

THE RUSSIAN SHORT STORY  
RUSS 178 (Spring 2016)

Instructor: Julia Titus

Meeting times: MW 11:35 – 12:50

Office hours: HGS 2710a, F 12:30 – 1:30 and by appointment

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**Course description:**

Through the study of select Russian short stories in chronological progression, from Alexander Pushkin to Yevgeny Zamyatin, this L5 Russian language and literature course focuses on development of advanced reading and writing skills in the target language. Through the prism of close reading the students are introduced to the development of the Russian short story as a genre in a broader context of Russian literature and culture of the nineteenth and the beginning of the twentieth century. Particular attention is paid to vocabulary expansion, syntax and stylistics. All students are expected to actively contribute to classroom discussion and practice their conversation skills on literary topics. The course is well-suited to heritage learners and students who have completed at least four semesters of Russian. No final exam.

**Course goals:**

- to introduce the students to the masterpieces of Russian literature through select short stories by major Russian authors
- to improve understanding and appreciation of multiple layers of literary works
- to further develop speaking skills by practicing discussion on literary topics
- to improve writing skills through vocabulary expansion and special attention to academic writing style and syntax

**Course requirements:**

- 1) Weekly reading assignments (about 3-5 pages in Russian)
- 2) Active participation in class discussion
- 3) Four short papers in Russian with multiple drafts
- 4) One oral presentations on the author of your choice in Russian

**Attendance policy:** To gain the most out of the course, you are expected to be present at every class. In case of illness or personal emergency, please let me know and we will make arrangements for you to catch up on the missed material. You are allowed two unexcused absences.

**Evaluation:**

Four short papers 60%

Classroom participation 20%

Oral presentation 20%

### **Weekly schedule and home assignments.**

Week 1

1/20 Introduction.

Homework: Start reading *The Shot* by Pushkin and prepare for the discussion (see the questions online)

Домашнее задание: читать «ВЫстрел» Пушкина ( до « за ним оставался ещё мой выстрел) и готовиться к обсуждению.

1/22

«ВЫстрел» Пушкина - обсуждение первой части.

Alexander Pushkin. *The Shot* - part 1.

Week 2

1/25 «ВЫстрел» Пушкина - обсуждение второй части.

Pushkin. *The Shot*. - part 2.

1/27

Homework: begin reading *Fatalist* by Mikhail Lermontov (until «Я возвращался домой пустыми переулками...»)

Week 3

2/01 Лермонтов «Фаталист» - первая часть

Lermontov. *Fatalist* - part 1.

2/03 Лермонтов «Фаталист» - вторая часть

Lermontov. *Fatalist* – part 2.

Week 4

2/08 Лермонтов «Фаталист»

Lermontov. *Fatalist* - discussion of the whole story

2/10 «Выстрел» и «Фаталист» - общее обсуждение

*The Shot* and *Fatalist* - general discussion comparing the two texts.

Homework: **short paper #1** on Pushkin or Lermontov's story (your choice)

Week 5

2/15 Тургенев «Му-Мў» - 1 часть.

Turgenev. *Mumu*. – part 1.

2/17 Тургенев «Му-Мў» - 2 часть.

Turgenev. *Mumu*. – part 2.

Week 6

2/22 Толстой «После бала» - 1 часть ( до «была самая масленичная погода»)

Leo Tolstoy. *After the Ball* – part 1

2/24 Толстой «После бала» ( до конца)

Leo Tolstoy. *After the Ball* – part 2.

Homework: **short paper #2** on Tolstoy «After the Ball» or Turgenev «Mu-Mu»

Week 7

2/29 Чехов «Человек в футляре» - 1 часть.

Chekhov. *The Man in a Case*. – part 1

3/02 Чехов «Человек в футляре» - 2 часть.

Chekhov. *The Man in a Case*. – part 2.

Week 8

3/07 Чехов «О любви» - 1 часть

Chekhov. *About Love* - part 1.

3/09 Чехов «О любви» - 2 часть.

Chekhov. *About Love* - part 2.

Homework: **short paper #3** on Chekhov

## **Spring Break**

Week 9

3/28 Бунин «Солнечный удар»

Bunin. *The Sunstroke*

3/30 Бунин «Солнечный удар»

Bunin. *The Sunstroke*

Week 10

3/31 Набоков «Путеводитель по Берлину»

Vladimir Nabokov. *A Guide to Berlin*.

4/2 Набоков «Путеводитель по Берлину»

Vladimir Nabokov. *A Guide to Berlin*.

Week 11

4/4 Набоков «Лебеда»

Nabokov. *The Goosefoot*.

4/6 Набоков «Лебеда»

Nabokov. *The Goosefoot*.

Homework: **short paper #4** on Bunin or Nabokov's stories (your choice)

Week 12

4/11 Замятин «Лев»

Evgeny Zamyatin. *The Lion*.

4/13 Замятин «Лев»

Zamyatin. *The Lion*.

Week 13

4/18 Замятин «Лев»

Zamyatin. *The Lion* - discussion of the whole text.

**Homework :** подготовить короткий доклад о том, какой из рассказов, прочитанных в курсе, понравился вам больше всего и почему. Prepare a short report on your favorite short story that we read in class.

4/20 Общее обсуждение: «Мой любимый рассказ, прочитанный в этом курсе».  
General discussion «What was your favorite short story that we read in this course?»