Чем меньше женщину мы любим,
Тем больше нравимся мы ей.

***
Я к вам пишу - чего же боле?
Что я могу еще сказать?
Теперь, я знаю, в вашей воле
Меня презреньем наказать.
Но вы, к моей несчастной доле
Хоть каплю жалости храня,
Вы не оставите меня.

***

Зима! Крестьянина, торжествуя,
На дровнях обновляет путь;

***

Мороз и солнце; день чудесный!
Еще ты дремлешь, друг прелестный -
Пора, красавица, проснись;

***

Унылая пора! Очеь очарованье!

In this course you will read short stories, poems, and a novel in verse by
Александр Сергеевич Пушкин
Nineteenth century is called the Golden Age of Russian literature. The list of great authors and great works is extremely long, and this course does not attempt to present a survey of such works and writers. We will study only the works of Alexander Sergeevich Pushkin, and this decision is justified by the following reasons:

- while Pushkin’s prose translates very well into English, his verse arguably loses its poetic magic in translation;
- at least some part of language proficiency is built on and supported by cultural proficiency; Pushkin is considered to be the greatest Russian author and the father of modern Russian literature; native Russian speakers often judge the level of education and culture of others by their knowledge of or at least familiarity with Pushkin’s works;
- you may already be familiar with Pushkin through his fairytales which may have been read to you by your parents, but Pushkin is significantly more than just the fairytales.

The choice of texts and their sequence are dictated by the pedagogical goal of developing your language skills. Reading prose in a foreign language is always easier than reading poetry. Russian is both native and foreign language for you; therefore, you will have easier time reading Pushkin’s verse than non-heritage learners, but it will still be challenging. We will start with short verses, then switch to prose (to give you a break from verse), then endeavor to read Pushkin’s greatest work – a novel in verse “Eugene Onegin.”

Reading 19th-century literature is challenging because it requires a somewhat different vocabulary and knowledge of certain realias that no longer exist in contemporary Russia or contemporary world: e.g., various types of horse-drawn carriages or the system of serfdom. Learning about these realias must be supported by at least some knowledge of historical events important to Russian life in the 19th century. Therefore, our class discussions will
also involve descriptions and analyses of social life and societal structures of Pushkin’s Russia.

**COURSE GOALS AND OBJECTIVES**

In this course you will work on developing your reading and writing skills in Russian at the advanced level: specifically, detailed narration, description and expression of supported opinion. This course has several ambitious **Goals:**

- to help you develop appreciation for reading Pushkin and other 19th-century works in Russian... for pleasure!
- to help you build confidence in interacting with original works of literature
- to help you bring your language skills and knowledge of the Russian literature closer to the level of an educated Russian speaker who grew up in the metropoly.

Here are a few additional Goals that you may want to choose for yourself:

- to be able to explain to your grandparents what you think about a particular work of Russian literature
- to enjoy taking risks
- to find joy in living in the zone of discomfort

- ... __________________________
  add your own goal(s)

The course **Objectives** include the following three categories:

**Skills:** throughout the course you will work on ...

- developing close reading skills in Russian (transferrable to/from English)
- increasing lexical repertoire to be able to discuss 19th-century literature in Russian
- improving the skill of circumlocution
- developing narration and description skills
- reinforcing your writing skills (including correct spelling and punctuation)
- expressing your thoughts in a Russian-like way by getting rid of "English-isms"
- improving grammatical accuracy that enables you to formulate meaningful sentences in Russian
- developing a greater ability to suppress the dominant language during conversations

**Fact-based knowledge:** by the end of the course you will know important facts from Pushkin’s biography that inform your understanding of his works, become familiar with some of his best works in prose and verse, acquire some knowledge about the life of nobles and peasants in 19th-century Russia, and learn or update your knowledge of classical history and antiquity (Ancient Greek and Latin).

**Metacognitive skills:** throughout the course you will be honing your analytical and inferential skills that will allow you to read between the lines and to create hypotheses regarding the author’s intent. You will also further develop your ability to focus attention, to identify main ideas and supporting details, to summarize and to organize information
MATERIALS
You are encouraged to purchase the novel in verse “Evgeny Onegin” at the bookstore or online. However, all materials will also be provided to you in class in the form of handouts and/or will be available through LATTE in the electronic form.

You must have access to a good Russian and Russian-English bilingual dictionary. You can buy a paper dictionary (such as Oxford Russian Dictionary or a definition dictionary by Ожегов or Даль) online from St. Petersburg publishing house at www.ruskniga.com

I highly recommend using www.multitran.ru and checking translations for context of use (you will learn how to do this in class). You may also explore www.lingvo.com and https://dic.academic.ru/ (offers a variety of Russian-language definition dictionaries and encyclopedias). Finally, you should make it a habit to work with the Russian National Corpus (http://www.ruscorpora.ru).

