Syllabus

The Devil in Moscow: Love Literature and State - 26350

Last update 18-10-2015

HU Credits: 2

Degree/Cycle: 1st degree (Bachelor)

Responsible Department: german, russian & east european studies

Academic year: 0

Semester: 1st Semester

Teaching Languages: Hebrew

Campus: Ein Karem

Course/Module Coordinator: Dr. Nina Rudnik

Coordinator Email: Nina.Rudnik@mail.huji.ac.il

Coordinator Office Hours: Wednesday, 15:00-16:00

Teaching Staff:
Dr. Nina Rudnick
**Course/Module description:**

The course will examine one of the main problems of the Russian literature of the 19th and 20th centuries, which is the polarity between the power establishment and the private life. This polarity was central for Mikhail Bulgakov (1891 – 1940), one of the most gifted and popular Russian writers of the period. The course will deal, first and foremost, with the problem of the legitimacy of power which is in the center of the philosophic and theological discourse of the time. We will concentrate on such important aspects as historic and literary commentaries to the following texts of Mikhail Bulgakov: the novels *White Guard* (selected chapters), *The Heart of a Dog* and *The Master and Margarita*. These texts will be examined against the background of significant works of Russian and European literatures (Pushkin, Gogol, Leo Tolstoy, Dostoevsky, Alexander Blok and Boris Pasternak; Dante, Goethe, Hoffmann etc.). The course will touch upon various masterpieces of art and music either treated in Bulgakov’s texts or mentioned by him (works by Gounod, Stravinsky and others).

**Course/Module aims:**

- To study significant narrative plots in the works of Mikhail Bulgakov dealing with the polarity between the State and the private life, like the place of the individual in the structure of power, rebellions against the State, methods to escape the political and social pressure, the question of human rights, the problem of privacy in Russia and the power of love.
- To acquaint the students with significant works of Russian and European literature.
- To acquaint the students with major cultural, literary and historic trends of the "poque".

**Learning outcomes - On successful completion of this module, students should be able to:**

- To discuss the problem of polarity between the State and the private individual.
- To understand the major trends in this problem during the period 1920 – 1930.
- To be able to judge Bulgakov’s influence on the evolution of literature and society in Russia and beyond, especially from 1966 onwards.

**Attendance requirements(%):**

80

**Teaching arrangement and method of instruction:** Frontal lectures, reports,
Course/Module Content:

20.10, 27.10.2015 — The collapse of the Russian Tsarist Empire and the appearance of the young writer Mikhail Bulgakov. The novel White Guard and its place in the classic Russian literary tradition.

3.11, 10.11.2015 — The soviet system and the Social Task of creating a New Man. M. Bulgakov’s novel The Heart of a Dog and Scientific Fiction and Utopia in the West and the Soviet Union.


24.11.2015 — The structure of The Master and Margarita and the problem of the genre. The great time and the opening of the novel.


8.12.2015 — Motifs of dream, illness and madness in the novel and the Western literary tradition.

15.12, 22.12.2015 — The tradition of Imitation of Christ in Russian literature and the parallel Master Jesus.

29.12.2015 — The Master and Margarita as a love story.

5.01.2016 — Who is Woland? The Great Ball of the Satan and the carnivalesque motifs in the novel.

12.01.2016 — The sin of Pontius Pilatus and the image of the Soviet establishment.

19.01.2016 — He does not deserve light, he deserves peace. The problem of epilogue. The conclusion of the course.

Required Reading:


http://yalepress.yale.edu/yupbooks/excerpts/bulgakov_whiteguard.pdf

http://www.jstor.org/stable/307672

http://www.jstor.org/stable/308726

http://www.jstor.org/stable/40870669


http://www.jstor.org/stable/461648


Piitta H. Pittman. Dreamers and Dreaming in M.A. Bulgakov's The Master and Margarita. Ibid.

Malcolm V. Jones. The Gospel according to Woland and the tradition of the Wandering Jew. Ibid.

Edward E. Ericson. The Satanic Incarnation: Parody in Bulgakov's The Master and
Additional Reading Material:


http://www.jstor.org/stable/20459370

http://www.jstor.org/stable/23345084

Course/Module evaluation:
End of year written/oral examination 0 %
Presentation 0 %
Participation in Tutorials 10 %
Project work 70 %
Assignments 0 %
Reports 20 %
Research project 0 %
Quizzes 0 %
Other 0 %

Additional information:

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