<https://classes.usc.edu/term-20203/syllabi-bios/>

**MASTERPIECES OF THE RUSSIAN SHORT STORY**

***GESM-120g: 35357R:* *HUMANISTIC INQUIRY***

**Fall 2020 TTh 12:30-1:50**

**Professor Alexander Zholkovsky**

An introduction to two centuries of Russian literature by way of its best short fiction. Focus on Russian literary tradition, writers' favorite themes, and story-telling techniques.

**All materials for the course are free -- nothing to purchase**

**SYLLABUS:** *GESM-2020F-SYLL.docx*

**CLASS ASSIGNMENTS:**

1) All 24 in one: *120-20-Assignments.docx*

2) 24 separate sets of questions, with pictures: *Questions-1, 2…24.docx*

**READING: *CLASS NOTES pdfs*:**

1) *1-Handbook.pdf*: life-and-works entries on the authors

2) *2-Proffer.pdf*: short analyses of some of the short stories

3) 3, 4…11 *pdf* texts of the 24 short stories, grouped chronologically

**WRITTEN ASSIGNMENTS**:

Brief written answers (half a page) to a set of up to 10 short questions before each class.

Three papers (about 1,200 words long, double-spaced): compare-and-contrast analyses of two stories of the student’s choice each time. One, an “inside” story, will be picked from those studied in class during the respective part of the course; the other, an “outside” story, by the same or another of the studied authors, is to be independently found and chosen by the student (some suggestions will be given by the instructor). Papers are due **Sept. 10, Oct. 6, Nov. 12** and will be graded a full grade down after due date.

**FINAL EXAM:** A brief (about 800 words), compare-and-contrast analysis of one of the three listed pairs of stories from the course -- **NOTHING NEW**: **Thursday, Nov. 19, 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.**

**GRADING:** Class attendance and participation: **30%**; papers **50%**; final exam: **20%**. Participation means answering short questions before class and speaking up during the Zoom meeting. Please, read every story at least twice: the first time for pleasure and general orientation, the second, for critical appreciation, with the assigned questions in mind.

**CONTACT** : *Slavic Department*, Admin. Sec. Ms. Susan Kechekian [susan@usc.edu](mailto:susan@usc.edu)

*GE* : **Assoc. Director Ms. Marsha Chavarria-Winbush:** [chavarri@usc.edu](mailto:chavarri@usc.edu)

*Office Hours* : via ZOOM, TTh. 2:30-3:30 and by appointment

*My phone* : home (310) 828-2972, *e-mail*: [alik@usc.edu](mailto:alik@usc.edu)

**SCHEDULE**

**Aug.** 18 Introduction: the course, Russia, History, Culture, Literature, Short Story

20 Karamzin, life & works, "Poor Liza"

25 "Poor Liza" (cont'd); Pushkin, life & works; "The Station Master”

27 "The Station Master” (cont'd), “The Shot”

**Sept.** 1 Gogol, life & works, "The Overcoat"

3 "The Overcoat" (cont'd), “The Nose”

8 Lermontov, life & works, "Taman"; Dostoevsky, life and works

**10 FIRST PAPER DUE**

**10** Dostoevsky, life and works, "The Dream of a Ridiculous Man”

15 Dostoevsky, “A Gentle Spirit”; **start reading Chernyshevsky and Maupassant**

17 Chernyshevsky, *What Is To Be Done,* Ch. 3: 14; Maupassant, "The Port", Dostoevsky, "Notes from Underground. Pt. 2: A Propos of Wet Snow"

22 Leskov, life & works, "The Sentry"

24 Tolstoy, life & works, "After the Ball"

29 Chekhov, life & works, "The Darling"

**Oct.** 1 Chekhov, "Anna on the Neck"

**6**  **SECOND PAPER DUE**

**6** Bunin, life & works, "Light Breathing"

8Gorky, life & works, "Twenty six and a Girl"

