

University of Pittsburgh
Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures

Russian Literature of the Late Seventeenth and Eighteenth Centuries
RUSS 1624

Course Number: 27406

Instructor: Kathleen Manukyan, kam262@pitt.edu

Office: CL 1420A

Office Hours: Thursday 12-1:30, Friday 12-1:30 or by appointment

Class Meetings: Wednesday 1:15-4:10 pm, CL 253

Welcome to Russian 1624: Russian Literature of the Late Seventeenth and Eighteenth Centuries! This graduate level course is designed for graduate students in Russian literature or culture programs. Advanced proficiency in spoken and written English and Russian languages is required. The course includes a survey of the most important literary figures and genres of the Russian eighteenth century. Some of the topics covered include: the evolution of the Russian literary language; authors' statuses and self-definitions; literary polemics; generic imports and hierarchy of genres; imperialism and its discourses; women's lives.

Course Goals:

1. Gain thorough knowledge and understanding of the critical figures, works, genres, language trends, and cultural contexts of eighteenth-century Russian literature.
2. Carefully consider and evaluate old and new interpretations of eighteenth-century Russian literature and culture.
3. Identify a variety of ways that eighteenth-century Russian literature interacts with artistic output of other origins.
4. Produce a high-caliber scholarly research paper.

Evaluation:

Preparation and Participation: 30%

Students must come to each class meeting having completed the required reading and prepared for discussion. 2% of the final grade is earned for each class meeting attended.

Short Paper 10%

2-4 pages detailed formal analysis (prosody, imagery, themes) of a single short work of poetry or excerpt of a long work.

Short Presentation 10%

15-minute presentation on a comparative literary topic of the student's choice. Students should compare a work of eighteenth-century Russian literature to a

work of literature from another time period or cultural origin (e.g. a Medieval Russian text, Shakespeare, Voltaire, Pushkin, etc.). Secondary research is welcome but not required. Students should speak to the instructor on an individual basis about scheduling the presentation as they develop ideas, but all presentations should be scheduled by the seventh or eighth week of class.

Midterm Research Paper 15%

5-10 pages. A midterm paper on a topic of the student’s choice. Ideas stemming from work on the short paper or short presentation and new ideas are welcome. Minimum of 2 scholarly secondary sources and properly formatted (MLA or Chicago) bibliography required.

Final Paper Components: 35%

Final Paper Abstract (5%)

The abstract will be formatted according to guidelines published by AATSEEL (300 words max.). A properly formatted bibliography of at least three secondary sources is required.

Oral Presentation of Research: (10%)

During the finals week, students will perform a formal presentation of their research-to-date.

Final Research Paper: (20%)

10-20 pages. Expansions of midterm or short papers are welcome. Submit papers electronically by Friday, December 13.

Weekly Syllabus of Assignments:

Topics	Assignments
Week 1 – August 28 – Introduction: Russia and the Enlightenment	
Introduction to the course (syllabus). Enlightenment literature. 18 th -c. Russian political history. Survey of major literary figures. Normative aesthetics.	No assignments due.
Week 2 – September 4 – The Beginnings of Modern Russian Literature	
Literature of the Petrine Era. Hierarchy of genres. Versification reform. Polemics.	Primary reading due: Тредиаковский, «Эпистола от Российския поэзии к Аполлину» Александр Сумароков, «Две Эпистолы» (О русском языке, о стихотворстве) Феофан Прокопович, «За могилою рябою», «О суетный человеке, рабе неключимый» Василий Тредиаковский, <i>Новый и краткий способ к сложению российских стихов</i> (1735, 1752) Тредиаковский, «Ода торжественная о сдаче города Гданска»

