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**Federal State Autonomous Educational Institution for Higher Education  
PEOPLES' FRIENDSHIP UNIVERSITY OF RUSSIA  
NAMED AFTER PATRICE LUMUMBA  
(RUDN UNIVERSITY)**

**FACULTY OF PHILOLOGY**

## **COURSE SYLLABUS**

### **Masterpieces of Russian Literature**

**Recommended by the Didactic Council for the Education Field of:**

**45.04.01 Philology**

**The course instruction is implemented within the professional education programme  
of higher education:**

**“Language and Culture: Theory and Practice”**

**(in English)**

**2025**

## 1. COURSE GOAL:

The main goal of the course is to introduce students to the history of Russian Literature. The discipline “Masterpieces of Russian Literature” involves an integrative systematic approach to the studies of analysis by methods of Literary studies / Literary criticism (incl. in cross-cultural and comparative aspects). The discipline includes studies based on systemic principles of Literary hermeneutics, Culturology and Literary theory (incl. evolution of literary systems / forms and linguocultural aspects) based on the masterpieces of Russian Literature.

The course focuses on the history of Russian Literature from the beginning to the end of 19<sup>th</sup> Century – main works, authors, trends of literary evolution on the (linguo/geo)cultural, language and historical background. The course aims to give a systematic view of the main personalities, works and processes of Russian literature from its origins to the turn of the 19-20<sup>th</sup> centuries from the angle of historical poetics and 'dialectical continuity' of artistic systems (systems of worldviews and its incarnations in art / literary forms), dynamics of genre systems from the Enlightenment, Classicism, Sentimentalism, Romanticism, „Natural School“ to historical variations of Realism and (Pre-)Modernism. The literary heritage of Alexander Pushkin, Mikhail Lermontov, Nikolay Gogol, Fedor Dostoevsky, Leo Tolstoy, Ivan Turgenev, Anton Chekhov in the context of world literature trends are especially studied.

### Course goals:

- to determine background and concepts of the methodology of Literary Hermeneutics with an emphasis on linguo-cultural and historical-cultural specific features of literary works in general based on the masterpieces of Russian Literature;
- to study main methods of Literary studies;
- to identify the main cross-cultural, linguo-cultural and hermeneutical strategies of scientific research.

## 2. REQUIREMENTS FOR LEARNING OUTCOMES

The process of studying discipline “Masterpieces of Russian Literature” is aimed at the development of the following competences:

Table 2.1. *List of competences that students acquire:*

Competence Code	Competence descriptor	Competence formation indicators (within this course)
UC-5	Able to analyze and take into account the diversity of cultures in the process of intercultural interaction.	UC-5.1 Interprets the history of Russia in the context of world historical development
		UC-5.4 Collects information on a given topic, taking into account the ethnic groups and confessions that are widely represented at the points of the study
GPC-2	Able to manage a project at all stages of its life cycle.	PC-2.1. Able to solve research problems in the field of synchronous analysis of the language system, speech and acts of communication. GPC-2.2 Possesses the skills of reading and interpreting scientific works in the chosen field of philology.
GPC-3	Able to use in professional (including pedagogical) activities in-depth knowledge in the chosen specific field	PC-3.1. Able to present the results of research in the form of a scientific publication, oral presentation, abstract and summary.

	of philology and possession of a wide range of methods and techniques of philological work with various types of texts.	GPC-3.2. Correctly applies the techniques of linguistic and literary text analysis in the chosen field of philology.
<b>PC-3</b>	Possesses the skills of qualified analysis, commenting and summarizing the results of scientific research using modern techniques and methodologies, advanced domestic and foreign experience	PC-3.2 Correctly analyzes the history of the study of the scientific problem

### 3. COURSE IN THE EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMME STRUCTURE:

The course is a part of the variable component (Block 1) of the educational programme academic curriculum.

As part of the Educational programme, students also master other disciplines and / or practices that contribute to the achievement of the planned results of mastering the course.

