

## Literary Translation

ARUS 605 SPRING 2006

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T 10:25-1:05 in HUM286

Office Hours: MW1-2, T2-3, and by appt.

HUM 240, 518.442.4151

### Course Description

In this course, we focus on the translation from Russian into English of selections from literary texts with special attention to stylistic considerations in a historical context. The development of the Russian literary language in the eighteenth century occurred in conjunction with the introduction of such basic features of a public literary life as a new “civic alphabet” in 1710, to distinguish between religious and secular writings, the printing press, newspapers, journals, grammars, and dictionaries. Questions over what kind of Russian constituted a literary language shaped the larger debate between Slavophiles and Westernizers. Writers responded to pressures to modernize and expand Russian to include foreign words, close the gap between written and spoken Russian through a standard literary language, and develop a full array of secular genres.

The various lexical registers include the mixing of religious and vernacular styles in Baroque Russian, the ethnographic interest in folk language in the nineteenth century, and the development of Sovietisms, prison culture, *mat*, pornography, and the Internet in the twentieth and twenty-first centuries. The rapid, various changes in the Russian language today reflect the backlash against the linguistic conformity of the Soviet period, and recall the literary ferment of the three centuries, with for example, the uncensored publication finally of Russia’s first erotic poet, Ivan Barkov (1732-68). We will also read selections from treatises and essays on the development of a unified Russian literary language, in addition to semiotic interpretations of the historical dynamic of the Russian language.

### Requirements

1. Weekly translation assignments should be polished and submitted the following week, with a paragraph of stylistic analysis. (50%)
2. Midterm project, due Tuesday, March 21, that is a translation of a selection from a nineteenth-century text (5 pages) and a stylistic analysis (2 pages). (20%)
3. Final translation project, due Tuesday, May 9, that is a translation of a twentieth- or twenty-first-century text that has not been translated (10 pages) and a stylistic analysis (3 pages). First draft of project due Tuesday, May 2. (30%)

### Required Texts

Course Pack at Shipmates.

### Dictionaries

- ◆ *Slovar’ sovremennogo russkogo literaturnogo iazyka*, 17 vols. (Moscow, 1950-65)  
Reference: PG 2625 A533 This is *the* Russian-Russian dictionary.
- ◆ *Slovar’ sovremennogo russkogo literaturnogo iazyka ;v 20 tomakh*, (Moscow: Russkii iazyk, 1991-) Reference: PG 2625 A533 1999 This is the new edition of *the* Russian-Russian dictionary, but only the first four volumes came out.

- ◆ *Elsevier's Russian-English Dictionary*, by Paul Macura, 4 vols. (1990). Reference PG 2640 M34X 1990 The largest, most comprehensive such dictionary.
- ◆ *Slovar' iazyka Pushkina*, by V. V. Vinogradov, 4 vols. (Moscow, 1959-61) PG3350 A3 A7
- ◆ *Tolkovyi slovar' zhivogo veliko-russkogo iazyka*, by Vladimir Ivanovich Dal'; 4 vols. (1863-66) Reference: PG 2625 D32
- ◆ *Slovar' Akademii rossiiskoi 1789-1794*, 6 vols. (Moscow: MGI im. E. R. Dashkovoï, 2001-)

### Recommended Reading

- Richard C. Borden, *The Art of Writing Badly: Valentin Kataev's Mauvism and the Rebirth of Russian Modernism* (Evanston, IL: Northwestern UP, 1999). PG 3476 K4 Z57 1999
- Literary Marketplace* (New York: R. R. Bowker, 2005). Reference: PN 161 L5 "The directory of the American book publishing industry with industry yellow pages.
- William Germano, *Getting It Published: A Guide for Scholars and Anyone Else Serious about Serious Books* (Chicago: U of Chicago P, 2001). PN 161 G46 2001
- Rachel May, *The Translator in the Text: On Reading Russian Literature in English*, (Evanston, IL: Northwestern UP, 1994). PG 2985 M36 1994
- Peter Rubie, *Telling the Story: How to Write and Sell Narrative Non-Fiction* (New York: Collins, 2003). Advice on how to find a literary agent in order to approach trade presses.
- Thomas Seifrid, *The Word Made Self: Russian Writings on Language, 1860-1930* (Ithaca: Cornell UP, 2005). P 107 S45 2005 The linguistic, philosophical, and religious roots of the literary Russian language.
- Victor Terras, *Handbook of Russian Literature* (New Haven: Yale UP, 1985).
- B. A. Uspenskii, *Iazyki kul'tury i problemy perevodimosti* (Moscow, 1987). P 99.37 S65 I39X 1987
- B. A. Uspenskii, *Istoriia russkogo literaturnogo iazyka (XI-XVII vv.)* (München: Verlag Otto Sagner, 1987). PG 2740 U83 1987
- B. A. Uspenskii, *Iz istorii russkogo literaturnogo iazyka XVIII-nachala XIX veka: Iazykovaia programma Karamzina i ee istoricheskie korni* (Moscow, 1985). PG 2075 U87 1985
- Viktor Vladimirovich Vinogradov, *O iazyke khudozhestvennoï literatury* (Moscow, 1959); (Leipzig: Zentralantiquariat der DDR, 1977). PG 2986 V5 1977
- Viktor Vladimirovich Vinogradov, *Iazyk i stil' russkikh pisatelei ot Karamzina do Gogoli'a: Izbrannye trudy* (Moscow, 1990) PG 3010.5 S79 V56 1990
- Viktor Vladimirovich Vinogradov, *The history of the Russian literary language from the seventeenth century to the nineteenth*. A condensed adaptation into English with an intro. by Lawrence L. Thomas. (Madison: U of Wisconsin P, 1969). PG 2075 T5

