

## University of Oregon, Russian and East European Studies Program (REESC)

### *Reading List for MA in Russian Literature*

This reading list is intended to contain the principal works of Russian prose, poetry, and drama from the end of the 18th century to the present. In many cases, you may be reading these works in your classes. Included at the beginning is a list of secondary sources that will help you situate the material. See “Exam Preparation Guidelines” below for information on the format of the exam.

### **Recommended Secondary Sources**

- Billington, James. *The Icon and the Axe*. 1966.  
Brown, Deming. *Soviet Russian Literature since Stalin*. 1978.  
Brown, Deming. *The Last Years of Soviet Russian Literature: Prose Fiction, 1975-1991*. 1993.  
Cornwell, Neil. *Reference Guide to Russian Literature*. Routledge Companions, 1998.  
Evtuhov, Catherine, David Goldfrank, Lindsey Hughes and Richard Stites. *A History of Russia: Peoples, Legends, Events, Forces*. 2004.  
Figes, Orlando. *Natasha's Dance*, 2003.  
Lincoln, W. Bruce. *Between Heaven and Hell: A Thousand Years of Russian Culture*. 1999.  
*Literaturnyi entsyklopedicheskii slovar'*. Moscow: 1987.  
Moser, Charles. *The Cambridge History of Russian Literature*. 1992.  
Struve, Gleb. *Russian Literature under Lenin and Stalin, 1917-1953*. 1971.  
Terras, Victor, ed. *Handbook of Russian Literature*. 1985.  
Wachtel, Michael. *Cambridge Introduction to Russian Poetry*. 2004.  
Wellek, Rene. *History of Modern Criticism*, vols. 3-4. 1983.

### **Primary Texts**

- Lomonosov, Mikhail Vasilievich (1711-1765).  
“Vechernee razmyshlenie.”  
Derzhavin, Gavrila Romanovich (1743-1816).  
“Felitsa.”  
Fonvizin, Denis Ivanovich (1744-1792).  
*Nedorosl'*.  
Karamzin, Nikolai Mikhailovich (1766-1826).  
“Bednaia Liza.”  
General background knowledge about *Istoriia gosudarstva rossiiskogo*.  
Zhukovskii, Vasilii Andreevich (1783-1852).  
“Sel'skoe kladbishche.” “Nevyrazimoe.” “Svetlana.”  
Batiushkov, Konstantin Nikolaevich (1787-1855).  
“Vyzdorovlenie.” “Moi genii.”  
Griboedov, Aleksandr Sergeevich (1795-1829).  
*Gore ot uma*.

Bestuzhev-Marlinskii, Aleksandr Aleksandrovich (1797-1837).  
*Ammalat-bek*

Pushkin, Aleksandr Sergeevich (1799-1837).  
*Evgenii Onegin.*  
*Povesti Belkina.*  
 "Pikovaia dama."  
*Malen'kie tragedii.*  
*Mednyi vsadnik.*  
 "Vol'nost' (Oda)." "Poet." "Poet i tolpa." "Ia vas liubil." "Pora, moi drug, pora."  
 "Prorok." "K \*\*\*"

Baratynskii, Evgenii Abramovich (1800-1844).  
 "Muza." "Poslednii poet."

Tiutchev, Fedor Ivanovich (1803-1873).  
 "Silentium." "Son na more." "Umom Rossiiu ne poniat'." "Ne ver', ne ver'  
 poetu, deva." "Dve sily est'."

Gogol', Nikolai Vasil'evich (1809-1852).  
*Mertvye dushi.*  
*Revizor.*  
 "VII."  
 "Nevskii Prospekt."  
 "Nos."  
 "Shinel'."

Goncharov, Ivan Aleksandrovich (1812-1891).  
*Oblomov.*

Lermontov, Mikhail Iur'evich (1814-1841).  
*Geroi nashego vremeni.*  
*Demon.*  
 "Prorok." "Beleet parus odinokii." "Vykhozhu odin ia na dorogu." "Smert'  
 poeta." "V poldnevnyi zhar v doline Dagestana."

Turgenev, Ivan Sergeevich (1818-1883).  
 "Pervaia liubov"  
*Ottsy i deti.*

Fet, Afanasii Afanas'evich (1820-1892).  
 "Muze." "Maiskaia noch'." "Shepot, robkoe dykhanie." "Ia prishel k tebe s  
 privetom."

Dostoevskii, Fedor Mikhailovich (1821-1881).  
*Zapiski iz podpol'ia.*  
*Prestuplenie i nakazanie.*  
*Brat'ia Karamazovy.*

Nekrasov, Nikolai Alekseevich (1821-1878).  
 "Rodina." "Zabytaia derevnia." "Poet i grazhdanin."

