)

Suggested:

Jacques Derrida, "Structure, Sign, and Play in the Discourse of the Human Sciences" (Bb)

Barthes, *SZ* https://monoskop.org/images/d/d6/Barthes_Roland_S-Z_2002.pdf

OCT. 2 (VI) PSYCHOANALYSIS

Due: Paper 3, final

Precursor: Sigmund Freud, "The Interpretation of Dreams" (pp. 814-24);

"The 'Uncanny'" (pp. 824-841), "Fetishism" (841-45).

Jacques Lacan, "The Mirror Stage as Formative of the Function of the I as Revealed in Psychoanalytic Experience", "The Agency of the Letter in the Unconscious," "The Signification of the Phallus" (pp. 1163-89).

Julia Kristeva, "Revolution in Poetic Language" (2071-81)

Suggested: Peter Brooks, "Freud's Masterplot: A Model for Narrative" (BB) [in Shoshana Felman, *Literature and Psychoanalysis*]

Slavoj Zizek, "Courtly Love, or, Woman as Thing" (pp. 2407-29).

OCT. 9 (VII) POSTMODERNISM

Due: Paper 4, first draft

Jean-Francois Lyotard, "Defining the Postmodern" (pp. 1465-68).

Jean Baudrillard, "The Precession of Simulacra" (pp. 1556-66)

Gilles Deleuze and Felix Guattari, "Kafka: Toward a Minor Literature" (pp. 1451-54), *A Thousand Plateaus* (pp. 1454-62).

Fredric Jameson, "Postmodernism and Consumer Society" (pp. 1846-60)

bell hooks, "Postmodern Blackness" (pp. 2509-16)

Suggested:

Jurgen Habermas, "Modernity — An Incomplete Project" (pp. 1577-87)

OCT. 16 (VIII) MARXISM

Due: Paper 4, final

Precursors: Georg Wilhelm Friedrich Hegel, “The Master-Slave Dialectic” (pp. 541-47)
Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels, From *Economic and Philosophical Manuscripts*, *The German Ideology*, *The Communist Manifesto*, *Grundrisse*, *A Contribution to the Critique of Political Economy*, *Capital* (“Fetishism”) (pp. 651-71)
Fredric Jameson, “The Political Unconscious: Narrative as a Socially Symbolic Act” (pp. 1822-46)
Walter Benjamin, “The Work of Art in the Age of its Technological Reproducibility” (1051-71)
Max Horkheimer and Theodor Adorno, “The Culture Industry: Enlightenment as Mass Deception” (pp. 1110-27).
Mikhail M. Bakhtin, From *Discourse in the Novel* (999-1030) [934-35]

Suggested:

Louis Althusser, “Ideology and Ideological State Apparatus” (pp. 1335-60)
Antonio Gramsci, “The Formation of Intellectuals” (pp. 1002-08)
Gyorgy Lukacs, “The Classical Form of a Historical Novel” (pp. 869-881)
Raymond Williams, “Base and Superstructure in Marxist Cultural Theory” (pp. 1423-37)
Zizek??

OCT. 23 (IX) FEMINISMS

Due: Paper 5, first draft

Precursor: Mary Wollstonecraft, “A Vindication of the Rights of Woman” (pp. 496-504)
Simone de Beauvoir, “The Second Sex” (pp. 1265-73)
Sandra M. Gilbert and Susan Gubar, “Infection in the Sentence: The Woman Writer and the Nineteenth Century Literary Imagination” (pp. 1926-38)
Helene Cixous, “The Laugh of the Medusa” (pp. 1942-59)
Annete Kolodny “Dancing Through the Mindfield...” (pp. 2048-66)
Susan Bordo, “The Body and the Reproduction of Femininity” (pp. 2240-54)

Suggested:

Virginia Woolf, from *A Room of One's Own* (pp. 896-905)
Laura Mulvey, “Visual Pleasure and Narrative Cinema” (pp. 2084-95)
Elaine Showalter, “The Feminist Critical Revolution” in Showalter, *Feminist Criticism*

OCT. 30 (X) GENDER STUDIES, QUEER THEORY

Due: Paper 5, final

Monique Wittig, “One is Not Born a Woman” (pp. 1907-13)
Gloria Anzaldúa, “La conciencia de la mestiza: Towards a New Consciousness” (pp. 2098-109)
Eve Kosovsky Sedgwick “Homosocial Desire,” “Introduction: Axiomatic” (pp. 2466-77)
Judith Butler, From *Gender Trouble* (pp. 2540-53)
Lauren Berlant and Michael Warner, “Sex in Public” (pp. 2600-15)

Nov. 6 (XI) POSTCOLONIAL THEORY

Due: Paper 6 [Feminism/Queer Theory]

Frantz Fanon, "Reciprocal Bases of National Culture and the Fight for Freedom" (pp. 1440-46)

Edward Said, From *Orientalism* (pp. 1866-88)

Homi K. Bhabha, "The Commitment to Theory" (pp. 2353-72)

Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak "Can the Subaltern Speak?" (pp. 2114-26)

Michael Hardt and Antonio Negri, From *Empire* (pp. 2621-35)

Nov. 20 (XII) POSTHUMANISM

N. Katherine Hayles, From *How We Became Posthuman: Virtual Bodies in Cybernetics, Literature, and Informatics*, (pp. 2165-87)

Donna Haraway, "A Manifesto for Cyborgs: Science, Technology, and Socialist Feminism in the 1980s" (pp. 2190-220)

Rosi Braidotti, "Post-Humanism: Life beyond the Self" (2331)

Martha Nussbaum, "The Narrative Imagination" (pp. 2306-28)

Francois Lyotard, "Can a Thought Exist without a Body?" (Bb)

Agamben, Biopolitics?

Jacques Derrida, "The Animal That Therefore I Am" (1645-1655)

Suggested:

Bruno Latour, "Why has Critique Run out of Steam? From Matters of Fact to Matters of Concern," pp. 2115-2136).

Nov 27 NO CLASS – THANKSGIVING RECESS

DEC. 4 (XIV) NEW ONTOLOGIES AND ECOCRITICISM

Due: Bibliography Assignment

Rob Nixon, "Slow Violence" (2355)

Rob Nixon, "The Anthropocene"

Jane Bennett, "The Force of Things" from *Vibrant Matter* (2434)

Timothy Morton, "Ecological Thought" (2621)

Bruno Latour, Actor Network Theory (BB)

Monday, Dec. 9: Paper 6 (Posthumanism/New Materialism) due

Friday, Dec. 13: Final paper due