

RUSS 4900-003 Special Topics: 20-th Century Russian Literature

With Dr. Garn, TH 3.40-5.00, BU C 106



This course will explore some of the prominent themes and trends of the twentieth-century Russian short prose, from the very beginning of the century to the 1980s. We will discuss “love and death” in the stories of two writers of the classical vein: Anton Pavlovich Chekhov and Nobel prize laureate Ivan Bunin. We will get acquainted with a representative of “village prose,” - writer, actor, film director and scriptwriter Vasilii Shukshin. The course will conclude with two women writers, Natal’ia Baranskaia and Tat’iana Tolstaia. Screen versions of some of their stories will help us consider the life of these texts beyond one medium. This course will allow you to get acquainted with exciting texts by important twentieth-century Russian authors, and to experience reading Russian literature in the original, while working on your language skills, particularly reading and writing. Literary texts and class discussions will be in Russian; some of the secondary sources may be in English.

*Prerequisites for this course are: RUSS 3040/3050, or RUSS 3060/3070, or an equivalent (which has to be discussed with your instructor no later than the first week of the semester.)