

# Deconstructing the New Person

## UNDERGROUND LITERATURE OF THE SOVIET PERIOD



SPRING 2014

TUESDAY & THURSDAYS

12:25 TO 1:45

WITH PROF. LAURSEN

In the USSR there were two literatures: official literature, ruled by Socialist Realism, and underground literature, typed in secret on carbons and circulated clandestinely (samizdat) or smuggled to the West for publication (tamizdat), at great danger to the writer.

Through essays on Soviet literature and culture and excerpts from official Soviet literature, we will explore the Soviet vision of time, literature, society, and the new Soviet human being. At the same time we will discuss novels that subvert this vision through parody and science fiction: Zamyatin's futuristic dystopia *We*, Platonov's parody of a construction novel *Foundation Pit*, Bulgakov's story of a Soviet Frankenstein, *Heart of a Dog*, and of the devil's visit to Moscow, *Master and Margarita*, Voinovich's tale of a sad-sack soldier mystified by Soviet propaganda, *The Life and Extraordinary Adventures of Private Ivan Chonkin*, and Pelevin's story of a Soviet cosmonaut's surreal trip to the moon, *Omon Ra*.

RUSS 4720 fulfills the upper-level communication and writing requirement (cw) and the literature requirement for the Russian major. CLCS 4900 fulfills the elective requirement for the Comparative Literary and Cultural Studies (CLCS) major.

RUSS4720-001

CLCS 4900-004

READINGS AND  
DISCUSSIONS IN ENGLISH.

 *Languages and Literature*  
THE COLLEGE OF HUMANITIES