*Table № 3.1. List of the Educational Programme components contributing to the achievement of the planned results of mastering the discipline*

<b>Code</b>	<b>Precedent disciplines / modules, practice</b>	<b>Following disciplines / modules, practice</b>
<b>UC-5</b>	Theory of Intercultural Communication	<b>Pedagogical Training</b>
<b>GPC-2</b>	Philology in the System of Modern Humanities Planning a Research Project	Research Work Scientific and Research Training
<b>GPC-3</b>	Philology in the System of Modern Humanities Planning a Research Project Fundamentals of Foreign Language Teaching	Research Work Scientific and Research Training
<b>PC-3</b>	Planning a Research Project Theory and History of Linguistics	Research Work Scientific and Research Training

### 4. COURSE WORKLOAD AND TYPES OF ACADEMIC ACTIVITIES

The total course workload is 5 credit units.

*Table 4.1 Types of **academic activities** by periods of the Academic Programme mastering for **full-time** education*

<b>Types of academic activities</b>		<b>Total</b>	<b>Semesters</b>
			2
<i>Classroom-based studies, academic hours</i>			
<i>including:</i>			
Lectures (L)		17	17
laboratory work (LW)			
practical work (PW)/ seminars (S)		34	34
Self-studies, <i>academic hours</i>		93	93
Control, <i>academic hours</i>		36	36
Total	<i>academic hours</i>	180	180
	<i>credits</i>	5	5

## 5. COURSE CONTENT

### 5.1. Content of the discipline by the type of educational work:

Title of course unit	Content of the course unit	Type of academic activities
Introduction to Studies of Literature.	Main definitions and terms. Oral, written and electronic literature. Literary and non-literary facts. Poetic function of language. Myth, folklore, literature. Intertextuality. Literature as a system in diachronic and synchronic perspectives.	L, S
Russian Literature of the 1st half of 19th Cent.	Russian Romanticism. Lyrics of Vassily Zhukovsky. Poets of Golden epoch of Russian poetry.	L, S
Literary legacy of Alexander Pushkin	Biography of Alexander Pushkin. Pushkin's lyrics. Novel in verse <i>Yevgeny Onegin</i> . Poem <i>Copper Rider</i> . Pushkin's prose and plays.	L, S
Literary legacy of Mikhail Lermontov	Biography of Mikhail Lermontov. Lermontov's poems <i>Mtsyri</i> and <i>Demon</i> among Byronic poems in Russian Literature. Psychological novel <i>Hero four Our Time</i> by Lermontov.	L, S
Literary legacy of Nikolay Gogol	Biography of Nikolay Gogol. Comic, tragic and mystic elements in Gogol's masterpieces: <i>Nights on the farmstead near Dikanka</i> , <i>Mirgorod</i> , <i>Dead Souls</i> , <i>The Inspector-General</i> , <i>Diary of a Madman</i> , <i>The Nose</i> , <i>The Overcoat</i> . Journal controversy of Slavophiles and Westernists. Authors and ideas of "Natural School"	L, S
Literary legacy of Ivan Turgenev	Biography of Ivan Turgenev. Turgenev's novel <i>Fathers and Sons</i> .	L, S
Literary legacy of Leo Tolstoy	Biography of Leo Tolstoy. Autobiographic trilogy and <i>Sevastopol stories</i> . Tolstoy's epic novel <i>War and Peace</i> . Tolstoy's novel <i>Anna Karenina</i> (or <i>Resurrection</i> ). Tolstoy's philosophy and attitude to art. Tolstoism.	L, S
Literary legacy of Fyodor Dostoevsky	Biography of Fyodor Dostoevsky. Dostoevsky's novels <i>Crime and Punishment</i> and <i>The Brothers Karamazov</i> .	L, S
Literary legacy of Anton Chekhov	Biography of Anton Chekhov. Novelty of Chekhov's short stories and plays. <i>Brevity is the sister of talent</i> . Chekhovian ideal of „objectivity“ and <i>intelligentnost'</i> .	L, S
Russian Literature and the <i>Fin de siècle</i> .	Concept <i>Fin de siècle</i> . Literary modernism, literary impressionism and classic tradition. Features of the	L, S

	<i>Fin de siècle</i> in masterpieces of Russian writers, poets and playwrights at the turn of 20 <sup>th</sup> Century	
Final Review	Systematic review of acquired knowledge based on historical periodization of literary process	L, S

## 8. TECHNICAL SUPPORT

It is necessary to have a computer or a laptop (with installed licensed software and the Internet) and a projector in a classroom.

