Russian Honours Optional Modules for 2018-19

2018-9 S1

RU3022 The Nineteenth-Century Novel

The module is designed to build on the knowledge of Russian literature acquired at sub-honours level, and in particular to examine the genre of the novel as it developed in the nineteenth century. The most important writers of the period are studied, including works by Gogol, Turgenev, Dostoevsky and Tolstoy. Historical and literary context is provided through consideration of the Slavophile / Westerniser debate and literary realism.

Dr Whitehead.

RU3026 Modernist Fiction

The module is designed to build on the knowledge of twentieth-century Russian literature acquired at sub-honours level, with particular concentration on modernist fiction, experimental novels and theories of prose. Independent reading and study will form a major element of the module. Authors to be studied will include: Viktor Shklovskii, Elsa Triolet, Boris Pil’niak, M. Ageev, and Daniil Kharms.

Dr Finer.

RU3043 Theatre & Performance

This module is designed to build on the knowledge of Russian literature and culture acquired at sub-honours level, with a particular focus on the ground-breaking contribution made by Russian dramatists, directors and practitioners to theatre and performance in the twentieth century. Students will study key plays as well as their staging in society, engaging with the theory and practice of highly influential directors such as Vsevolod Meyerhold and Konstantin Stanislavsky, and taking into consideration choreography, music, set design and audience reception as vital components of a production. The module will examine the way political concerns and censorship impacted on the creation of Russian theatre and consider how competing visions of new identities, lifestyles and values were depicted on the stage. The syllabus will include works by authors such as Anton Chekhov, Vladimir Mayakovsky, Alexander Vampilov and Liudmila Petrushevskaya.

Dr Gardiner.

RU4152 Nabokov

This module focuses on the work of the Russian-American author, autobiographer, translator, and literary critic Vladimir Nabokov. It explores Nabokov’s work in each of these interlocking spheres of activity, and in both of the languages and traditions associated with his hyphenated nationality. The module highlights themes that recur throughout Nabokov’s oeuvre, including the relationship between art and life, the existence of an “otherworld”, and a passionate antipathy toward the grand narratives of Marx and Freud. It introduces students to one of the central literary
figures of the twentieth century and helps them position him in relation both to Russian literature and to broader trends in world literature – namely, modernism and postmodernism.

Dr Vaysman.

**RU4198 Short Dissertation**

The dissertation offers students the possibility of personal advanced study on a topic on which they already have adequate basic knowledge and for which a suitable Supervisor can be found. Guidance will be offered on research methods and on presentation. The dissertation can be either a) a study of a given body of primary material in a given perspective, or b) a critical review of a range of secondary material on a given subject. It should be no more than 5,000 words in length, be submitted in accordance with guidelines and deadlines, and normally be written in English. The topic must be formally agreed in advance with the potential supervisor.

*For Final Year Students Only.*

**RU4199 Long Dissertation**

The dissertation offers students the possibility of personal advanced study on a topic which they already have adequate basic knowledge and for which a suitable Supervisor can be found. Guidance will be offered on research methods and on presentation. The Dissertation will, as a rule, consist of a study of a given body of primary material in a given perspective. Its length should be 10,000 words maximum, and it should be submitted in accordance with guidelines and deadlines, and normally be written in English. The topic must be formally agreed in advance with both the research co-ordinator and the potential supervisor.

*For Final Year Students Only. Compulsory for Single Honours Russian.*

**2018-9 S2**

**RU3021 Golden Age Poetry**

The module is designed to develop the knowledge of Russian literature acquired at sub-honours level, and in particular to examine Russian poetry of the early nineteenth century. It begins with the theory of versification, after which the most important poets of the early nineteenth century are studied, together with key texts in Russian. These include Pushkin’s lyric poetry and novel in verse Eugene Onegin, and the poetry of Lermontov and Derzhavin.

Dr Finer.

**RU3030 Special Russian Author 20thC: Bulgakov**

The module is designed to build on the knowledge of twentieth-century Russian literature acquired at sub-honours level, with particular concentration on one major
author and examining especially those works that are not covered in sub-honours modules. Authors offered may include Mandel'shtam, Maiakovskii, Belyi, Solzhenitsyn, etc. Independent study will form a major element of the module.

Dr Gardiner.

RU4144 Crime Fiction

Russian crime fiction is a hugely popular genre with the contemporary reading public and yet one which remains relatively critically neglected. This module provides students with the opportunity to study the history of the practice of crime fiction in Russia from c.1860 up to the present day. Students will consider the specific socio-historical context of the birth of the genre in the reform period of the early 1860s, as well as issues of 'high' and 'low' aesthetic genres, before moving on to read a broad range of such works. Discussion throughout will focus on both the literary poetics of the works as well as their relationship to historical situation and debate. Authors to be studied include: Sokolovskii, Panov, Dostoevskii, Shkliarevskii, Chekhov, Sokolova, Shaginian and Akunin.

Dr Whitehead.

RU4151 City in Cinema

The history of Soviet cinema and the modern Soviet city are inextricably intertwined. From the very inception of the Communist state, the rapidly changing urban environment became a focus for cinematic reflection. Conversely, cinema played a fundamental role in forming urban identities through both the projection of an ideal of city life to communities and the collective experience of spectatorship. This module engages with representations of the city in Soviet and post-Soviet cinema as a utopian or dystopian space, a place of revolution, social transformation, warfare, invention, criminality, poverty, and memory. It looks at the ways the city has been understood and portrayed in Soviet cinema, from the use of mise-en-scène, montage, and editing, to dialogue, soundtracks and documentary recordings. The syllabus will include works by prominent Soviet and post-Soviet directors including Sergei Eisenstein, Vladimir Menshov, Aleksei Balabanov, and Valerii Gai Germanika.

Dr Donovan.

RU4198 Short Dissertation

The dissertation offers students the possibility of personal advanced study on a topic on which they already have adequate basic knowledge and for which a suitable Supervisor can be found. Guidance will be offered on research methods and on presentation. The dissertation can be either a) a study of a given body of primary material in a given perspective, or b) a critical review of a range of secondary material on a given subject. It should be no more than 5,000 words in length, be submitted in accordance with guidelines and deadlines, and normally be written in English. The topic must be formally agreed in advance with the potential supervisor.

Final Year Students Only.