

# LIS 372 \*01 – Special Topics in Russian Literature

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## Course Information

Meeting: Time: MWF 1- 10:50

Classroom: EHFA 168 and Synchronous Streaming Online

## Catalogue Description

LIS 372 Special Topics in Russian Literature (3) (=ENGL 372) (Prereq: ENGL 102). This course examines literature from Russia and its borderlands (including Ukraine, Central Asia, and the Caucasus) with an emphasis on the interrelationships between literature, folklore, history, and culture. Semesters may emphasize different regions and historical periods.

F,S,SU

## Sample Course Description: Russian Literature & the Absurd

A statue chasing you through the streets of St. Petersburg. A nose that walks by itself. An apartment turned into an ice age cave. And by the way, in this world  $2 \times 2$  can equal 5. Along with diving into the darkest corners of the human soul and soaring to the heights of philosophical speculation, Russian Literature is filled with the absurd, the extreme and the playful. And unforgettable characters. And questions that will follow you around for years. In this class we will read literature of the 19th and early 20th centuries not only as masterworks of narrative, but also in context of a tumultuous Russia driving towards Revolution. Authors will include: Pushkin, Gogol, Pavlova, Tolstoy, Chekhov and Bulgakov.

## Course Objectives

1. Students will read course texts and work with them both in historical and cultural context and as individual works of art.
2. Students will develop and express their ideas on course themes with growing complexity through the semester in verbal and written discussions and projects.

## Student Learning Outcomes

1. Knowledge: Students will read class texts and be able to identify, compare and analyze texts in historical and cultural context.
2. Positions and Connections: Students will practice critical comparison and analysis of texts on course themes and questions, as well as reflecting on their own positions on these themes and questions as they develop over the semester.
3. Skills: The Course will focus on practicing skills of clear, logical college level discussion, writing and presentation on course themes using close reading and text-based evidence with citations.

## Course Requirements

### Course Delivery

This course will be offered in a combination of in-person and synchronous online classes. Synchronous online means the online class will take place at the same time as the in-person class. I will keep our Moodle site updated on all schedule issues and send emails if there is any change.

You'll be getting course information and readings through CCU's Moodle system, and you'll also participate in discussions and post-coursework in Moodle.

### Course Materials

Books: These can be bought or ordered from the CCU Bookstore or another online service. You may also purchase electronic texts. All other course readings will be available on Moodle in electronic format for online reading or download. This course is classified as OER, and coursebooks cost less than \$50. You must buy the translations listed below, since other translations can be very different. Please see me if you have an accommodation that requires you to use audiobooks so I can help you to get the best variant.

You are required to buy these books and bring them into class on days we are using them.

*Tales of Good and Evil* by Nikolai Gogol (David Margarshak Translation)

*Crime and Punishment* by Fyodor Dostoevsky (Pevear and Volokhonsky Translation)

*The Cherry Orchard* by Anton Chekhov (Pevear and Volokhonsky Translation)

*A Double Life* by Karolina Pavlova (Barbara Heldt Translation)

*Master and Margarita* by Mikhail Bulgakov (Pevear and Volokhonsky Translation).

## Communications Policy

For any questions about the class you can email me at [aoldfield@coastal.edu](mailto:aoldfield@coastal.edu). I try to answer all emails that I receive between 9-5 pm on the same day, but if you email me after 5pm I might not reply until the next morning. If you don't get a response from me in 24 hours definitely resend. If you're worried that I'm not getting your emails, please call the office phone and leave a message so we can figure it out.

On weekends I will check email on Saturday but I try to take Sundays off from Internet (which I hope you can do too if there is any possible way, just for your own sanity!). I make most things due Monday nights and hold online office hours on Mondays, so I can usually answer any questions on assignments in plenty of time to be useful to you.

Virtual Office Hours will be held Mondays and Wednesdays 4-6 and by appointment. I'll give you a stable Zoom link that you can use to come to office hours. You can also email me for an appointment to meet by zoom or phone at a different time.

Note on the phone - it is in my office, so I will only answer it if I am in there. You can leave a message with a callback number if you prefer to talk by phone - this can be useful if the internet is down.