*Table 6.1. Technical Support*

Type of the classroom	Classroom equipment	Specialized educational / laboratory equipment, software and materials for mastering the discipline
Classroom for Lectures	A classroom for lecture-type classes, equipped with a set of furniture; board (screen/ smart board) and technical means for multimedia presentations.	
Classroom for seminars	A classroom for conducting seminar-type classes, group and individual consultations, current control and intermediate certification, equipped with a set of specialized furniture and technical means for multimedia presentations.	
Classroom for self-studies	A classroom for independent work of students (can be used for seminars and consultations), equipped with a set of specialized furniture and computers with access to the electronic educational system.	

## 7. EDUCATIONAL-METHODOLOGICAL AND INFORMATION SUPPORT OF THE COURSE

### Books and manuals:

#### Main

The Cambridge Introduction to Russian Literature / Emerson Caryl. – Книга на английском языке. – Cambridge : Cambridge University Press, 2008. – 292 p. – ISBN 978-0-521-84469-7 : 772.20. 3 copies

Russian Literature and the Classics / Ed. P.I.Barta, D.H.J.Larmour, P.A.Miller. – Книга на английском языке. – Amsterdam : Harwood academic publishers, 1996. – 191 p. – (Studies in Russian and European Literature ; V.1). – ISBN 3-7186-0605-4 : 3166.90. 3 copies

#### Additional

The Cambridge History of Russian Literature / Moser Charles A. – Revised Edition ; Книга на английском языке. – Cambridge : Cambridge University Press, 1992. – 709 p. – ISBN 0-521-42567-0 : 2202.20. 3 copies

Reference guide to Russian literature / Ed. by N.Cornwell, N.Christian. – Книга на английском языке. – Chicago ; London : Fitzroy Dearborn publishers, 1998. – 972 p. : il. – ISBN 1-884964-10-9 : 8126.80. 3 copies