Ostrovskii, Aleksandr Nikolaevich (1823-1886).  
*Groza or Les or Volki i ovtsy.*

Chernyshevskii, Nikolai Gavriilovich (1828-1889).  
*Chto delat'?*

Tolstoi, Lev Nikolaevich (1828-1910).

*Voina i mir.*  
*Anna Karenina.*  
*Smert' Ivana Il'icha.*  
*Kreitserova sonata.*  
 Leskov, Nikolai Semenovich (1831-1895).  
 "Levsha."  
 "Ledi Makbet Mtsenskogo uezda."  
 Chekhov, Anton Pavlovich (1860-1904).  
*Tri sestry.*  
*Diadia Vania.*  
 "Dom s mezoninom."  
 "Chelovek v futliare."  
 "Chernyi monakh."  
 "Kryzhovnik."  
 "O liubvi."  
 "Dama s sobachkoi."  
 Sologub [Teternikov], Fedor Kuz'mich (1863-1927).  
*Melkii bes.*  
 "Ia szhech' ee khotel, koldun'iu zluuu." "Nedotykomka seraia." "Chertovy kacheli."  
 Bal'mont, Konstantin Dmitrievich (1867-1942).  
 "Ia mechtoiu lovil ukhodiashchie teni." "Ia—izyskannost' russkoi medlitel'noi rechi."  
 Gippius (Hippius), Zinaida Nikolaevna (1869-1945).  
 "Pauki." "Peterburg." "Ona."  
 Bunin, Ivan Alekseevich (1870-1953).  
 "Solnechnyi udar."  
 "Antonovskie iabloki."  
 Andreev, Leonid Nikolaevich (1871-1919).  
 "Bol'shoi shlem."  
 "Bezdna."  
 "Stena."  
 Briusov, Valerii Iakovlevich (1873-1924).  
 "Togda, kogda ia prosnulsia."  
 "O, zakroi." "Ia." "V restorane." "Tvorchestvo."  
 Blok, Aleksandr Aleksandrovich (1880-1921).  
*Dvenadtsat'.*  
*Balaganchik.*  
 "Predchuvstvuiu Tebia." "Neznakomka." "V restorane." "Noch', ulitsa, fonar', apteka."  
 Belyi, Andrei [Bugayev, Boris Nikolaevich] (1880-1934).  
*Peterburg.*  
 Zamiatin, Evgenii Ivanovich (1884-1937).  
*My.*  
 Akhmatova, Anna Andreevna (1889-1966).  
*Rekviem.*

*Poema bez geroia* (part 1).  
 "Pesnia o poslednei vstreche." "Lotova zhena." "Muza."  
 Pasternak, Boris Leonidovich (1890-1960).  
*Doktor Zhivago*.  
 "Gamlet." "Zimniaia noch'."

Bulgakov, Mikhail Afanas'evich (1891-1940).  
*Master i Margarita. Sobachie serdtse*.  
 Mandel'shtam, Osip Emil'evich (1891-1938).  
 "Notre Dame." "Bessonitsa. Gomer. Tugie parusa." "Nashedshchii podkovu."  
 "Dekabrist."

Tsvetaeva, Marina Ivanovna (1892-1941).  
 "Popytka revnosti." "Nad gorodom otvergnutym Petrom." "Imia tvoe—ptitsa v ruke."

Maiakovskii, Vladimir Vladimirovich (1893-1930).  
*Klop*.  
 "Oblako v shtanakh." "Khoroshee otnoshenie k loshadiah." "Bruklinskii most." "A vy mogli by?" "Vse-taki." "Posledniaia peterburgskaia skazka."  
 "Nash marsh."

Babel', Isaak Emmanuilovich (1894-1941).  
*Konarmia*.

Pil'niak, Boris [Boris Andreevich Vogau] (1894-1937).  
 "Krasnoe derevo."

Esenin, Sergei Aleksandrovich (1895-1925).  
 "Ia poslednii poet derevni." "Razbudi menia zavtra rano."

Zoshchenko, Mikhail Mikhailovich (1895-1958).  
 "Bania."  
 "Aristokratka."  
 "Nervnye liudi."  
 "Priklucheniia obez'iany."

Il'f, Il'ia [Il'ia Arnol'dovich Fainzil'berg] (1897-1937) and Evgenii Petrov [Evgenii Petrovich Kataev] (1903-1942).  
*Dvenadtsat' stol'ev*.