## Evaluation and Grading

You will be evaluated on the following criteria:

Active Attendance	10%	Being There
In Class Writing, online Discussions and Homework	15%	Daily classroom work and homework. P/F/+
Reading Quizzes	15%	Reading quizzes will be given for almost every reading assignment P/F/+
Thematic Academic Reading Journal	30%	Observations on a theme throughout the course – Graded
Final Thematic Paper	20%	Consolidate your Journal into a thematic paper (with Draft) - Graded
Final Presentations	10%	Presentation on your Final Paper
Total		100 Points

### GRADING SCALE

A=90-100; B+=86-89; B=80-85; C+=76-79; C=70-75; D+=66-69; D=60-65; F=0-59

## Active Attendance Policy

Attendance means you are present in class or at the streaming session during the scheduled class time. If the class goes all online because of a weather emergency I'll post and email instructions. Zoom registers attendance and how long you stay, so if you show up to the Zoom and stay for the entire class time I will mark you present. You are allowed to leave your video off, but if you don't respond or participate in chats and other discussions, I will assume you are not really there and will mark you as only half present.

## In Class Work and Homework

These in class assignments are graded Excellent/Pass/ Fail/Late [P/F/+]. You will receive Pass if you complete the work on time, Fail if the work is not completed, and ½ credit for late work in this category. Excellent work shows a significant extra effort in content and form (proofreading, learning names of characters, extra thought, etc.). Points: Excellent 100, Pass 90, Late 50, Fail 0

## Absences and Make up Work

You can reverse up to three unexcused absences by doing make up work. You will need to contact me as soon as you can, and will have 1 week after the absence to complete the Make Up work. Make up work will usually be a different version of the Quiz and a short essay on the day's theme. Please let me know ahead of time if you know you will be absent.

You can make up to 9 excused absences and will not get a grade reduction on late work. What makes excused different from unexcused: Excused absences are serious, documented reasons (doctor's note, etc.). But you do need to do make up work for excused absences – otherwise you won't be getting the same class material as other students.

10 excused or unexcused absences will result in failing the class unless you Withdraw. If there are extreme circumstances that prevent you from coming to class and/or doing your work, come talk to me and also talk to the Dean of Students Office – they are really helpful in these situations and can even talk to your professors for you if needed. Whether you are dealing with academic issues, stress, time management or other issues there is a lot of support available for you at CCU - please use it if you need it!

## Grading Turnaround Time

I aim to post grades and return written assignments 7-10 days after the due date. Assignments that require a lot of feedback may take longer, and I will let you know if a specific assignment will take me longer to grade.

## Phones/Laptops/Tablets

This is one semester when I will actually ask you to have a smartphone, tablet, or laptop to class and log into Zoom so that we can share class with the folks who are doing onlinestreaming.

## Late Assignments/ Make up

I tend to have shorter assignments due on a regular basis. If you fall behind it can quickly snowball - not to mention your other classes! So I want you to do everything you can to hand in at least SOMETHING on the due date and move on to the next assignment. If you are sick or have another emergency contact me and we will create a makeup plan for no loss in grades. Otherwise, a late assignment handed in within 7 days will get a maximum of a 7 out of 10 or 70 out of 100. Anything later than one week will get a maximum 5 out of 10 or a 50 out of 100.

There will be no Extra Credit Make-Ups. All reading will be on the regular class work.

## Contingency Plan - Campus Closure for Weather or Other Emergency

CCU States: In the event of hazardous weather, faculty, staff, and students are requested to listen to local radio and television stations or visit the Coastal Carolina University website for official University closing announcements. Announcements about hazardous weather are also posted on the University's homepage. Review the Hazardous Weather and Emergency Conditions Leave Policy (FAST-HREO-220). Instructors may refer to the Contingency Instruction website or Section VIII N. Contingency Instruction for information about what to do if class has been cancelled. To stay up-to-date on emergency situations on campus, students are asked to sign-up for text alerts found on the [CCU Alerts Page](#).

### What to do for our Class:

When we have an emergency I will post all class work on Moodle and send out email announcements; however, if there is a weather emergency we might not have electricity or Internet for a time. In that case, we'll all be adjusting and I'll make sure we can have a makeup plan that is fair for everybody. Always put your own safety first, and don't worry - we'll work it out.

