

Russian 311 Spring 2020

CONTEMPORARY SOVIET SHORT FICTION

Professor:

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Office: Aquia 308

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Office hours: MWF 11:30 – 12:20

Books:

James S. Levine. *Selected Short Stories by Vassily Aksyonov, A Reader for the Intermediate and Advanced Student of Russian with Explanatory Notes, Exercises, and Glossary*, Slavica Publishers, Indiana University, 2013.

James S. Levine. *Paper Victory, Three Stories by Lyudmila Ulitskaya. An Annotated Russian Reader*, iLearnRussian Publishers, an imprint of Russia Online, Inc. Maryland, 2017.

James S. Levine. *Bronka, A story by Lyudmila Ulitskaya. An Annotated Russian Reader*, iLearnRussian Publishers, an imprint of Russia Online, Inc. Maryland, 2014.

James S. Levin. *The Old Woman, A story by Daniil Kharms. An Annotated Russian Reader*, iLearnRussian Publishers, an imprint of Russia Online, Inc. Maryland, 2018.

Course objectives:

This class will focus on the works by some of the greatest Russian writers of our time, Vassily Aksyonov, Ludmila Unlitskaya. They were dedicated anti-totalitarians and had served as an inspiration for many in the post Stalin and Soviet era. The course and the literary texts which the students will read will also deepen the students' understanding of that period in Soviet history and will help to shed light on the social and cultural contexts that influenced the life of Russians during that time.

All reading must be completed before the beginning of each class.

Before each class you are expected to:

- carefully read the assigned text and be ready to answer questions about its content;
- be ready to analyze the assigned text;
- translate unfamiliar words using the dictionary and provided glossary;
- formulate your own questions and thoughts about the text;
- learn the target vocabulary;

- mark difficult words and passages and be ready to ask questions and/or participate in discussions about their renditions into English;
- review the assigned grammar

Each meeting of the class will begin with students raising questions about problems they encountered in the assigned reading text for that meeting (whether grammatical or in content). You should read actively and carefully, think about what you are reading, record your thoughts and be prepared to articulate those thoughts in class, both orally and in written form.

Students are encouraged to meet with the instructor during scheduled office hours (or by appointment) to discuss their daily participation grades and work in the course (reading, participation, and homework).

The course grade will be determined as follows:

Class participation and attendance	25%
Compositions	25%
Group presentations	25%
Quizzes	<u>25%</u>
Total	100%

Course format:

The readings are the primary source of information for this course, but students are also responsible for any additional material presented orally in class. You are expected to communicate with your classmates about information or materials you might have missed due to absence from class. Students are responsible not only for the physical act of reading the words contained in the assigned texts, memorizing new vocabulary, and identifying new grammatical constructions. They are also obligated to reflect on and summarize the parts of the text assigned for the next meeting of the class.

ATTENDANCE GRADING POLICY

Class attendance is mandatory and will be graded bi-weekly. One unexcused absence results in a half a grade reduction for the attendance portion of your grade. If you are not clear on this policy it is your responsibility to ask me at the beginning of the semester.

Active participation in class is a major requirement. The participation grade is not earned by just coming to class. Students need to be on time, participate and demonstrate they are fully prepared and have completed all assignments for the class. Furthermore, students must volunteer to participate and not expect to be called on by the instructor. Students

absent on any given day will receive a zero grade for participation for that day. It is the student's responsibility to find out about assignments from a classmate as well as from the blackboard. Therefore, exchanging email addresses with at least two classmates during the first week of class is highly recommended.

COMPOSITIONS

There will be three compositions to be written at home (650 words each). Before submitting your composition, proofread it, check for grammar, spelling mistakes, word order and coherence.

ORAL GROUP PRESENTATIONS

The class will be divided into working groups of four. Each group will be responsible for a single 20 minute presentation.

GMU Honor Code

To promote a stronger sense of mutual responsibility, respect, trust, and fairness among all members of the George Mason University community and with the desire for greater academic and personal achievement, the student members of the University Community have set forth this Honor Code:

"Student members of the George Mason University community pledge not to cheat, plagiarize, or lie in matters related to academic work".