	<p>(1734, 1752) Михайло Ломоносов, «Ода блаженные памяти государыне императрице Анне Иоанновне на победу над турками и татарами и на взятие Хотина 1739 года» Ломоносов, «Письмо о правилах российского стихотворства»</p> <p>Secondary reading due: Г.А. Гуковский, «О русском классицизме» (1929) (PDF)</p> <p>Irina Reyfman, Vasilii Trediakovsky: The Fool of the ‘New’ Russian Literature, chapter 3 “Criticism, parody, Myth” (Stanford UP, 1990) 70-131.</p> <p>Mikhail Leont'evich Gasparov, <i>Ocherk istorii russkogo stikha. Metrika. Ritmika. Strofiika</i>, “Reforma Trediakvskogo” (Moscow: "Nauka," 1984) 33-40.</p> <p>A.A. Iliushin, "Sillabicheskaia sistema v istorii russkogo stikha," in <i>Slavianskoe barokko. Istoriko-kul'turnye problemy epokhi</i> (Moscow: "Nauka," 1979) 316-334.</p> <p>Recommended references/overviews:</p> <p>Dmitrij Cizevskij, <i>History of Russian Literature. From the Eleventh Century to the End of the Baroque</i> (The Hague: Mouton, 1960), chapter 7 "The Baroque" (also available in Russian)</p> <p>William Edward Brown, <i>A History of 18th-century Russian Literature</i> (Ann Arbor, 1980)</p>
Week 3 – September 11 – Courtly genres	
<p>Ceremonial odes. Epics.</p>	<p>Primary reading due: Гаврила Державин, «Фелица», «Благодарность Фелице», «Видение Мурзы», «Изображение Фелицы», «На взятие Измаила», «Водопад» Михайло Ломоносов, «Ода блаженные памяти государыне императрице Анне Иоанновне на победу над турками и татарами и на взятие Хотина 1739 года», «Ода на день восшествия на престол Елизаветы Петровны, 1747» Василий Петров, «Ода на войну с турками»</p> <p>Secondary reading due: Тынянов “Ода как ораторский жанр” (1977) (available on feb-web)</p> <p>Vera Proskurina, <i>Creating the Empress: Politics and Poetry in the Age of Catherine II</i> (Academic Studies Press, 2011) 182-217 (e-book)</p>

	Harsha Ram, <i>The Imperial Sublime: A Russian Poetics of Empire</i> (Wisconsin UP, 2003) 28-62. (e-book)
Week 4 – September 18 – Lyric Poetry	
Spiritual odes. Paraphrases of psalms. Elegies.	<p>Primary reading due: Прокопович, «Всяк себе в помощь Вышняго предавый» Третьяковский, «Ода XVIII. Парафразис вторых песни Моисеевы», «Элегия I» Ломоносов, «Утреннее размышление о божием величестве», «Вечернее размышление о божием величестве... », «Ода, выбранная из Иова» Державин, «Властителям и судьям», «Бог», «На смерть князя Мещерского» Радищев, «Почто, мой друг, почто»</p> <p>Secondary reading due: Alexander Levitsky, "Early Concepts of the Russian oda dukhovnaia," in A. G. Cross, ed., <i>Russia and the West in the Eighteenth Century</i> (Newtonville, MA: Oriental Research Partners, 1983) 185-91.</p> <p>L. Frizman, <i>Zhizn' liricheskogo zhanra. Russkaia elegiia ot Sumarokova do Nekrasova</i>. (Moscow: 1973) 3-36.</p> <p>Crone, Anna Lisa, "Derzhavin's 'Bog': The Internalization of Lomonosov's 'Bozhe velicestvo,'" <i>Russian Literature</i>, 44.1 (July 1998) 1-16.</p>
Week 5 – September 25 – Light lyric poetry	
Love poems. Anacreontics.	<p>Primary reading due: Кантемир, «О спящей своей любовнице» Кантемир из Анакреонта, «О своих гусях», «О любви» Третьяковский, «Прощение любви», «Песенка любовна» Ломоносов, «Разговор с Анакреонтом» Сумароков, «Ода анакреонтическая», «Мы друг друга любим» Державин, «Русские девушки» Карамзин, «Странность любви» Муравьев, «Ода из Анакреонта»</p> <p>Secondary reading due: Sarah C. Pratt, "From the anacreontic to the Dionysian: Changing images of intoxication in Russian poetry," in <i>Contemporary Drug Problems</i> 287(1986), 287-302</p>