### Websites

- American Literary Translators' Association  
<http://www.literarytranslators.org/index.html>  
<http://www.multitrans.ru/>

**Syllabus**

1T 1/24 Mixture of Styles: Church Slavonic, Old Russian, vernacular, Latinate, and official languages

Feofan Prokopovich (1681-1736), *slova i rechi; Sochineniia* (Leningrad, 1961).  
style sheet of various styles from 1500 to 1705.

2T 1/31 Princess Natalia Borisovna Dolgorukaia (1714-71), *Zapiski* (1767-71)

- ◆ *The Memoirs of Princess Natal'ja Borisovna Dolgorukaja*, ed. and trans. by Charles E. Townsend (Columbus, OH: Slavica, 1977).
- ◆ Alice Nakhimovsky, "A Syntactic, Lexicological and Stylistic Commentary on the Memoirs of Princess Natalja Borisovna Dolgorukaja," *Folia Slavica* 8, 2-3 (1987): 272-301.

3T 2/7 Literary reformers of the 18<sup>th</sup> century: Please translate Chulkov (pp. 43-44) and read the rest for style (translations provided for Chulkov and Sumarokov).

- ◆ Mikhail Dmitrievich Chulkov (1743-92), "Prigozhaia povarikha," (1770), *Russkaia proza XVII veka*, ed. by G. Makogonenko (Moscow, 1971), 41-79. PG3262 R8 1971
- ◆ Mikhail Vasilievich Lomonosov (1711-65), "O nyneshnem sostoianii slovesnykh nauk v Rossii" (1756), *Polnoe sobranie sochinenii* vol. 7 (Moscow, 1950-83), 579-82. PG 3316 A1 1950
- ◆ Vasily Krillovich Trediakovsky (1703-69), "Dusha moia," *Ezda v ostrov liubvi*, (1730), *Izbrannye proizvedeniia* (1963), 101. "Drevhia razmera," (1766) *Iz Telemakhidy*, 337. PG 3319 T7 A6 1963
- ◆ Aleksandr Petrovich Sumarokov (1718-77), "Nastavlenie khotiashchim byti pisateliami" (1774), revision of "Dve epistoly. V pervoi predlagaetsia o russkom iazyke, a vo vtoroi o stikhotvorstve" (1748), *Polnoe sobranie vsekh sochinenii, v stikhakh i proze* vol. 2 (Moscow: Univ. tipografii N. Novikova, 1781-82); rep. ed. Ann Arbor: Univ. Microfilms, 358-64. PG 3318 A1 1781A
- ◆ Sumarokov, "Directions for those who wish to become writers," *Selected Aesthetic Works of Sumarokov and Karamzin*, trans. and intro. by Henry M. Nebel, Jr. (Wash. DC: UP of America, 1981), 103-7. PG 3318 A4 1981
- ◆ "Versification," *Handbook*, 504-8.