## Accessibility

This class is intended to be accessible to all students and I am happy to work with you on that. I have tried to design the class for access and there are many helpful tools in Moodle, including a function that makes text larger or can read it aloud. If you need academic accommodation you must contact the Accessibility and Disability Services office to get an appointment to discuss getting a legal Accommodation. Once you have the forms from the A&D office we can meet to discuss the accommodations.

Coastal Carolina University is committed to equitable access and inclusion of individuals with disabilities in accordance with the Americans with Disabilities Act and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act. Individuals seeking reasonable accommodations should contact Accessibility & Disability Services (843-349-2503 or <https://www.coastal.edu/disabilityservices/>).

ALLY - ALLY is an accessibility enhancer that is now in our Moodle. It will allow you to download any content in this course in the format that fits best with your learning style. PDF, HTML, .EPUB and Audio files are now available for most content items. If you need assistance in using ALLY please contact the Coastal Office of Online Learning at [coastalonline@coastal.edu](mailto:coastalonline@coastal.edu) or call them at 843-349-6932.

## Academic Conduct

Coastal Carolina University asks that you respect the following code of conduct in class and on line:

Students are expected to treat one another with respect and basic common courtesy in person and online classroom. All students should expect a safe and comfortable learning environment. This environment should be free of derogatory, offensive, harassing or inappropriate remarks or materials including but not limited to race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, religion, and age.

Coastal Carolina University asks that you use the following guidelines for in-person and online discussions:

- Fully participate in our learning community.
- Honor the background and experiences others bring to the discussion
- Respectfully agree or disagree with your classmates.
- Respect your classmates' privacy.
- Share what you know with your classmates. Be helpful.
- Avoid typing in all capital letters as it can be seen as yelling.
- Avoid the overuse of text speak and slang
- Read and review your posts for clarity and accuracy. Run spell-check.
- Be professional in your language, avoid swearing,
- Be sure to appropriately cite the work of others.

Students who do not abide by the code of conduct can be asked to leave the class and will need to meet with the instructor.

## Academic Honesty

It is very important to me that you do your own reading and writing and are honest about your work. If you are having problems, are confused, need writing support, need an extension, or just have writer's block, please contact me. I realize that students can feel overwhelmed or under pressure, but you are risking too much if you plagiarize work by cutting and pasting, having others do or change your work, or using others' work without credit - which includes paraphrasing and using the ideas of others found on websites such as Spark Notes. Every idea that is not yours must be cited, no exceptions.

Anytime you commit plagiarism you hand your professor the right to fail you with an FX on the spot. Worse than that, when we are dishonest it hurts the soul. I'm serious - maybe you'll get away with it once or twice, but it will weigh on you and diminish all of your accomplishments in college. It's just not worth it.

What we will do in the event of Academic Code Violations:

But if I find you have committed an academic integrity violation and it is a first offense, the following will happen 1. I will contact you for a meeting, 2. You will receive an F on the assignment, 3. I will report you to the Academic Integrity office, and that meeting will be noted on your record. 4. The Academic Integrity office will meet with us and discuss solutions for a better future 4. The highest grade you can earn in the class as a whole will be a C or lower.

If there is a second offense you will immediately fail the class with an FX and you will need to stop attending the class immediately. If you feel I am in error, you will have the right to appeal, and we will be able to both present our sides to the Academic Integrity office.

Here is the official policy of the university and a list of violations that you could be charged with: Coastal Carolina University Code of Student Conduct establishes the rights and responsibilities of students attending the University. As such, expectations are established and students are held accountable for academic honesty and integrity. Excerpt from Code of Student Conduct 2015-16, Section III. Academic Integrity Code, pp. 3-4, <http://www.coastal.edu/conduct/documents/codeofconduct.pdf>