13 Babel, life and works, "Guy de Maupassant," Maupassant, "The Fare"

15 Babel, "Answer..." "Elya...," "Through the Fanlight," "Hard-Working..."

20 Romanov, "Without Cherry Blossom"

22 Zoshchenko, "The Aristocrat" and the other stories in *Class Notes*

27 Nabokov, life & works, "Spring in Fialta"

29 Platonov, life & works, "Fro"

**Nov.** 3 Iskander, "On a Summer Day"

5 Aksenov, "Victory”

**12**  **THIRD** **PAPER DUE**

**12** Siniavsky-Terts, life & works, "Pkhents." Exam rehearsal

**19 Final exam (11 a.m. – 1 p.m.)**

**STATEMENT ON ACADEMIC CONDUCT AND SUPPORT SYSTEMS**

**Academic Conduct:**

Plagiarism – presenting someone else’s ideas as your own, either verbatim or recast in your own words – is a serious academic offense with serious consequences. Please familiarize yourself with the discussion of plagiarism in SCampus in Part B, Section 11, “Behavior Violating University Standards” [policy.usc.edu/scampus-part-b](https://policy.usc.edu/scampus-part-b/). Other forms of academic dishonesty are equally unacceptable. See additional information in SCampus and university policies on scientific misconduct, [policy.usc.edu/scientific-misconduct](http://policy.usc.edu/scientific-misconduct).

**Support Systems:**

*Counseling and Mental Health - (213) 740-9355 – 24/7 on call* [studenthealth.usc.edu/counseling](https://studenthealth.usc.edu/counseling/) Free and confidential mental health treatment for students, including short-term psychotherapy, group counseling, stress fitness workshops, and crisis intervention.

*National Suicide Prevention Lifeline - 1 (800) 273-8255 – 24/7 on call* [suicidepreventionlifeline.org](http://www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org/) Free and confidential emotional support to people in suicidal crisis or emotional distress 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

*Relationship and Sexual Violence Prevention Services (RSVP) - (213) 740-9355(WELL), press “0” after hours – 24/7 on call* [studenthealth.usc.edu/sexual-assault](https://studenthealth.usc.edu/sexual-assault/) Free and confidential therapy services, workshops, and training for situations related to gender-based harm.

*Office of Equity and Diversity (OED) - (213) 740-5086 | Title IX – (213) 821-8298* [equity.usc.edu](https://equity.usc.edu/), [titleix.usc.edu](http://titleix.usc.edu)

Information about how to get help or help someone affected by harassment or discrimination, rights of protected classes, reporting options, and additional resources for students, faculty, staff, visitors, and applicants.

*Reporting Incidents of Bias or Harassment - (213) 740-5086 or (213) 821-8298*

[usc-advocate.symplicity.com/care\_report](https://usc-advocate.symplicity.com/care_report/) Avenue to report incidents of bias, hate crimes, and microaggressions to the Office of Equity and Diversity |Title IX for appropriate investigation, supportive measures, and response.

*The Office of Disability Services and Programs - (213) 740-0776* [dsp.usc.edu](http://dsp.usc.edu/) Support and accommodations for students with disabilities. Services include assistance in providing readers/notetakers/interpreters, special accommodations for test taking needs, assistance with architectural barriers, assistive technology, and support for individual needs.

*USC Campus Support and Intervention - (213) 821-4710* [campussupport.usc.edu](https://campussupport.usc.edu/) Assists students and families in resolving complex personal, financial, and academic issues adversely affecting their success as a student.

*Diversity at USC - (213) 740-2101* [diversity.usc.edu](https://diversity.usc.edu/) Information on events, programs and training, the Provost’s Diversity and Inclusion Council, Diversity Liaisons for each academic school, chronology, participation, and various resources for students.

*USC Emergency - UPC: (213) 740-4321, HSC: (323) 442-1000 – 24/7 on call* [dps.usc.edu](http://dps.usc.edu/), [emergency.usc.edu](http://emergency.usc.edu/) Emergency assistance and avenue to report a crime. Latest updates regarding safety, including ways in which instruction will be continued if an officially declared emergency makes travel to campus infeasible.

*USC Department of Public Safety - UPC: (213) 740-6000, HSC: (323) 442-120 – 24/7 on call* [dps.usc.edu](http://dps.usc.edu/) Non-emergency assistance or information.

*Office of the Ombuds - (213) 821-9556 (UPC) / (323-442-0382 (HSC)* [ombuds.usc.edu](https://ombuds.usc.edu/) A safe and confidential place to share your USC-related issues with a University Ombuds who will work with you to explore options to manage your concern.