## Internet resources:

### **Databases, search engines and reference data:**

- ☑ RUDN library online site – <http://lib.rudn.ru>
- ☑ Institute of Russian Literature (the Pushkin House / Pushkinsky Dom). Collections (in English) – <http://www.pushkinskijdom.ru/Default.aspx?tabid=1237>
- ☑ Russian Studies in Literature (journal) – <https://www.tandfonline.com/loi/mrsl20>
- ☑ The Project Gutenberg EBook. An Outline of Russian Literature by Maurice Baring – <http://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/33005>
- ☑ Internet Public Library, the University of Michigan – [www.ipl.org](http://www.ipl.org)
- ☑ Vladimir Nabokov: Lectures on Russian literature (online) – <http://booksonline.com.ua/view.php?book=104145>
- ☑ Classics of Russian Literature. By prof. Irwin Weil – <https://www.thegreatcourses.com/courses/classics-of-russian-literature.html>
- ☑ From the Ends to the Beginning : A Bilingual Web Anthology of Russian Verse (English/Russian) – <http://max.mmlc.northwestern.edu/mdenner/Demo/alphabetical.html>
- ☑ Russian Literature (online-textbooks) – <https://archive.org/search.php?query=russian%20literature>
- ☑ Dmitry Likhachov. Poetics of Early Russian Literature (Ebook) – <https://www.litmir.me/bd/?b=408938>
- ☑ Formalism: Method and Glossary – [https://campusnet.sebts.edu/pluginfile.php/198954/mod\\_resource/content/7/Formalism.pdf](https://campusnet.sebts.edu/pluginfile.php/198954/mod_resource/content/7/Formalism.pdf)
- ☑ Yuri Tynianov.
  - \*Problems of the Study of Literature and Language (*with Roman Jakobson*).
  - \*Literary Fact. On Literary Evolution. On Parody
  - \*Dostoevsky and Gogol (Toward a Theory of Parody).In: Yuri Tynianov. *Permanent Evolution: Selected Essays on Literature, Theory and Film*. – [https://www.academia.edu/35542205/Yuri\\_Tynianov\\_Permanent\\_Evolution\\_Selected\\_Essays\\_on\\_Literature\\_Theory\\_and\\_Film](https://www.academia.edu/35542205/Yuri_Tynianov_Permanent_Evolution_Selected_Essays_on_Literature_Theory_and_Film)
- ☑ Web: <http://eng-rus.ru/russianliterature/> (two language parallel texts)
- ☑ Nabokov V.V. Lectures on Russian Literature – [https://thenabokovian.org/annotations/Lectures\\_on\\_Russian\\_Literature](https://thenabokovian.org/annotations/Lectures_on_Russian_Literature)  
[https://graycity.net/vladimir-nabokov/381624-lectures\\_on\\_russian\\_literature.html](https://graycity.net/vladimir-nabokov/381624-lectures_on_russian_literature.html)  
[https://royallib.com/book/nabokov\\_vladimir/lectures\\_on\\_russian\\_literature.html](https://royallib.com/book/nabokov_vladimir/lectures_on_russian_literature.html)  
<https://b-ok.cc/book/967147/d41e05>

**Wikipedia.** The Free Encyclopedia (restricted use) – [www.wikipedia.org](http://www.wikipedia.org)

**List of Russian-language novelists** – [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List\\_of\\_Russian-language\\_novelists](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Russian-language_novelists)

**List of Russian-language poets** – [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List\\_of\\_Russian-language\\_poets](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Russian-language_poets)

**List of Russian-language playwrights** – [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List\\_of\\_Russian-language\\_playwrights](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_Russian-language_playwrights)

- ✓ Best Russian Short Stories by Pushkin, Gogol, Turgenev, Dostoyevsky, Chekhov (Full Audiobook) – <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=niMC0mXc0bg>
- ✓ The Project Gutenberg EBook of Lectures on Russian Literature, by Ivan Panin (1889) – <http://www.gutenberg.org/files/31554/31554-h/31554-h.htm#Lecture2>
- ✓ The Project Gutenberg eBook, A Survey of Russian Literature, with Selections, by Isabel Florence Hapgood – <http://www.gutenberg.org/files/20980/20980-h/20980-h.htm>
- ✓ Russia Beyond (*section 'Art. Culture'*; restricted use) – <https://www.rbth.com/arts>
- ✓ Books on-line: <https://www.labirint.ru/genres/3087/>

[https://karo.spb.ru/category\\_1/category\\_116/](https://karo.spb.ru/category_1/category_116/)  
<https://glagoslav.com/product-category/russian-books/>  
<https://www.ryzhakov.co.uk/russian-literature/>  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?time\\_continue=1&v=FjQoKANOzOY](https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=1&v=FjQoKANOzOY)