RUSSIAN 311

Contemporary Soviet Short Fiction

2020 Spring Semester Schedule

Василий Аксёнов Самсон и Самсониха

Week 1

January 20

Martin Luther King Holiday

January 22

Lines: 1 – 105 (pp. 9 – 13), Questions 1 - 14

January 24

Lines: 106 - 220 (pp. 13 – 18), Questions 15 - 26

Week 2

January 27

Lines: 221 – 345 (pp. 18 – 23), Questions 27 – 34

January 29

Lines: 346 – 460 (pp. 23 – 28), Questions 35 - 42

January 31

Lines: 461 – 612 (pp. 29 – 35), Questions 42 - 49

**Group 1 Presentation: Биография и творчество
Василия Аксёнова.**

Местный хулиган Абрамшвили

Week 3

February 3

Lines 1 – 100 (pp. 127 – 131), Questions 1 – 12

February 5 Lines 101 – 219 (pp. 131 – 136), Questions 13 – 28
February 7 Lines 220 – 339 (pp. 136 – 141), Questions 29 – 41

Week 4

February 10 Lines 340 - 470 (pp. 142 – 147), Questions 42 - 51

Group 2 Presentation: Шестидесятники.

February 12 Lines 471 – 599 (pp. 147 – 153), Questions 52 - 57

February 14 Lines 600 – 656 (pp. 153 – 733), Questions 58 – 65

Composition 1 is due. (650 words/word count, typed, double spaced, printed)

С утра до темноты

Week 5

February 17 Lines 1 – 157 (pp. 73 – 79), Questions 1 - 22

February 19 Lines 158 – 275 (pp. 79 – 84), Questions 23 - 31

February 21 Lines 276 – 376 (pp. 84 – 89), Questions 32 – 34

Людмила Улицкая
Бронька

Week 6

February 24 Lines 1 – 111 (pp. 6 – 10), Questions 1 – 21

Group 3 Presentation: Биография и творчество Людмилы Улицкой.

February 26 Lines 112 – 216 (pp. 10 – 14), Questions 22 - 35

February 28 Lines 217 – 290 (pp. 14 – 18), Questions 36 - 50

Week 7

March 2 Lines 291 – 410 (pp. 18 – 22), Questions 51 - 65

March 4 Lines 411 – 520 (pp. 22 – 26), Questions 65 - 74

March 6 Lines 521 – 638 (pp. 26 – 30), Questions 75 - 83

Week 8

Spring Break

Week 9

March 16 Lines 639 – 739 (pp. 30 – 34), Questions 84 - 89

March 18 Lines 740 – 855 (pp. 34 – 39), Questions 90 - 98

March 20 Lines 856 – 965 (pp. 39 – 43), Questions 99 - 105

Бумажная Победа

Week 10

March 23 Lines 1 – 110 (pp. 8 – 11), Questions 1 - 11

March 25 Lines 111 – 224 (pp. 12 – 15), Questions 12 – 24

March 27

Lines 225 – 303 (pp. 16 – 18), Questions 25 – 28

Капустное Чудо

Week 11

March 30

Lines 1 - 85 (pp. 28 – 31), Questions 1 - 23

April 1

Lines 86 – 204 (pp. 147 – 151), Questions 24 - 35

April 3

Composition 2 is due. (650 words/word count, typed, double spaced, printed)

Гвозди

Week 12

April 6

Lines 1 – 84 (pp. 48 – 51), Questions 1 - 9

April 8

Lines 85 – 168 (pp. 51 – 54), Questions 10 – 13

April 10

Lines 169 – 280 (pp. 54 – 58), Questions 14 - 20

Даниил Хармс Старуха

Week 13

April 13

Pages 9 - 13. Grammar pp. 62 - 64.

April 15

Pages 14 – 18.

April 17

Pages 19 – 23.

Group 4 Presentation: Биография и творчество Даниила Хармса.

Week 14

April 20

Pages 24 – 28. Grammar – pp. 67 – 69.

April 22

Pages 29 – 33.

April 24

Pages 34 – 38. Grammar – pp. 76 – 77.

Week 15

April 27

Pages 39 – 43. Grammar – pp. 84 – 85.

April 29

Pages 44 – 48.

May 1

Pages 49 – 53.

Week 16

May 4

Pages 54 – 58.

Composition 3 is due May 10 (500 - 600 words/word count, typed, double spaced, e-mailed)