**Russian Literature**

## Prof. Maurizia Calusio

***COURSE AIMS AND INTENDED LEARNING OUTCOMES***

## Semester 1

The course aims to introduce students to the last decade of Vasilij Grossman’s literary production. In particular, during the lectures, it will analyse the short novel *Vse tečet* (1955-1963), working on its different textual variants.

Thanks to the reading of a selection of passages and the textual variants introduced by the author (in Russian), together with the analysis of the text (in Italian and Russian), the course aims to help students develop the competences they have acquired, on different levels, in the field of literature and in the analysis of literary texts in Russian.

At the end of the course, students – that is to say, the Undergraduate students enrolled in Year 3 and Graduate students – will be able to read in Russian, as well as translate and carry out a critical analysis of the texts included in the reading list, either studied with the lecturer and/or prepared on their own. Furthermore, during classes, Graduate students will be able to make an oral presentation with slides aimed to illustrate a text or a critical essay chosen from among those specified in the Reading list.

## Semester 2

The course aims to illustrate the phenomenon of Russian Gulag literature. During the lectures, it will analyse the main authors who wrote about Gulags in different ways, forms, and times (Solženicyn, Šalamov, E. Ginzburg, Dombrovskij, Sinjavskij, Dovlatov, etc.).

Thanks to the reading of a selection of passages and the textual variants introduced by the author (in Russian), together with the analysis of the text (in Italian and Russian), the course aims to help students develop the competences they have acquired, on different levels, in the field of literature and in the analysis of literary texts in Russian.

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***COURSE CONTENT***

## Semester 1

Vasilij Grossman’s prose works during the 1960s. Reading of the short novel *Всё течет*, some tales and prose works (*Сиктинская Мадонна, Несколько печальных дней*, etc.); analysis of texts and variants.

## Semester 2

Gulag literature. Reading of passages from the works written by the main representatives of this genre (*One day in the life of Ivan Denisovič, Kolyma Tales, A voice from the chorus*, etc.). Critical recognition.

Graduate students will have to attend both the Single-subject courses of Semester 1 and 2. In addition to the Single-subject courses (for the Language and literature curriculum) or the Semester 1 course (for the Other curricula), the Undergraduate students enrolled in Year 3 will have to attend a *General course* (consisting in the reading of texts written by a selection of Russian authors of the 20th century, and an in-depth analysis of topics belonging to the field of history and literary history), for which they will have to study *on their own*, according to their curricula, as indicated in the General course reading list for the Language and literature curriculum and the Other curricula.

***READING LIST***

*Semester 1*

For all students:

1. Here students can find the Russian edition of the texts by Grossman analysed in class: http://lib.ru/PROZA/GROSSMAN/ ; for the Italian translations, please see: V. Grossman, *Tutto scorre*, Adelphi 1987; Id., *Il bene sia con voi*, Adelphi 2011.
2. S. Markiš, *Vasilij Grossman*, in *Storia della letteratura russa. Il Novecento*, vol. 3, Einaudi, 1991, p. 945-968.
3. M. Calusio, *"Crudele è la potenza della fame": leggendo Tutto scorre... di Vasilij Grossman*, “L’analisi linguistica e letteraria”, XX (2012), 2, p. 179-194; <http://www.educatt.it/libri/all/ALLPDF/201202CalusioC.pdf>.
4. M. Калузио, Василий Гроссман и первый опыт художественного исследования Гулага (О повести “Все течет”), “L'analisi linguistica e letteraria”, 2/2017, p. 175-186; <http://www.analisilinguisticaeletteraria.eu/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/Василий-Гроссмани-первый-опыт-художественного-исследования-ГулагаО-повести-Все-течет…-Мауриция-Калузио.pdf>

For the graduate students of both years:

М. Калузио, *Штрихи к портрету советского приспособленца: Николай Андреевич из повести В. Гроссмана «Все течет...» in* *Языковая личность в зеркале интерпретационных исследований,* Под ред. Т. А. Трипольской, Новосибирск 2021, c. 66-87.

