

## Overview of Russian Literature (A005450)

**Course size** *(nominal values; actual values may depend on programme)*

**Credits 5.0**

**Study time 150 h**

### Course offerings and teaching methods in academic year 2025-2026

A (semester 2)

Dutch

Gent

group work

independent work

lecture

seminar

### Lecturers in academic year 2025-2026

Geerardyn, Tilde

LW21

staff member

Dhooge, Ben

LW21

lecturer-in-charge

### Offered in the following programmes in 2025-2026

[Bachelor of Arts in East European Languages and Cultures](#)

**crdts**

5

**offering**

A

[Elective Set Languages of Asia, the Middle East and Eastern Europe](#)

5

A

[Elective Set Literature](#)

5

A

### Teaching languages

Dutch

### Keywords

Literature written in Russian, Middle Ages – 20th century, historical survey, literary analysis

### Position of the course

This introductory course aims to provide insight into the development of literature written in Russian from the Middle Ages until the 20th century through (fragments of) literary works of the most important Russian writers writing in Russian. The student will also be introduced to fundamental concepts for analyzing poems and narrative prose and will be taught how to apply them on the basis of a selection of text (in Dutch for students who do not know Russian, in Russian or Dutch for students of the study program East European Languages and Cultures).

### Contents

This overview of the development of Russian literature from the Middle Ages until the late 20th century (lecture) is illustrated with short fragments from novels, short stories, plays and/or poems by canonical writers, from the *Primary Chronicle* via Karamzin and Puškin, Dostoevskij and Tolstoj, Majakovskij and Achmatova to Solženicyn and Sorokin. Attention is devoted to the literary and cultural context. In the analysis part of the course (seminar), several texts or textfragments will be subjected to a more thorough literary analysis. Finally, the student independently reads Russian-language literature (prose, poetry, drama), also from the 21st century, in translation.

### Initial competences

Students who are not in the program 'East European Languages and Cultures': no specific competencies required apart from the expected average competencies acquired during secondary education.

Students of the study program 'East European Languages and Cultures' course: to have successfully completed the following course components Russian: Grammar I, Russian: Grammar II, Russian: Language Proficiency I and Russian: Language Proficiency II or to have acquired the intended competencies in a different way.

## Final competences

- 1 To have critical insight into the qualities and historical specificities of literature written in Russian.
- 2 To read and interpret (fragments of) Russian language lyrical, prose and / or dramatic texts in the original language or in translation.
- 3 To situate (canonical) literary texts written in Russian in their literary and social context.
- 4 To analyze literary texts written in Russian.
- 5 To apply the basic insights and basic terminology of literary analysis.
- 6 To fulfill short assignments on a literary work on the basis of a concrete research assignment (text based).
- 7 To reflect critically and comment in a constructive way on a paper by peers and to formulate one's thoughts in a short report.
- 8 To find information in secondary literature and use this information in a written assignment.

## Conditions for credit contract

Access to this course unit via a credit contract is unrestricted: the student takes into consideration the conditions mentioned in 'Starting Competences'

## Conditions for exam contract

This course unit cannot be taken via an exam contract

## Teaching methods

Group work, Seminar, Lecture, Independent work

## Extra information on the teaching methods

Historical survey (lectures). The lecture is recorded for working students, students with relevant facilities, students with overlap and students who are absent due to illness; access to the recordings must be requested.

Interactive seminar: students prepare by reading literary texts before each seminar, in which the texts are being analysed.

Independent work: multiple, but short written analyses of a literary text on the basis of concrete questions for analysis; two peer review reports; to read independently a number of works from a reading list and to look up additional information in the relevant literature.

## Study material

Type: Handbook

Name: Van Poesjkin tot Zamjatin. 18 geannoteerde verhalen uit de Russische literatuur.

Indicative price: € 25

Optional: yes

Language : Dutch

Author : Otto Boele en Ben Dhooge

ISBN : 978-9-06143-470-2

Online Available : No

Available in the Library : Yes

Available through Student Association : Yes

Usability and Lifetime within the Course Unit : regularly

Usability and Lifetime within the Study Programme : regularly

Usability and Lifetime after the Study Programme : not

Additional information: Deze bundel wordt ook gebruikt voor het opvolgvak Russische literatuur: Capita selecta. De studenten kunnen zelf beslissen of ze deze bundel (alvast) aanschaffen. De teksten die in deze bundel staan worden niet via Ufora verschaft.

Type: Handbook

Name: Geschiedenis van de literatuur in Rusland: 1700-2000.

Indicative price: € 40

Optional: yes

Language : Dutch

Author : Emmanuel Waegemans

ISBN : 978-9-46001-423-9

Online Available : No

Available in the Library : Yes

Available through Student Association : No

Usability and Lifetime within the Course Unit : regularly  
Usability and Lifetime within the Study Programme : regularly  
Usability and Lifetime after the Study Programme : regularly

Type: Slides

Name: PPT  
Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty  
Optional: no  
Language : Dutch  
Available on Ufora : Yes  
Online Available : No  
Available in the Library : No  
Available through Student Association : No

Type: Reader

Name: Reader with poems, stories and fragments.  
Indicative price: Free or paid by faculty  
Optional: no  
Language : Dutch  
Available on Ufora : Yes  
Online Available : No  
Available in the Library : No  
Available through Student Association : No

## References

### Course content-related study coaching

The lecturer is available before and after each lecture; contact hours by appointment

### Assessment moments

end-of-term and continuous assessment

### Examination methods in case of periodic assessment during the first examination period

Written assessment open-book

### Examination methods in case of periodic assessment during the second examination period

Written assessment open-book

### Examination methods in case of permanent assessment

Peer and/or self assessment, Assignment

### Possibilities of retake in case of permanent assessment

examination during the second examination period is possible in modified form

### Extra information on the examination methods

Permanent evaluation (30%): papers, peer review reports (participation).  
Periodic evaluation (70%): written open book exam (questions on one or more of the texts discussed in class (seminars), about the literary developments (lectures) and about works from the reading list).

The student passes the course when a pass is obtained for the course as a whole (even if an unsatisfactory mark is obtained for one of the components).  
If the student does not pass the course as a whole, the successful scores for nonperiodical or periodical evaluation will be transferred to the second examination period.  
During the second examination period, the non-periodical evaluation can be compensated by means of a compensatory activity between the first and second examination period. The periodical evaluation can be compensated by an exam in the second examination period.  
The deadlines must be respected. Failure to do so may lead to a loss of points.

### Calculation of the examination mark

Written exam: 70%  
Papers, peer review reports: 30%.

### Facilities for Working Students

Attendance is required to successfully complete the course.

(Approved)

Lectures and seminars are not being streamed or recorded, but sufficient online learning material is being provided.

Possibility to take the exam at a different time within the regular exam period.

Possibility of feedback at a different time: please make an appointment.