Masterpieces of 20th-C Russian Literature

ARUS252 (#9729) / AENG 226 (#9734), 3 credits

Fall 2018 MW 2:45-4:05pm in BB213
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The citizens of Russia, the largest country on Earth, traditionally regard Russia with pride as the “readingest,” the most literate and literature-loving country on Earth. Explore classic works of 20th-century literature that have powerfully influenced Russian culture and Russians’ sense of themselves and their role in the world.

Satisfies the General Education Humanities (DP-HUM) requirement. No prereqs.

All the authors we’ll study but Chekhov lived under the Soviet regime (1917–1991). Many suffered from the repressiveness and censorship of that regime. Nevertheless, “politics” was not necessarily their focus, which in many respects continued traditional 19th-C Russian literary concerns such as the meaning of life, good and evil, mortality, religion, the ultimate fate and significance of humanity, creativity, crime, punishment, the fate of Russia in the most mystical and exalted terms, and the individual soul. Readings are comparatively short. Class format is group discussion of each work.

Survey of pre-Revolutionary through mid-1970s Russian literature. Taught in English.

Better understand the Russian mind.