

PRELIMINARY READING LIST FOR RUSSIAN SOLE

A. Prescribed Texts for the Preliminary Examination

i. Literature

- A. A. Akhmatova, *Rekviem*.
A. A. Blok, *Na pole Kulikovom and Dvenadtsat'*, ed. J. B. Woodward, published by Bristol Classical Press, 1992.
A. P. Chekhov, *Sluchai iz praktiki; Anna na shee; Dom s mezoninom*, in: *Selected Short Stories*, ed. G. A. Birkett and G. Struve, published by Bristol Classical Press, 1994.
G. R. Derzhavin, *Felitsa*.
M. Yu. Lermontov, *Mtsyri*, published by Prideaux Press, 1980.
A. S. Pushkin, *Mednyi vsadnik*, ed. M. Basker, published by Bristol Classical Press, 2000.
" *Pikovaya dama*, ed. J. Forsyth, published by Bristol Classical Press, 1992.
S. Dovlatov, *Chemodan*, published by Azbuka, 2004
(see also <http://www.dovlatov.org.ru/id-al-bookz-104/>).

You should read at least the works by Chekhov, Pushkin and Lermontov before the beginning of your course at Oxford, because you will study these in your first term. It would also be wise to read as many of the other texts as possible in advance, because you will have limited time to read them during the academic year. Most of the editions published by Bristol Classical Press and Prideaux Press are currently available in paperback and have useful introductions and glossaries. Photocopies of the annotated works by Akhmatova and Derzhavin are available from the Modern Languages Faculty Office.

ii. Introduction to Russian film studies

For this paper there is a 'watching list', rather than 'reading list', comprising the four films that you will study:

- Joseph Heifitz (Iosif Kheifits), *Dama s sobachkoi* (and please also read the Chekhov story that it adapts) (1960)
Yuly Fait, *Mal'chik i devochka* (1966)
Gennady Shpalikov, *Dolgaya schastlivaya zhizn'* (1967)
Andrei Tarkovsky, *Zerkalo* (1973)

The only film easily available on DVD is *Zerkalo*, but the other three films are all available on Youtube on a channel called LFV (Lenfil'm Video) -- but the easiest way to find them is to type their titles into the Internet using Russian characters. Downloading them is quite legal, but don't try using Russian torrents or online streaming for anything that might not be.

If you don't know much about European film, you might also like to watch, say, Antonioni, *L'Avventura*, Visconti, *Le notti bianche* (an adaptation of Dostoevsky's *Belye nochki*), Truffaut, *Jules et Jim*, Fellini, *La Dolce vita*, all of which were widely admired in the Soviet Union at the time. The BFI website (<https://www.bfi.org.uk/>) has useful background information about a whole lot of things and the BFI organises screenings of historic films also. Josephine Woll, *Real Images* (2000) is an accessible introduction to the 'Thaw' era in the cinema.

iii. *Russian Church Slavonic Texts and Elements of Comparative Slavonic Philology*

The set texts will be provided in photocopy at the beginning of the course. A good place to start before the course is Tore Nasset: *How Russian Came To Be the Way It Is* (Slavica 2015), which assumes very little prior experience with reading linguistic literature. It is a good preparation for reading Alexander Schenker: *The Dawn of Slavic. An Introduction to Slavic Philology* (New Haven 1996), which is more technical, but also covers more of the ground for the paper. The classes will take things step by step, but you may find it helpful to have had a look before the course begins.

iv. *Elementary Polish*

Robert A Rothstein: Polish, in Bernard Comrie and Greville G Corbett (eds.): *The Slavonic Languages* (London; New York: Routledge 1993) 686-758 is a concise introduction to Polish. It makes dense reading if one is not used to this type of grammatical summary, but the classes will take things step by step.

B. Background reading and aids to language work

- R. Auty & D. Obolensky (ed.), *Companion To Russian Studies, I-II* (Cambridge, 1977 and subsequent editions).
- G. Hosking, *Russia: People and Empire* (Fontana, 1998)
- J. R. Hurford, *Grammar. A student's guide* (Cambridge, 1994 and subsequent editions)
- P. Falla, M. Wheeler, B. Unbegaun, C. Howlett, *The Oxford Russian Dictionary* (Oxford, 1995 and subsequent editions).
- D. S. Mirsky, *A history of Russian literature* (Vintage: Random House, 1958 and subsequent editions)
- D. Offord, *Modern Russian. An Advanced Grammar Course* (Bristol Classical Press, 1993).
- Robert Service, *A history of modern Russia: from Nicholas II to Putin* (2003).
- V. Terras, *A History of Russian Literature* (Yale University Press, 1991).
- T. Wade, *A Comprehensive Russian Grammar* (Blackwell, Oxford, 1992, and subsequent editions).
- B. O. Unbegaun, *Russian Grammar* (Oxford, 1957 and subsequent editions)

You will be able to consult these books in Oxford libraries, but it would be a good idea at least to have your own copies of a Russian-English and English-Russian dictionary and of a Russian grammar.