

RUW 5930/RUS 4930

RUSSIAN UNDERGROUND LITERATURE

Spring 2006

Professor: Dr. Nina Efimov

Office 357C

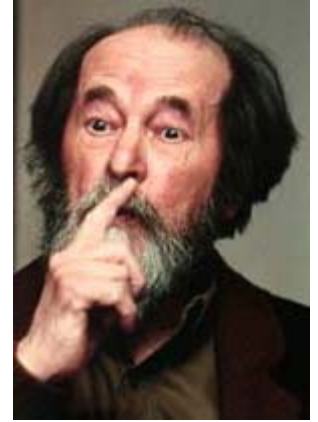
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Messages can be left in the mail box on my office door

Classes: T. 5:15-8:15, Diff 212

Office hours: T.R. 2:00-3:30 and by appointment



COURSE REQUIREMENTS: proficiency in reading and understanding Russian is expected, however, American students are allowed to read the works of Russian writers in English translation. The discussions can be carried out in English in case the student cannot express his/her literary ideas in Russian.

COURSE OBJECTIVES: The course will explore the development of the 20th century Russian underground literature in the cultural and political context of the period. Representative works of the significant Russian writers refused publication or blacklisted by the Soviet censorship will be studied chronologically with regard to their literary value and social and political impact with special focus on their influence on the development of Russian dissident literature.

COURSE DESCRIPTION: The course will have a lecture/seminar format. However, the core of the course will be in-class discussion of the assigned works with consideration of contemporary literary criticism and will cover the widest possible range of topics. The style, literary devices, and narrative world of underground Russian authors as well as their philosophical concepts will be investigated based on the close reading of the texts. The comparative methods will be combined with contemporary literary approaches.



GRADING POLICY:

The final grade will consist of the following components:

Class discussions and presentations:	50%
Midterm paper	20%
Final paper	30%

Class attendance is crucial for the student's success. The student may miss one class with no questions asked after that each unexcused absence will affect half of the final letter grade. Medical excuses have to be written by the student's doctor, however, each missed class results in minus 5% of class participation grade. One week delay in submission of midterm will affect half of its letter grade, ten



day delay will lower it to one letter grade, and after two weeks the paper will not be accepted. Final paper should be turned in not later than Thursday of the final week.

GRADING SCALE

A	94-100	C	73-76
A-	90-93	C-	70-72
B+	87-89	D+	67-69
B	83-86	D	63-66
B-	80-82	D-	60-62
C+	77-79	F	59 and lower

DISABILITY DISCLAIMER: Students with any type of disability should contact the instructor *immediately* for appropriate arrangements.

HONOR CODE: All students are expected to follow the Academic Honor Code as set forth in the *FSU General Bulletin* and the *FSU Student Handbook*. Violations of the Honor Code, **including and especially plagiarism**, will not be tolerated.

REQUIRED LITERATURE

Primary texts:

Solzhenitsyn, Aleksandr *The Gulag Archipelago, The First Circle*
Tertz, Abram *The Trial Begins*
Voinovich, Vladimir *The Pretender to the Throne, The Monumental Propaganda*
Vladimov, *Faithful Ruslan*
Aleshkovsky, Yuz, *The Kangaroo, A Ring in a Case, The Hand, Nikolay Nikolaevich*
Aksenov (Aksyonov) Vasily, *Generations of Winter (Vol I, II), Hero of December, Say Cheese*
Ginzburg, Evgeniia *The Journey into the Whirlwind*
Shalamov, *Kolyma Stories*
Limonov, Edward *It's Me, Eddie*
Erofeev, Venedikt *Moscow to the End of the Line*
Dovlatov, *Zone*
Zinoviev, Aleksandr *The Bright Future*
Bitov, Andrey *Pushkin House*
Porter, Robert *Russia's Alternative Prose*. Berg Publishers, Oxford, 1994



Secondary sources:

Edward J Brown, *Russian Literature since the Revolution*, Harvard Univ. Press, 1998

Terras, Victor. *A History of Russian Literature*. Newhaven: Yale University Press, 1996 edition.
Porter, Robert, *Russia's Alternative Prose*. Berg Publisher, Oxford, 2002.
David M. Bethea, *The Shape of Apocalypse in Modern Russian Fiction*. Princeton Univ. Press, 2001
Sergey Chuprinin, *Russkaya Literatura Segodnya*, Moskva, Olma-Press, 2003

SCHEDULE

Jan. 10. Introduction.

17. The Development of Underground Literature. Tertz, Abram *The Trial Begins*

24. Solzhenitsyn, Aleksandr *The Gulag Archipelago, The First Circle*

31. Solzhenitsyn, *The Gulag Archipelago*

Febr. 07 Shalamov, *The Kolyma Stories*

14 Vladimov, *Faithful Ruslan*, Dovlatov, *Zone*

21. Voinovich, Vladimir *The Pretender to the Throne.*

The Monumental Propaganda

28. Ginzburg, Evgeniia *The Journey into the Whirlwind*

Aksenov, *Say Cheeps*

March 02. Aksenov, *Generations of Winter* (Vol I, II), *Hero of December*

14. Aleshkovsky, Yuz *The Kangaroo, The Hand*

21. Aleshkovsky, *A Ring in a Case, Nikolay Nikolaevich*

28. Erofeev, Venedikt *Moscow to the End of the Line*

Limonov, Edward *It's Me, Eddie*

Apr. 04. Zinoviev, Aleksandr *The Bright Future,*

11. Bitov, Andrey *Pushkin House*

18. Underground journals