

LEH-300: The Mystery of St. Petersburg
Spr 2007, Section D01
Tuesdays, Thursdays 12.30-1.45
CA 209

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COURSE REQUIREMENTS – DETAILS ON **BLACKBOARD** (account required):

1. access to course site in Blackboard for all assignments;
2. participation in class discussions;
3. two essays;
4. two examinations: midterm and final.

BOOKS:

Required:

- *Lydia Chukovskaya. "Sofia Petrovna".*

Recommended (required reading, but the texts are available on the Internet)

- *"Alexander Pushkin" (Everyman's Poetry)*, in which we will read *A. Pushkin. "The Bronze Horseman"*
- *Alexander Pushkin. "The Queen of Spades and the Other Stories"* (we will read "The Queen of Spades")
- *Nikolai Gogol. Plays and Petersburg Tales*", in which we will read "*The Overcoat*" and "*Nevsky Prospect*"
- *Fyodor Dostoevsky. "A Gentle Creature and Other Stories"*, in which we will read "*White Nights*"

Week 1.

Class #1, Tuesday, September 2: Introduction to the course.

Class #2, Thursday, September 4: Russia before St. Petersburg.

Week 2.

Class #3, Tuesday, September 9: Peter the Great: His Reforms and His Personality.

Class #4, Thursday, September 11: Founding and Building of St. Petersburg.

The topic of the first essay is given! The essay is due Tuesday, October 14.

Week 3.

Class #5, Tuesday, September 16: Elizabeth's Baroque Palaces.

Class #6, Thursday, September 18: Catherine the Great's St. Petersburg.

Week 4.

Class #7, Tuesday, September 23: St. Petersburg of Alexander Pushkin: "The Bronze Horseman".

Special reading: *A. Pushkin. "The Bronze Horseman"*

Class # 8, Thursday, September 25: St. Petersburg in "the Queen of Spades" by Alexander Pushkin.

Special reading: *A. Pushkin. "The Queen of Spades."*

Week 5.

Class #9, Tuesday, September 30: Early 19th century St. Petersburg: the City of Grandeur and Order.

Class # 10, Thursday, October 2: Gogol's St. Petersburg: "The Overcoat".

Special reading: *N. Gogol. "The Overcoat."*

Week 6.

Class #11, Thursday, October 9: Gogol's Nevsky Prospect – St. Petersburg's main Street.

Special reading: N. Gogol. “*The Nevsky Prospect*.”

Week 7:

Class #12, Tuesday, October 14: Dostoevsky’s “White Nights”.

Special reading: F. Dostoevsky. “*White Nights*.”

The first ESSAY is due!

Class #13, Thursday, October 16: The Hundred Years of St. Petersburg in Art.

Week 8:

Class #14, Tuesday, October 21: MIDTERM EXAM.

Class #15, Thursday, October 23: The Russian Revolution: Petrograd.

Week 9:

Class #16, Tuesday, October 28: St. Petersburg in the film “October” by Sergei Eisenstein.

Class #17, Thursday, October 30: “Leningrad” by Osip Mandelstam.

The topic for the second essay is given! The essay is due Tuesday, November 25.

Week 10:

Class #18, Tuesday, November 4: The City of Terror: Chukovskaya’s “Sophia Petrovna”.

Special reading: Lydia Chukovskaya. “*Sofia Petrovna*”. This is about **100 pages** of reading: you may want to start reading in advance.

Class #19: Thursday, November 6: The City of Terror: Chukovskaya’s “Sophia Petrovna”. The end of the discussion.

Week 11:

Class #20, Tuesday, November 11: The City as Martyr: Akhmatova’s “Requiem”.

Special reading: Anna Akhmatova. “*Requiem*” (text is available on the Internet).

Class #21, Thursday, November 13: Leningrad under the 900-day Siege.

Week 12:

Class #22, Tuesday, November 18: Shostakovich’s “Leningrad” Symphony.

Class #23, Thursday, November 20: Reconstruction of the city: the Soviet way. “The Autumn Marathon” (a movie). Part I.

Week 13:

Class #24, Tuesday, November 25: “The Autumn Marathon”. Part II.

The second ESSAY is due!

Week 14:

Class #25, Tuesday, December 2: The Leningrad of Yuri Nagibin.

Special reading: Yuri Nagibin. “*Needed Urgently: Gray Human Hair*.”

Class #26, Thursday, December 4: The Collapse of the USSR and the Return of St. Petersburg.

Week 15:

Class #27, Tuesday, December 9: St. Petersburg Today: Two poems by J. Brodsky and A. Kushner.

Class #28, Thursday, December 11: Getting ready for the final exam. The review of the course.