### Prohibited Conduct

1. Plagiarism, cheating and all other forms of academic dishonesty a. Examples of plagiarism include, but are not limited to, the following: (i) borrowing words, sentences, ideas, conclusions, examples and/or organization of an assignment without proper acknowledgment from a source (for example, a book, article, electronic documents, or another student's paper); (ii) submitting another person's work in place of his/her own; (iii) allowing someone else to revise, correct or

edit an assignment without explicit permission of the instructor; (iv) submitting work without proper acknowledgment from commercial firms, websites, fraternity or sorority files or any other outside sources, whether purchased or not; (v) allowing another person to substitute for them any part of a course for them, including quizzes, tests, and final examinations; (vi) submitting any written assignments done with the assistance of another without the explicit permission of the instructor; (vii) submitting work that was originally prepared for another class without the explicit permission of the instructor; (viii) knowingly aiding another student who is engaged in plagiarism. b. Examples of cheating include, but are not limited to, the following: (i) using unauthorized information, materials or assistance of any kind for an assignment, quiz, test, or final examination; (ii) knowingly aiding another student who is engaged in cheating.

## Legal Issues

### Copyright

This course may contain copyright protected materials such as audio or video clips, images, text materials, etc. These items are being used with regard to the Fair Use doctrine in order to enhance the learning environment. Please do not copy, duplicate, download or distribute these items. The use of these materials is strictly reserved for this online classroom environment and your use only. Lessons in Moodle Books are my original writing and must be cited. All copyright materials are credited to the copyright holder.

### Third-Party Software and FERPA

During this course you might have the opportunity to use public online services and/or software applications sometimes called third-party software such as a blog or wiki. While some of these could be required assignments, you need not make any personally identifying information on a public site. Do not post or provide any private information about yourself or your classmates. Where appropriate you may use a pseudonym or nickname. Some written assignments posted publicly may require personal reflection/comments, but the assignments will not require you to disclose any personally identity-sensitive information. If you have any concerns about this, please contact your instructor.

# Class Meeting Schedule and Readings

Please note these dates are subject to change in case of weather emergencies, etc. Please check email and Moodle for Updates.

Week	Day	Date	Topic	Reading/Assignments
1	M	1/14	Introduction to the Course	Syllabus M (M= Moodle, or Madness – not sure which...)
	W	1/16	Absurd Themes! Choose Yours	Read: Why the Absurd? (M) Write: Your Absurd Theme (M Forum)
	F	1/18	Nikolai Karamzin (the Sentimentalist) – Poor Liza!	Read: “Poor Liza” by Karamzin (PDF on M) Discuss: Do you see your theme? (M Forum)
2	M	1/21	<i>Martin Luther King Jr Day – No Class!</i>	
	W	1/23	Pushkin (the Sceptic) -Poor Liza?	Reading for Quiz: “The Queen of Spades” (PDF M) Write: Academic Journal 1 - How do you see your Theme in Pushkin (M)
	F	1/25	Nikolai Gogol (The...unde_inable) and the Devil	Reading: “The Portrait” (Text - Stories of Nikolai Gogol)
3	M	1/28	Gogol’s Nose	Reading for Quiz: “The Nose”
	W	1/30	Gogol’s Overcoat	Reading for Quiz: “The Overcoat”
	F	2/1	Gogol’s Petersburg	Reading for Quiz: “Nevsky Prospect” Write: Academic Journal 2 - How do you see your Theme in Gogol’s stories? (M) <i>You do not have to discuss every text</i>
4	M	2/4	Dostoevsky (the Extremist) Introduction to <i>Crime and Punishment</i>	Crime and Punishment Chapter 1 (bring books, no quiz ) Character Guide Handout
	W	2/6	Dostoevsky (the Extremist) Introduction to <i>Crime and Punishment</i>	Reading for Quiz: Crime and Punishment
	F	2/8	Dostoevsky – Crime and Punishment	Reading for Quiz: Crime and Punishment

