**Russian Literature**

## Prof. Maurizia Calusio

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

## Semester 1

The course aims to introduce students to Vladimir Nabokov's Russian-language masterpiece, the novel *Dar* (1935-1937).

Thanks to the reading of a selection of passages (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 passage from the novel or a critical essay chosen from among those specified in the Reading list.

## Semester 2

The course aims to introduce students to the phenomenon of Russian emigration between the two wars, and in particular the literary production of the so-called “first wave” (1917-1940). Among other texts, poems and prose by the “young generation” who wrote in Russian while living outside Soviet Russia (such as Boris Poplavsky and Nina Berberova) will be analysed in lectures.

Through the reading of selected passages from the works and critical essays (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.

***COURSE CONTENT***

## Semester 1

The novel *The Gift* by Vladimir Nabokov. Reading and analysis of selected excerpts, in-depth study with the help of *Kommentarij k tekstu* (commentary on the text) by A. Dolinin, critical recognition.

## Semester 2

The literature of emigration (1917-1940). Reading of verse and prose extracts by authors of the “second emigrant generation” (choice of poems by B. Poplavsky, short stories [*Bijankurskie prazdniki*] by N. Berberova, etc.) and 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. Students can find the Russian edition of Nabokov's novel here: <https://vtoraya-literatura.com/pdf/nabokov_dar_vtoroe_izdanie_ardis_1975__ocr.pdf> ; per la traduzione italiana si veda: V. Nabokov, *Il dono*, Adelphi, Milano 1991 e successive ed..
2. B. Boyde, *The Gift*, in Id., *Vladimir Nabokov. The Russian Years*, Princeton 1990, pp. 447-478.
3. S. Vitale, *Postfazione*, in V. Nabokov, *Il dono*, Adelphi, Milano 1991, pp. 457-474.
4. A. Долинин, *Комментарий к роману Владимира Набокова Дар*, Москва 2019 (pagine scelte).

For the graduate students of both years:

И. Паперно, *Как сделан «Дар» Набокова*, в: Аверина Б. И. и др. (Сост.), *В.В. Набоков: Pro et contra*, СПБ 1997, c. 491-513.

For the graduate students enrolled in year 2:

A. Долинин, Долинин, *Литературный фон,* в: *Комментарий к роману Владимира Набокова Дар*, c. 38-56.

# 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. N. Berberova*, Bijankurskie prazdniki*, AST, Moskva 2011 (trad. it.: N. Berberova, *Le feste di Billancourt*, Adelphi, Milano 1994 e successive ed.).
2. B. Poplavskij, *Flagi,* Čisla, Pariž 1931 (si veda qui l’edizione russa: <https://imwerden.de/publ-1123-html> ; in mancanza di un’edizione italiana, le traduzioni verranno fornite dal docente nel corso delle lezioni).
3. M. Raeff, *La cultura russa e l'emigrazione*, in *Storia della letteratura russa*, Il Novecento, II vol., pp. 63-99.
4. M. Calusio, *Il paradiso degli amici. Per un’analisi della poetica di Boris Poplavskij,* Educatt, Milano 2009.
5. M. Calusio, *La testimone di ferro*, in N. Berberova, *Antologia personale. Poesie 1921-1933*, a cura di M. Calusio, Firenze – Antella, Passigli Editori 2004: 7-22.

For the graduate students of both years:

N. Berberova, *Kursiv moj*, Actes Sud 1989, le pagine su Poplavskij (in russo).

For the graduate students enrolled in year 2:

B. Poplavskij, *Sredi somnenij i očevidnostej*, in Id., *Stat’i, dnevniki, pis’ma*, Moskva 2009, pp. 110-119.

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 (30 pages of their choice for the Undergraduate students enrolled in Year 3 of the Language and literature curriculum; 20 for the other Curricula; 50 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, the history of the Russian literature up to the period under consideration, as well as a knowledge of the Russian language corresponding to the B1/B2 level.

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.