1. Prince Antiokh Dmitrievich Kantemir (1709-44), "Pis'mo Kharitona Makentina" (1744), *Sobranie stikhotvorenii, Biblioteka poeta*, ed. by Z. I. Gershkovich, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. (Leningrad, 1956).
2. *Slovar' Akademii Rossiiskoi 1789-94* (St. Petersburg: pri imperatoriskoi Akademii nauk, 1789); ed. L. V. Tychinina, 6 vols. (Moscow: Moskovskii institut imeni E. R. Dashkovoii, 2001-).
3. Rimvydas Silbajoris, *Russian Versification: The Theories of Trediakovsky, Lomonosov and Kantemir* (New York: 1968).
4. *The literature of eighteenth-century Russia: An anthology of Russian literary materials of the age of classicism and the Enlightenment from the reign of Peter the Great, 1689-1725, to the reign of Alexander I, 1801-1825*, Ed., trans., intro., and notes by Harold B. Segel, 2 vol. (New York: Dutton, 1967). PG 3213 S4
5. Irina Reyfman, *Vasilii Trediakovsky: The Fool of the "New" Russian Literature* (Stanford: Stanford UP, 1990). PG 3319 T7 Z85 1991

6. Iu. M. Lotman and B. A. Uspensky, "Binary Models in the Dynamics of Russian Culture," *The Semiotics of Russian Cultural History: Essays by Iurii M. Lotman, Lidia Ia. Ginsburg, Boris A. Uspenskii*, intro. by Boris Gasparov, ed. by Alexander D. Nakhimovsky and Alice Stone Nakhimovsky. (Ithaca: Cornell UP, 1985). PG 2986 S45 1985

4T 2/14 Arkhaisty i novatory, Beseda liubitelei russkogo slova vs. Arzamas, Slavophiles and Westernizers (Translate Karamzin, and read the rest for content and style)

- ◆ Nikolai Mikhailovich Karamzin (1766-1826), "Moia ispoved'" (1802), *Izbrannye sochineniia* vol. 1 (Moscow-Leningrad, 1964), 729-39. PG3314 A6 1964
  - ◆ "O bogatstve iazyka" (1795) "Predislovie k al'manakhu "Aonidy" (1797), *Izbrannye stat'i i pis'ma* (Moscow: Sovremennik, 1982), 55-57. PG 3314 A6 1982
  - ◆ Ivan Andreevich Krylov (1769-1844), "Strekoza i muravei," *Sochineniia*, vol. 2 (Moscow, 1984), 496. PG 3337 K7 A6 1984
  - ◆ Aleksandr Semenovich Shishkov (1754-1841), "Rassuzhdenie o starom i novom sloge," (1803), *Sobranie sochinenii i perevodov* (St. Petersburg, 1818), 1-6. PG 3361 S45 1818A
  - ◆ Laurence Sterne (1713-68), *The Life and Opinions of Tristram Shandy, Gentleman* (1760), ed. by Melvyn New and Joan New (UP of Florida, 1978). PR3710 F78
1. *Selected Prose of N. M. Karamzin*, Trans. and intro. by Henry M. Nebel, Jr. (Evanston: Northwestern UP, 1969). PG 3314 A25
  2. Yuri Nikolaevich Tynianov (1894-1943), *Arkhaisty i novatory* (Leningrad: Priboi, 1929). PG 2933 T9 1929A

WINTER BREAK 2/20-2/24

5T 2/28 "Tochnost' i kratkost'"

- ◆ Aleksandr Sergeevich Pushkin (1799-1837), "Russkii Pelam" (1834), *Polnoe sobranie sochineniia v 17 t.*, vol. 8 (Moscow, 1940, 1999), 415-17. PG 3340 A1 1994
  - ◆ "O proze" (1822), *Pss*, vol. 11 (Moscow, 1949, 1996), 18-19.
  - ◆ Avdotia Petrovna Elagina (1789-1877), letter to V. A. Zhukovsky (1814), RGB 198.1.107, l. 1, str. 41 (transcription provided by Lina Bernstein).
1. Lina Bernstein, "Avdot'ia Petrovna Elagina and her Contribution to Russian Letters," *Slavic and East European Journal*, 40.2(Summer 1996): 215-35.  
<http://links.jstor.org/sici?sici=0037-6752%28199622%291%3A40%3A2%3C215%3AAPEAHC%3E2.0.CO%3B2-P>
  2. Viktor Vladimirovich Vinogradov, (1895-1969) *Iazyk Pushkina: Pushkin i istoriia russkogo literaturnogo iazyka* (1935) (Düsseldorf: Brücken-Verlag, 1969) PG 3359 V5 1969
  3. -----. *Slovar' iazyka Pushkina* (Moscow, 1956-61). PG 3350 A3 A7
  4. -----. *Stil' Pushkina* (Moscow, 1941). Pushkin's prose.

