

HUMA 6001Z Selected Topics in Russian Literature and Literary Theory Fall 2023

Time:	Friday	9:00 – 11:50
Venue:	CYTG001	
Instructor:	Xiaolu Ma	Rm.3377 hmxlma@ust.hk
Office hours:	By appointment	

Course Description

This graduate course explores classics of Russian literature and Russian literary theory in their own right and as material meant to prompt comparative analysis with each student's area of academic interest. The focus of this semester is the Russian émigré literature of the twentieth century. We will analyze Russian émigré's auto/biographies and memoirs to see how they struggled to preserve their Russian spirit and replace history with memory.

This course consists of a series of guest lectures by specialists on relevant topics. The schedule may be subject to change, depending on the arrangements of the special lectures. More details about these lectures will be announced close to the date of the lectures.

Intended learning outcomes:

1. Analyze particular literary texts, identify their authors, literary techniques, cultural impact, and socio-historical condition
2. Use a professional vocabulary from literary criticism and theory to discuss texts
3. Sharpen critical thinking and enhance perceptive insights of Russian literary traditions and comparisons to other national traditions.
4. Develop a strong sense of teamwork in group projects
5. Conduct independent research and write research papers

Schedule

Week 1 (Sept 1)

Introduction

Week 2 (Sept 8)

Special lecture

Week 3 (Sept 15)

Vladimir Nabokov, *Invitation of a Memory* (Selected)

Marc Raeff, *Russia Abroad: A Cultural History of the Russian Emigration, 1919-1939* (Chapters 1 & 2)

<https://julac->

[hkust.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/discovery/fulldisplay?context=L&vid=852JULAC_HKUST:HKUST&search_scope=HKUST_catalog_primo&tab=Everything&docid=alma991013203458003412](https://julac-hkust.primo.exlibrisgroup.com/discovery/fulldisplay?context=L&vid=852JULAC_HKUST:HKUST&search_scope=HKUST_catalog_primo&tab=Everything&docid=alma991013203458003412)

Week 4 (Sept 22)

Special lecture

Week 5 (Sept 29)

Ivan Bunin, *Cursed Days: A Diary of Revolution* (Selected)

Marc Raeff, *Russia Abroad: A Cultural History of the Russian Emigration, 1919-1939* (Chapter 5)

Week 6 (Oct 6)

Georgy Ivanov, *Petersburg Winters* (Selected)

Laura Marcus, *Autobiography: A Very Short Introduction* (Chapter 1)

https://www.google.com.hk/books/edition/_/s19gDwAAQBAJ?hl=en&gbpv=1&pg=PA1&printsec=frontcover

Week 7 (Oct 13)

Special lecture

Week 8 (Oct 20)

Marina Tsvetaeva, *A Captive Spirit* (Selected)

Laura Marcus, *Autobiography: A Very Short Introduction* (Chapter 4)

Week 9 (Oct 27)

Special lecture

Week 10 (Nov 3)

Special lecture

Week 11 (Nov 10)

Vladislav Khodasevich, *Necropolis* (Selected)

Greta N. Slobin, *Russians Abroad: Book Subtitle: Literary and Cultural Politics of Diaspora (1919 - 1939)* (Selected)

Week 12 (Nov 17)

Special lecture

Week 13 (Nov 24)

Group presentation

Course Assessment

Class Participation	20%
Group Presentation	40%
Final Paper (Dec 9)	40%

Course Requirements

Class participation

This is a seminar course. You are expected to attend all classes and stay for the entire class. You are allowed two absences without penalty. Each additional absence lowers your final grade by 2%. However, you can make up your absences by submitting a one-page analysis of the readings of that week. Any student with 4 absences or more will fail this course. There will be close reading of selected passages and thorough analysis of critical issues related to the texts. Students should read the assigned materials before class. I measure class participation based on the following criteria: arriving to class on time, completing required reading, engaging in class discussion, and respectfully listening when your classmates speak.

Final paper

7 pp in length (10 pp for Mphil students). Times New Roman size 12 font, double line spacing, 1-inch margins, and half-inch indentations at the beginning of each paragraph. If you are a native Chinese speaker and write in Chinese, please use single-line spacing instead. Critical analysis of one autobiography of your own choice (It does not need to be Russian emigrant's autobiography). Please submit it by 8pm of the due date. Please submit it in Word format and make sure that the file is readable. Unreadable files will not be counted as successful submission. Late submission will be accepted as late as two days after the due date but will receive half credit unless permission from the instructor is obtained before the due date.

Group Presentation

The topic of your presentation should involve Russian émigré literature. You can use any Russian literary texts (not necessarily our course materials) for analysis. Apart from content summary, please choose at least one or two details for close analysis.

Academic Honesty

Acts of academic dishonesty are prohibited. Please go to our university webpage on academic dishonesty policy (<http://ugadmin.ust.hk/integrity/index.html>), and read definitions of plagiarism and acts of dishonesty. Acts of dishonesty will lead to a failing grade in this course.