### **Russian Poetry in English:**

- ☞ <https://ruverses.com/>
- ☞ Pushkin: [https://www.poetryloverspage.com/poets/pushkin/pushkin\\_ind.html](https://www.poetryloverspage.com/poets/pushkin/pushkin_ind.html)  
[http://famouspoetsandpoems.com/poets/alexander\\_pushkin/poems](http://famouspoetsandpoems.com/poets/alexander_pushkin/poems)
- ☞ Lermontov: [http://www.poetryloverspage.com/poets/lermontov/lermontov\\_ind.html](http://www.poetryloverspage.com/poets/lermontov/lermontov_ind.html) /  
<http://www.kulichki.com/poems/Poets/ml/Eng/ml.html>
- ☞ <https://sites.google.com/site/poetryandtranslations/>
- ☞ <http://max.mmlc.northwestern.edu/mdenner/Demo/poetpage/lomonosov.htm>
- ☞ <http://max.mmlc.northwestern.edu/mdenner/Demo/poetpage/derzhavin.htm>
- ☞ [http://max.mmlc.northwestern.edu/mdenner/Demo/texts/elephant\\_pug.htm](http://max.mmlc.northwestern.edu/mdenner/Demo/texts/elephant_pug.htm)  
[http://max.mmlc.northwestern.edu/mdenner/Demo/texts/swan\\_pike\\_crawfish.htm](http://max.mmlc.northwestern.edu/mdenner/Demo/texts/swan_pike_crawfish.htm)  
<http://max.mmlc.northwestern.edu/mdenner/Demo/texts/quartet.htm>
- ☞ <http://max.mmlc.northwestern.edu/mdenner/Demo/poetpage/zhukovsky.html>
- ☞ <http://max.mmlc.northwestern.edu/mdenner/Demo/poetpage/batiushkov.html>
- ☞ <http://max.mmlc.northwestern.edu/mdenner/Demo/poetpage/pushkin.html>
- ☞ <http://max.mmlc.northwestern.edu/mdenner/Demo/poetpage/baratynsky.html>
- ☞ <http://max.mmlc.northwestern.edu/mdenner/Demo/poetpage/lermontov.html>
- ☞ <http://max.mmlc.northwestern.edu/mdenner/Demo/poetpage/nekrasov.htm>
- ☞ <http://max.mmlc.northwestern.edu/mdenner/Demo/poetpage/tiutchev.html>
- ☞ <http://max.mmlc.northwestern.edu/mdenner/Demo/poetpage/fet.htm>

### **Top Recommendations**

- ✧ Top 13 Timeless Russian Love Stories – <http://www.ryzhakov.co.uk/st-valentines-blog-top-timeless-russian-love-stories/>
- ✧ 10 Russian short stories that will change your life dramatically – <https://www.rbth.com/arts/330668-best-russian-short-stories-novellas>
- ✧ 5 poems that every Russian knows by heart – <https://www.rbth.com/arts/330790-most-popular-russian-poems>
- ✧ Top 20 Russian books that influenced me the most – <http://www.ryzhakov.co.uk/top-20-russian-books-that-influenced-me-the-most/>
- ✧ Greatest Russian Novels of All Time – [https://www.goodreads.com/list/show/17853.Greatest\\_Russian\\_Novels\\_of\\_All\\_Time](https://www.goodreads.com/list/show/17853.Greatest_Russian_Novels_of_All_Time)
- ✧ The Best Russian Novels (Ranker Books) – <https://www.ranker.com/list/best-russian-novels/ranker-books>
- ✧ Top-20: <https://qwiklit.com/2013/05/14/20-great-russian-novels-you-should-read-right-now/>
- ✧ The Greatest Works of Russian Literature Everyone Should Read – <https://www.thoughtco.com/best-works-russian-literature-4158120>
- ✧ 10 Russian Novels to Read Before You Die – <https://www.thedailybeast.com/10-russian-novels-to-read-before-you-die>

## **8. ASSESSMENT TOOLKIT AND GRADING SYSTEM\* FOR EVALUATION OF STUDENTS' COMPETENCES**

The assessment toolkit and the grading system\* to evaluate the level of competences (competences in part) formation as the discipline results are specified in the Appendix to the internship syllabus.

\* The assessment toolkit and the grading system are formed on the basis of the requirements of the relevant local normative act of RUDN University (regulations / order).

## DEVELOPERS

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Associate Professor of the Russian and  
Foreign Literature Department

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Korenkova T.V.

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## HEAD OF THE DEPARTMENT:

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Russian and Foreign Literature  
Department

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Kovalenko A.G.

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## HEAD OF THE ACADEMIC PROGRAM:

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Associate professor of the General &  
Russian Linguistics Department

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Aleksandrova O.I.

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