6T 3/7 Skaz

- ◆ Nikolai Vasilievich Gogol (1809-52), "Starosvetskie pomeschiki" (1835), *Sobranie sochinenii*, vol. 2 (Moscow, 1984-86), 7-8. PG 3332 A1 1984

- ◆ Vladimir Ivanovich Dal' (1801-72), "Skazka o Ivane Molodom Serzhante udaloi golove, bez rody, bez plemeni, sprosta bez prozvisshcha," (1832), *Izbrannye proizvedeniia* (Moscow: Izd. "Pravda", 1983), 365. PG3321 D2 A6 1983
  - ◆ *Russkie besstyzhie poslovitsy i pogovorki*, ed. by Mikhail Armalinsky (Minneapolis: MIP, 1992), 5-19. PN6505 S5 R82 1992
1. Dal', "Naputoe slovo" (1862), *Tolkovyi slovar' zhivogo veliko-russkogo iazyka* (1863-66)
  2. -----, *Poslovitsy russkogo naroda*, 2 vols. (Moscow, 1984). PN 6505 S5 P66 1984
- 7T 3/14 Literary Provincials
- ◆ Nadezhda Stepanovna Sokhanskaia [Nadezhda Kokhanovskaia] (1823-84), "Iz provintsialnoi galerei portretov" (1859), *Dacha na Petergofskoi doroge: Proza russkikh pisatelnits pervoi poloviny XIX veka*, ed. by V. Uchevova (Moscow: Sovremennik, 1987), 442-43. PG 3273 D34X 1986
  - ◆ Ivan Sergeevich Aksakov (1823-86), letter to Sokhanskaia, April 7, 1858, *Russkoe obozrenie* 43.2 (1897): 572-74.
  - ◆ Nikolai Semionovich Leskov (1831-95), "Levsha," *Sobranie sochinenii*. Ed. by V. G. Bazanova et al, vol. 7 (Moscow: Gos. izd-vo Khudozh. lit-ry, 1958.), 26-27. PG 3337 L5 1956
  - ◆ Koz'ma Prutkov (1803-63), "Mysli i aforizmy" (1884), *Polnoe sobranie sochinenii*, ed. by B. Ia. Bukhshtab (Moscow-Leningrad, 1965), 121-22. PG 3337 P9 1965
1. Mary Zirin, "Nadezhda Stepanovna Sokhanskaia," *Dictionary of Russian Women Writers*, ed. by Marina Ledkovskaia, Charlotte Rosenthal, and Mary Zirin (Westport, CT: Greenwood Press, 1994), 613-16. Reference: PG 2997 D53 1994
  2. Andrea Lanoux, "Nadezhda Sokhanskaia," *Russian Women Writers*, ed. by Christine D. Tomei, vol. 1 (New York: Garland, 1999), 333-47.
  3. B. M. Eikhenbaum, "Leskov and Contemporary Prose" (1924), *Russian Literary Triquarterly* 11 (Winter 1975), 211-24.
- 8T 3/21 Master Stylist
- ◆ Ivan Aleksandrovich Bunin (1870-1953), "Antonovskie iabloki" (1900), *Sobranie sochinenii*, vol. 2 (Moscow: "Khudozhestvennaia literatura", 1987), 158-59. PG 3453 B9 A1 1987
  - ◆ "Antonov Apples" (1900), trans. by Olga Shartse
- 9T 3/28 The Word
- ◆ Andrei Platonovich Platonov (1899-1951), *The Foundation Pit: Kotlovan: A Bi-Lingual Edition*, Eng. Trans. by Thomas P. Whitney, preface by Joseph Brodsky (Ann Arbor: Ardis 1973), 3-4, 163-65, 167-68. PG 3476 P543 K6813x
  - ◆ *The Foundation Pit*, trans. by Mirra Ginzburg (Evanston, IL: Northwestern UP, 1994), 3-4. PG 3476 P543 K6813 1996
- 10T 4/4 Exile
- ◆ Vladimir Vladimirovich Nabokov (1899-1977), *Lolita: roman*, trans. from English by the author (1965), intro. by Viktor Erofeev. (Moscow: Izvestiia, 1989). PS 3527 A15 L617 1989

- ◆ *The Annotated Lolita* (1955), ed., with preface, intro., and notes by Alfred Appel, Jr. (New York: Vintage Books, 1991.) PS 3527 A15 L6 1991
- ◆ *An English-Russian Dictionary of Nabokov's Lolita*, compiled by A. Nakhimovsky and S. Paperno (Ann Arbor, MI: Ardis, 1982). PS 3527 A15 L634 1982