Nabokov, Vladimir Vladimirovich [pseud. Sirin] (1899-1951).  
*Dar or Zashchita Luzhina*.

Olesha, Iurii Karlovich (1899-1960).  
*Zavist'*.

Platonov [Klimentov], Andrei Platonovich (1899-1951).  
*Kotlovan*. "Vozrashchenie."

Kharms, Daniil [Daniil Ivanovich Iuvachev] (1905-1942).  
 "Kasirsha."  
 "Sluchai na zheleznoi doroge." "Fadeev, Kaldeev i Pepermaldeev."

Gor'kii, Maksim [Alekssei Maksimovich Peshkov] (1868-1936).  
*Na dne*.  
 "Chelkash."  
 "Pesnia o burevestnike."

Gladkov, Fedor Vasil'evich (1883-1958).

- Tsement.*  
Sholokhov, Mikhail Aleksandrovich (1905-1984).  
*Tikhii Don* (book 1).
- Shalamov, Varlam Tikhonovich (1907- 1982)  
Kolymskie rasskazy, selections (“Sgushchennoe moloko,” “Detskie kartinki.”)
- Solzhenitsyn, Aleksandr Isaevich (1918- 2008).  
*Odin den' Ivana Denisovicha.*  
“Matrenin dvor.”
- Okudzhava, Bulat (1924-1997).  
“Polnochnyi trolleibus.” “Pesen'ka ob Arbate.” “Goluboi sharik.”
- Trifonov, Iurii Valentinovich (1925-1981).  
*Obmen.*
- Evtushenko, Evgenii Aleksandrovich (1933- ).  
“Khotiat li russkie voinu?” “Babii iar.” “Nasledniki Stalina.”
- Rasputin, Valentin Grigor'evich (1937- ).  
*Proshchanie s Materoi.*
- Erofeev, Venedikt (1938-1990).  
*Moskva-Petushki.*
- Petrushevskaiia, Liudmila Stefanovna (1938- ).  
“Svoi krug.”  
“Novye Robinzony: Khronika kontsa XX veka.”  
“Bog Poseidon.”  
“Novyi Gulliver.”
- Brodskii, Iosif Aleksandrovich (1940-1996).  
“Evreiskoe kladbishche.” “A. A. Akhmatovoi.” “Ia pamiatnik sebe vozdvig inoi.” “Ia vkhodil vmesto dikogo zveria v kletku.” “Niotkuda s liubov'iu.”
- Prigov, Dmitrii Aleksandrovich (1940-2007).  
“V bufete Doma Literatorov.” “Kogda zdes' na postu stoit Militsaner.”  
“Prekrasnaia moia drevniaia Moskva.” “A vot Moskva epokhi moei zhizni.”
- Ulitskaia, Liudmila Evgen'evna (1943- ).  
“Moskva-Podrezkovo. 1992.” or “Vtorogo marta togo zhe goda.”
- Tolstaia, Tat'iana Nikitichna (1951- ).  
“Reka Okkervil'.”
- Chizhova, Elena Semenovna (1957- ).  
*Vremia zhenshchin.*
- Pelevin, Viktor Olegovich (1962- ).  
“Zheltaia strela,” “Zatvornik i Shestipalyi.”

### **Guidelines for Exam Preparation**

Literature written exams will consist of three parts. Two three-hour exams will be centered on the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> centuries, respectively, and one two-hour exam will focus on the student's thesis exam field of about 25 primary and secondary works approved by the advisor. The exam will take place on one day during finals week of winter quarter of the second year of study. The student will be given four essay questions in each of the two period-specific exams and will answer

the two he or she chooses to answer. In the thesis exam field, two questions will be provided, of which the student will answer one. These will be broad, thought-provoking questions that allow the student to show his or her knowledge. The thesis advisor and committee will all provide potential questions, with final versions of the questions to be approved by thesis advisor.

**Literary Movements:**

Know the major authors and how they fit into or defy expectations of their time periods and genre.

Be able to define the following movements and know some of their representative works:

Classicism  
Sentimentalism  
Romanticism  
Natural School  
Realism  
Decadence  
Symbolism  
Acmeism  
Futurism  
Modernism  
Avant-garde  
Socialist Realism  
Postmodernism

For each movement

- \* Know 2-3 chief writers and their canonical works, starting and ending dates, key places associated with each movement.
- \* Be able to describe the world view and role of art in the movement.
- \* Be able to define major themes and character types.
- \* Be able to describe the distinctive style for each major movement.

Many Russian prose works are available at: <http://lib.ru/>