Week 6 – October 2 – Narrative genres	
Fables. Mock-epics.	<p>*Short paper (poetry analysis) due</p> <p>Primary reading due: Крылов, избранные басни ТВА Майков, «Роза и змея» Майков, <i>Игрок Ломбера</i></p>
Week 7 – October 9 – Enlightenment Theater	
Tragedy . Comedy.	<p>Primary reading due: Сумароков, <i>Димитрий Самозванец</i> Фонвизин, <i>Недоросль</i></p> <p>Secondary reading due: Elise Kimerling Wirtschafter, <i>The Play of Ideas in Russian Enlightenment Theatre</i>, (Northern Illinois UP, 2003) 29-52.</p>
Week 8 – October 16 – The Beginning of Journalism	
Novikov. Satire. Philosophy and Autocracy in the era of Catherine the Great.	<p>Primary reading due: Новиков, <i>Полемика Новикова с Екатериной в 1769 г.</i></p> <p>Secondary reading due: Gary Marker, «The creation of journals and the profession of letters in the eighteenth century» in <i>Literary Journals in Imperial Russia</i> ed. Deborah Martinsen (Cambridge UP, 1997), 11-37.</p>
Week 9 – October 23 – Autobiography	
Princess Dashkova. Presentation of self. Women’s lives in the 18 th c.	<p>*Midterm research paper due</p> <p>Primary reading due: Dashkova, <i>Memoirs of Princess Dashkova</i> (excerpts TBA)</p> <p>Secondary reading due:</p> <p>Iurii Lotman, "The Poetics of Everyday Behavior in Eighteenth-Century Russian Culture," in <i>The Semiotics of Russian Cultural History</i>, ed. Alexander D. Nakhimovsky and Alice Stone Nakhimovsky (Cornell University Press, 1985). (PDF)</p> <p>Judith Vowles, "The 'Feminization' of Russian Literature: Women, Language and Literature in Eighteenth-Century Russia," in <i>Women Writers in Russian Literature</i>, eds. Toby Clyman and Diana Greene, (Greenwood Press, 1994), 35-60.</p> <p>Recommended:</p> <p>Marcus C. Levitt, “Virtue Must Advertise: Self Presentation in Dashkova’s Memoirs,” in <i>Early Modern Russian Letters: Texts and Contexts</i> (Academic Studies Press, 2009).</p>

Week 10 – October 30 – Travel Literature 1/3	
Radishchev.	<p>Primary reading due: Александр Радищев, <i>Путешествие из Петербурга в Москву</i> (read as much as you can, at least half)</p> <p>Secondary reading due: Andreas Schönle, “Radishchev’s Journey and the Taste of Necessity,” <i>Authenticity and Fiction in the Russian Literary Journey, 1790-1840</i> (Harvard UP: 2000)</p>
Week 11 – November 6 – Travel Literature 2/3	
Radishchev. Karamzin.	<p>Primary reading due: Александр Радищев, <i>Путешествие из Петербурга в Москву</i> (to end) Николай Карамзин, <i>Письма русского путешественника</i> (selections TBA)</p> <p>Secondary reading due: Andrew Kahn, “Self and Sensibility in Radishchev’s <i>Journey from St. Petersburg to Moscow: Dialogism, Relativism, and the Moral Spectator</i>” in <i>Self and Story in Russian History</i>, eds. Laura Engelstein and Stephanie Sandler (Cornell UP, 2000)</p> <p>Andreas Schönle, “Karamzin’s Journey and the Taste of Fiction,” <i>Authenticity and Fiction in the Russian Literary Journey, 1790-1840</i> (Harvard UP, 2000)</p>
Week 12 – November 13 – Travel Literature 3/3	
Karamzin.	<p>*Final paper abstract due</p> <p>Primary reading due: Николай Карамзин, <i>Письма русского путешественника</i> (selections TBA)</p> <p>Secondary reading due: Ю.М. Лотман, <i>Сотворение Карамзина</i>, «Карамзин творит Карамзина» «Два путешественника» (М: Книга, 1987) 17-32.</p> <p>Sara Dickinson, —Karamzin and the Internal Account (1791-1812) in <i>Breaking Ground: Travel and National Culture in Russia from Peter I to the Era of Pushkin</i> (Rodopi: Amsterdam—NY, 2006), 105-119.</p>
Week 13 – November 20 – Prose Fiction	
Karamzin. Sentimentalism.	<p>Primary reading due: Николай Карамзин, “Бедная Лиза”</p> <p>Secondary reading due: Gitta Hammarberg, <i>From the Idyll to the Novel: Karamzin’s Sentimentalist Prose</i>, (Cambridge UP, 1991) (selections TBA)</p>

Thanksgiving recess – no class on November 27

Week 14 – December 4 – Looking forward to the nineteenth century: The state of the art of literature at the dawn of Romanticism

Literary language, culture, polemics, criticism.
Final discussion.

Primary reading due:

Карамзин, «Несколько слов о русской литератур» «О любви к отечеству и народной гордости», «Отчего в России мало авторских талантов», «О книжной торговле и о любви ко чтению в России»

Secondary reading due:

В. М. Живов, *Язык и культура в России XVIII века*, Chapter 4, section 1 (Москва 1996). (selections TBA, also may read English version available in e-book format).

Week 15 – December 11 (Finals Week) – Class Symposium

***Student presentations of individual research**

***Please submit final papers electronically by Friday, December 13**