SPRING BREAK 4/10-4/14

11T 4/18 The ZEK and the Slavophile

- ◆ Aleksandr Isaevich Solzhenitsyn (1918-), "Ne obychai degtem shchi belit', na to smetana," *Publisistika v trekh tomakh* vol. 1 (Iaroslav, 1995-), 7-12. PG 3488 O4 A6 1995
- ◆ "It Is Not the Custom to Lighten Cabbage Soup with Tar: For That We Have Sour Cream," *Russian Literature Triquarterly* 11 (Winter 1975), 264-69. Periodical: PG 2901 R86
- ◆ "Odin den' Ivana Denisovicha" (1962), "Matrenin dvor" (1963), *Rasskazy* (Frankfurt am Main: Posev, 1976), 5, 215.
- ◆ V.V. Vinogradov, "Zametki o stilistike sovremennoi sovetskoi literatury," *Literaturnaia gazeta*, (October 19, 1965), 2-3.
- ◆ David Remnick, "Deep in the Woods: Solzhenitsyn, a new book, and the new Russia," *The New Yorker*, August 6, 2001, 32-40.

12T 4/25 !@#%&! : Mat

- ◆ Viktor Erofeev (1947-), *Russkaia krasavitsa* (1980-82) (Moscow: A/O Politekst, 1992), 9-11. PG 3479.7 R58 R87 1992
  - ◆ *Russian Beauty*, trans. by Andrew Reynolds. (New York: Viking, 1992). PG 3479.7 R58 R8713 1992
  - ◆ "Dirty Words," *The New Yorker* (September 15, 2003): 42-48.
1. Victor Erofeev, "The Good Stalin," *The New Yorker* (28 December 1998/4 January 1999):
  2. Roman Jakobson, "On Realism in Art" (1921), *Readings in Russian Poetics: Formalist and Structuralist Views*, ed. by Ladislav Matejka and Krystyna Pomorska (Cambridge: MIT Press, 1971), 38-46.
  3. B. A. Uspenskii, "On the Origin of Russian Obscenities," trans. by Ralph Cleminson in *The Semiotics of Russian Culture*, by B. A. Uspenskii and Ju. M. Lotman, ed. by Ann Shukman (Ann Arbor: Michigan Slavic Contributions, 1984), 295-301. DK 32.7 L67 1984

13T 5/2 Erotica and Pornographic language

- ◆ Ivan Semionovich Barkov (1732-68) "Romans," Pchela i medved'," *Devich'ia igrushka, ili, Sochineniia gospodina Barkova*, ed. by A. Zorin and N. Sapov. (Moscow: Ladimir, 1992), 241-41. PG 3311 B3 D48 1992
- ◆ Vladimir Sorokin (1955), "Tridtsataia liubov' Mariny," *Sobranie sochineniï*, vol. 1 (Moscow: Ad Marginem, 1998). PG 3488 O66 1998
- ◆ Sally Laird, "Vladimir Sorokin," *Voices of Russian Literature: Interviews with Ten Contemporary Writers* (New York: Oxford UP, 1999), 143-62. PG 3017 L35X 1999
- ◆ Igor Kon, "Sexuality and Culture," in *Sex and Russian Society*, ed. by Igor Kon and James Riordan (Bloomington: Indiana UP, 1993), 15-44. HQ 18 S65 S46 1993

1. *Erotika v russkoi literature: Ot Barkova do nashikh dnei*, *Literaturnoe obozrenie*, special ed. (Moscow, 1992). Periodical: PG 2900 L54
  2. M. Levitt and A. Toporkov, eds. *Eros and Pornography in Russian Culture*, (Moscow: Ladomir, 1999). PG 3228 E75 E755X 1999
- 14T 5/9 Globalization: English and the Web
- ◆ Viktor Pelevin (1962-), <http://pelevin.nov.ru/>, <http://pelevin.nov.ru/romans/pe-genp/7.html>
  - ◆ *Generation "P": Roman* (Moskva: "Vagrius", 1999). PG 3485 E38 G46X 1999
  - ◆ *Babylon* [Generation "P"], trans. by Andrew Bromfield." (London: Faber, 2000). PG 3485 E38 G4613 2000
  - ◆ Sally Laird, "Viktor Pelevin," *Voices of Russian Literature: Interviews with Ten Contemporary Writers* (New York: Oxford UP, 1999), 178-92. PG 3017 L35X 1999
  - ◆ Irina Denezhkina (1981-), *Dai mne!*, [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Irina\\_Denezhkina](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Irina_Denezhkina)
  - ◆ *Give Me: (Songs for Lovers)*, trans. by Andrew Bromfield (New York: Simon & Schuster, 2005). PG 3491.6 E64 D4613 2005
  - ◆ Liesl Schillinger, "Sex, *Vodka and Rock 'n' Roll*," review of *Give Me*, *The New York Times Book Review* (April 3, 2005), 21.