5	M	2/11	Dostoevsky – Crime and Punishment	Reading for Quiz: Crime and Punishment
	W	2/13	Dostoevsky – Crime and Punishment	Reading for Quiz: Crime and Punishment
	F	2/15	Dostoevsky – Crime and Punishment	Reading for Quiz: Crime and Punishment Write: Academic Journal 3 - How do you see your Theme in <i>Crime and Punishment</i> so far?
6	M	2/18	Dostoevsky – Crime and Punishment	Crime and Punishment (no quiz)
	W	2/20	Dostoevsky – Crime and Punishment	Reading for Quiz: Crime and Punishment
	F	2/22	Dostoevsky – Crime and Punishment	Reading for Quiz: Crime and Punishment – FINISH BOOK (Epilogue)
7	M	2/25	Karolina Pavlova - A Double Life	Write: Academic Journal 4 - How do you see your Theme in <i>Crime and Punishment</i> at the end?
	W	2/27	Karolina Pavlova - A Double Life	Reading for Quiz: A Double Life
	F	3/1	Karolina Pavlova - A Double Life	Write: Academic Journal 5 - How do you see your Theme in <i>A Double Life</i> ?
8	M	3/4	Tolstoy (the Moralist) “Master and Man”	Tolstoy Absurd (no quiz)
	W	3/6	“Master and Man”	Reading for Quiz: Tolstoy’s “Master and Man”
	F	3/8	<i>Class Online!</i>	Write: Academic Journal 6 - How do you see your Theme in “ <i>Master and Man</i> ”
	M-F	3/11-3/15	SPRING BREAK	Recommended: Read <i>The Cherry Orchard</i> and watch Moscow Art Theater Production on <i>Kanopy</i>
9	M	3/18	Chekhov (the absurd humanist) <i>The Cherry Orchard</i>	<i>The Cherry Orchard</i> Act I (Bring Book – No Quiz)
	W	3/20	<i>The Cherry Orchard</i>	Reading for Quiz: <i>The Cherry Orchard</i> Act II
	F	3/22	<i>The Cherry Orchard</i>	Reading for Quiz: <i>Cherry Orchard</i> Act IV Write: Academic Journal 7 - How do you see your Theme in <i>The Cherry Orchard</i> ?

10	M	3/25	Dr. Bulgakov and the Return of the Devil Introduction to <i>Master and Margarita</i>	Introduction to <i>Master and Margarita</i> (bring books, no quiz)
	W	3/27	Bulgakov – <i>Master and Margarita</i>	Reading for Quiz: <i>Master and Margarita</i>
	F	3/29	Bulgakov – <i>Master and Margarita</i>	Reading for Quiz: <i>Master and Margarita</i> Write: Academic Journal 8 - How do you see your Theme in <i>The Master and Margarita</i> so far?
11	M	4/1	Bulgakov – <i>Master and Margarita</i>	<i>Master and Margarita</i> (no quiz)
	W	4/3	Bulgakov – <i>Master and Margarita</i>	Reading for Quiz: <i>Master and Margarita</i>
	F	4/5	Bulgakov – <i>Master and Margarita</i>	Reading for Quiz: <i>Master and Margarita</i>
12	M	4/8	Bulgakov – <i>Master and Margarita</i>	Reading for Quiz: <i>Master and Margarita</i>
	W	4/10	Bulgakov – <i>Master and Margarita</i>	Reading for Quiz: <i>Master and Margarita</i>
	F	4/12	Bulgakov – <i>Master and Margarita</i>	Reading for Quiz: <i>Master and Margarita</i> – END Write: Academic Journal 9 - How do you see your Theme in <i>The Master and Margarita</i> now?
13	M	4/15	Zamyatin – The Eternal Revolutionary Zamyatin -We	<i>WE</i> – Chapter 1 in class (no quiz)
	W	4/17	Zamyatin -We	Reading for Quiz: <i>We</i>
	F	4/19	Zamyatin -We	Reading for Quiz: <i>We</i>
14	M	4/22	Zamyatin -We	Reading for Quiz: <i>We</i> (End)
	W	4/24	Soviet Comic Absurdism – Leonid Gaidai’s Ivan Vasilievich	No reading!
	F	4/26	Ivan Vasilievich	Write: Academic Journal 10 - How do you see your Theme in <i>WE</i> ?
15	M	4/29	Putting your Thematic Paper together – in class Workshop	No reading!
	W	5/1	Last Day of Class	

	F	5/3	Final Exam 11-1	Presentation on Your Theme – Yes you have to be there!
		5/8	<i>Final day to hand in Thematic Paper</i>	Final Thematic Paper Due