For the graduate students enrolled in year 2:

С. Липкин, *Жизнь и судьба Василия Гроссмана*, in С. Липкин, *Жизнь и с судьба Василия Гроссмана*, А. Берзер, *Прощание*, Москва, «Книга», 1990; http://www.belousenko.com/books/Lipkin/lipkin\_berzer\_grossman.htm (10).

# Further information on the reading list will be made available during classes and on Blackboard. Some of the teaching material may be made available in printed format at the UCSC Reprographic Service or in pdf format on Blackboard.

The Reading lists referring to the General course for Year-3 Undergraduate students (respectively: 1. Language and literature curriculum; 2. Other curricula) are available on Blackboard.

*Semester 2*

For all students:

1. One of the works to be chosen from among the ones listed below, and a selection of passages (in Russian and Italian) taken from:

A. Solženicyn, *Una giornata di Ivan Denisovič*, *Arcipelago Gulag*; V. Šalamov, *Racconti della Kolyma*; E. Ginzburg, *Viaggio nella vertigine*; A. Sinjavskij, *Una voce dal coro*; Ju. Dovlatov, *Zona*.

A detailed list from which students will have to choose their optional readings will be made available on Blackboard, together with the links to the relevant editions in Russian.

1. M. Geller, *Il mondo del lager e la letteratura sovietica*, Edizioni Paoline, Rome 1977, p. 231-285 (chap. 6, *Morte e vita nel lager*)
2. A. Appelbaum, *Introduzione*, in Ead. *Gulag*, Oscar Mondadori, Milan, 2004, p. 3-28.
3. A. Graziosi, *L’Urss di Lenin e Stalin*, Il Mulino, Bologna 2007, v. I, p. 409-426;
4. O. Chlevnjuk, *Storia del Gulag*, Einaudi, Turin 2006, p. 355-373 (Conclusione, *Il prezzo del terrore*)

For the graduate students of both years:

E. Ėtkind, *Sovetskie tabu*, “Sintaksis’’, 9, 1981, p. 3-20.

For the graduate students enrolled in year 2:

A critical essay of their choice, *in Russian*, based on the work of their choice mentioned at point 1).

Further information on the reading list will be made available during classes and on Blackboard. Some of the teaching material may be made available in printed format at the UCSC Reprographic Service or in pdf format on Blackboard.

The Reading lists referring to the General course for Year-3 Undergraduate students (1. Language and literature curriculum; 2. Other curricula) are available on Blackboard.

***TEACHING METHOD***

Frontal lectures, focused on the theory and examples (and based on the translation and interpretation of the texts).

For the Undergraduate students enrolled in Year 3, the course will include also 10 hours of Practical activities held by Dr Stefano Fumagalli during semester 1. The Practical activities will be focused on the topics and the authors included in the General course (respectively: 1. Language and literature curriculum; 2. Other curricula).

***ASSESSMENT METHOD AND CRITERIA***

Oral exams. The oral exam will consist in an interview. For Graduate students, it will be focused on the topics covered by the two Single-subject courses. For Undergraduate students, instead, it will be divided into two equal parts: one on the Single-subject courses and one on the General course.

During the exam, students will be assessed according to the following elements that will equally contribute to the determination of the final mark:

the ability to read the texts in their original Russian version (20 pages of their choice for the Undergraduate students enrolled in Year 3 of the Language and literature curriculum; 10 for the other Curricula; 40 for graduate students of both years);

the ability to translate the texts;

the ability to analyse and comment on the texts presented in class and prepared on their own;

the knowledge of the critical texts prepared on their own.

*For the Undergraduate students enrolled in Year 3*, the final mark will result from the weighted average between the written and the oral language tests (respectively up to a maximum of 1/6 and 2/6 of the final mark).

Further information on other forms of progressive assessment will be made available during the course.

***NOTES AND PREREQUISITES***

In addition to an extensive knowledge of the Italian language, students should have a basic knowledge of the Russian history of the 20th century, the history of the Russian literature between the 18th and the 20th century, as well as a knowledge of the Russian language corresponding to the B1/B2 level.

In case the current COVID-19 health emergency does not allow frontal teaching, remote teaching will be carried out following procedures that will be promptly notified to students.

Further information can be found on the lecturer's webpage at http://docenti.unicatt.it/web/searchByName.do?language=ENG or on the Faculty notice board.