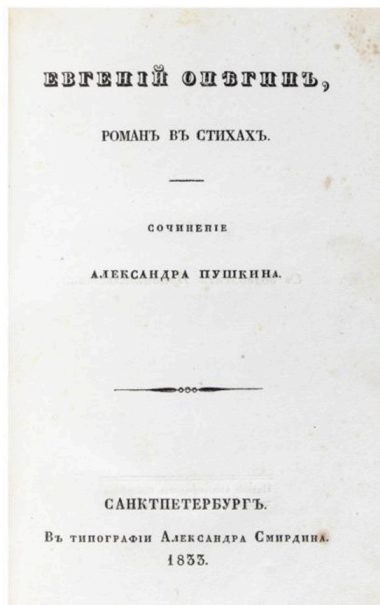


Russ 385: «Евгений Онегин»
Spring 2010



Instructor: Evgenii Bershtein
Wednesday, 6:10 – 9 PM
Vollum 234
Instructor's office: Vollum 228

Office hours: M and W, 2 to 3 PM, and
by appointment.
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Full course for one semester. Conference. The first task of this course is to give the students the firsthand knowledge of the book that is deemed the supreme and untranslatable masterpiece of Russian literature: Pushkin's novel in verse Evgenii Onegin. To meet this goal, we will undertake a close analytical reading of Pushkin's novel in the original Russian. The second goal of the course is to explore the artistic structure of Onegin, its literary, cultural and historical contexts, the tradition generated by the book, and the attempts to render it in the non-literary medium (viz., musical theater). The structure of our classes will reflect the double task of the course: each class will include my mini-lecture in Russian, the translation and analysis of a portion of Pushkin's text, the discussion of a literary and/or scholarly text that elucidate the meaning of Onegin and the relevant literary traditions. The languages of our analysis and discussions will be both Russian and English. **Prerequisite:** Russ 220 or the consent of the instructor. **Workload:** extensive reading, much of it in Russian; a take-home midterm and a choice between a final paper (12 pages) or take-home final exam at the end of the semester. Please buy the required books. In addition, some reading will be assigned from the books placed on the library course reserve as well as electronic reserve items, accessible via Moodle. **Your evaluation** will be based on your contribution to the conference, exam(s), and/or your final paper. The website Staroe Radio features the audio recordings of Onegin made by famous Russian actors, such as Yurii Zavadsky, Innokentii Smoktunovsky, and Sergei Yursky. Please use these recordings as you rehearse your own reading of Pushkin's text: <http://www.staroeaudio.ru/collection.php?l=%D0%9F>.

Books to buy:

(I) Required and available from the Reed College bookstore:
Pushkin, Eugene Onegin (in Russian) (Bristol Classical Press)
Goethe, The Sorrows of Young Werther (Vintage Books)
Benjamin Constan, Adolphe (Oxford University Press)
Lord Byron, Poetry and Prose. (W.W. Norton & Company)
Serena Vitale, Pushkin's Button (University of Chicago Press)
Vikram Seth, The Golden Gate (Vintage Books)

(II) Required but out of print:

Sona Hoisington, ed. Russian Views of Pushkin's Eugene Onegin. (Indiana University Press; ISBN: 0253350670, get a copy from Amazon.com or another vendor, or use a library reserve copy; some chapters will be made available via Moodle).
Turgenev, Rudin (full text available on-line from Google Books, please print it out or buy your own copy).

(III) Recommended:

S. Dalton-Brown. Pushkin's Evgenii Onegin. (Bristol Classical Press) [available from the Reed bookstore and the course reserve]
Pushkin, Eugene Onegin, tr. Vladimir Nabokov. [Paperback: Vol. 1. (translation) is available from the Reed College bookstore, Vol. 2 (commentary) is available from the library reserve].



Рисунок Пушкина: автор с Онегиным.

Syllabus

January 27

Reading assignment: begin Chapter One of Evgenii Onegin (while reading it, please listen to the audio files on StaroeRadio.Ru and consult Nabokov's translation and commentary).

Nabokov, I, 3-90.

February 3

Reading:: EO, Chapter One (continue).

Lord Byron, "Childe Harold's Pilgrimage," Canto the Third (Byron's Poetry and Prose, 196-227), and "Don Juan," Canto the First (*ibid.*, 375-436).

February 10

Reading:: EO, Chapter One (finish).

Benjamin Constant, Adolphe.

February 17

Reading: EO, Chapter Two (begin).

Goethe, The Sorrows of Young Werther.

February 24

Reading: EO, Chapter Two (finish).

Lotman "The Structure of Evgenii Onegin" (Hoisington, 91-114).

March 3

Reading: EO, Chapter Three.

Bakhtin, "Discourse in Evgenii Onegin" (Hoisington, 115-121). Boris Gasparov, "Pushkin and Romanticism" (from The Pushkin Handbook, David Bethea, ed., University of Wisconsin Press, 2005, 537-567, e-reserve).

Interlude (to be scheduled): the screening of the film opera Evgenii Onegin (USSR, 1959).

March 10

Reading: EO, Chapter Four.

Boris Gasparov, "Eugene Onegin in the Age of Realism" (from his Five Operas and a Symphony: Word and Music in Russian Culture. Yale UP, 2005, 58-94, e-reserve).

The take-home midterm is due on Thursday, March 18, at noon, in the instructor's office. Electronic submissions are discouraged.

Spring break

March 24

Reading: EO, Chapter Five.

Sergei Bocharov, "The Stylistic World of the Novel" (Hoisington, 122-168)

March 31

Reading: EO, Chapter Six.

Serena Vitale, Pushkin's Button, chapters 1-8.

April 7 (we will host Professor John Randolph as a guest instructor)

Reading: EO, Chapter Seven.

Serena Vitale, Pushkin's Button, chapters 8-16.

April 14

Reading: EO, Chapter Eight.

Puskin's letters to his wife Nataliia Nikolaevna Pushkina (handout).

Belinsky, "Eugene Onegin: An Encyclopedia of Russian Life," Pisarev, "Pushkin and Belinsky," Dostoevsky, "Pushkin." (Hoisington, 17-71)

April 21

Reading: EO, "Отрывки из путешествия Онегина."

Turgenev, Rudin (Google Books or a library copy. Please bring the text to class).

Interlude (to be scheduled): the screening of Dmitrii Cherniakov's 2006 production of Tchaikovsky's Evgenii Onegin for the Bolshoi Theatre.

April 28

Reading: Vikram Seth, The Golden Gate.

Final papers or take-home finals are due on **Monday, May 10**, at noon, in the instructor's office. Electronic submissions are discouraged.



Глава 8. Иллюстрация художника Н.Кузьмина