GRADING
Your final grade will be calculated as follows:

- Participation in class: 24 classes x 10 = 240 points (or 24%)
- Narration papers: 12 papers x 20 points = 240 points (or 24%)
- Vocabulary work: 12 tasks x 10 = 120 points (or 12%)
- Quizzes (vocabulary and grammar): 10 quizzes x 10 = 100 points (or 10%)
- Short presentations: 2 presentations x 100 points = 200 points (or 16%)
- Final reflection paper = 100 points (or 10%)

Participation (24 classes, 240 points)
You are expected to come to class having done the assigned reading and vocabulary work and prepared for a discussion. In a small seminar class, the expectation is that students will be actively engaged throughout the entire class period. Your participation will be graded on a credit (10 points) or no credit (zero points) basis, depending on whether you meet these expectations for participation.

Narration Papers (12 papers; 240 points)
When you first read a new story, a natural question for discussion is "what is it about?" Much of the discussion of works in class will focus on the content and the plot. When you answer a question about content or plot, you will naturally have to make decisions about which details to include and which to leave out. Details of temporal sequence are often of particular significance. One cannot be a proficient speaker (and writer) of a language without good narration skills. In addition, advanced skills of narration interweave descriptions of characters, places and ambiance, etc. To develop these skills, you are asked to write short summaries of the works (or their segments) you read. In addition to narration (but not instead of it) you can express your opinions, thoughts and reactions to
the style, form or content of the texts.

Your papers should be no more than 700 words (1.5 pages double-spaced). In general you will be required to work with the text that you just read and a dictionary to find precise and content-rich words for your thoughts. Papers must be submitted on the day when they are due. If you know that you will not be able to make it to class, submit your homework in advance or arrange for a friend to hand it in for you. Your grade for each paper will be a total of two evaluation criteria: 50% for clarity of thought (which requires precise vocabulary), organization, level of analysis; and 50% for grammatical and lexical precision (including punctuation rules).

**Vocabulary Tasks (12 tasks, 120 points) and Quizzes (10 quizzes, 100 points)**

You will be working closely with selected words from your readings. All work will be done communally in a google document, which I create. There will be one document per reading (стихи, «Метель», «Дубровский», 8 глав «Онегина»); each of you will be responsible to supply detailed translation and/or explanation in Russian and cite an example of usage. You need to do this work in an organized manner so that everybody can benefit from everybody’s work before they start reading the assigned text.

I will comment on your work in the document; please check my comments regularly. You will have regular vocabulary quizzes based on your Vocabulary Work in google docs. This means that part of your daily homework will be vocabulary memorization **even if it is not stated explicitly in the assignment.** You should plan on setting aside some time each day for memorization work. Words for vocabulary quizzes will be drawn from the list of words in google docs; there will be no suprises.

To maximize your language learning, please write down the unfamiliar words you hear in class in your notebooks. It is especially important to note the words you cannot easily access on your own even if you understand them in somebody else’s speech. **You already know that you can understand a lot more than you can say, so you should pay special attention to vocabulary difficulties you have in expressing your thoughts, not just when listening to others speak.**

**Short Presentations (2 presentations, 200 points)**

Each student will give 2 short presentations on the realias of life in the 19th-century Russia, historical events, socio-cultural norms characteristic of the 19th century, which are crucial to our understanding of the text, and on allusions, allegories, proper names and places mentioned in the text of “Eugene Onegin.” You will sign up for these presentations at the start of the semester. You will be evaluated based on a rubric that takes into account lexical richness, grammatical precision, organization of material and delivery.

**Final Paper (100 points)**

Final paper is your chance to summarize your thoughts on the issues we will have raised in class during the semester. Your paper must be no less than 3 typed pages long (double-
spaced) and turned in by the end of the examination period. You will receive specific instructions and a list of topics to choose from before the end of the semester.

**Statement on Brandeis Academic Integrity**

Academic integrity is central to the mission of educational excellence at Brandeis University. Each student is expected to turn in work completed independently, except when assignments specifically authorize collaborative effort. It is not acceptable to use the words or ideas of another person, be it a world-class philosopher or your lab partner, without proper acknowledgement of that source. Violations of University policies on academic integrity, described in Section Three of Rights and Responsibilities, may result in failure of the course or on the assignment, or in suspension or dismissal from the University.

**IMPORTANT NOTE:**
For all written assignments, including your final, you are allowed to use dictionaries, your notes, and outside sources, but are not allowed to have your parents (or other educated native speakers) check your work and correct your mistakes. Instances of Google Translate will be detected without fail and will result in lowering your grade significantly.

**CO-CURRICULAR EVENTS**
The Russian language program and Russian Studies offer a number of interesting events related to Russian language, culture, society and history. You can find out about these events by signing up for the Russian Studies listserv (please let your instructor know). For Spring 2019, the program has the following events planned:
- National Post-Secondary Russian Essay Contest: February 11th
- Russian Culture Week, March 7 – 15th
  - Student Talent Show: March 7, 7:00 p.m.
  - Pelmeni making night, March 8th, 7 p.m.
  - Languages Ball, March 10th
  - Russian Crafts Workshop: March 13, 6:30 p.m.
- Lecture on Russian protest music by a well-known Russian rock music historian Artemi Troitsky: March 26th

**SPECIAL NOTE:** It has become a tradition of the Russian program to organize a Russian evening in celebration of the International Women’s Day on March 8th. I would like to invite our class to participate in this evening (it is really meant as a show of student talent). You can recite one of Pushkin’s poems in English and Russian (or present your own translation of his short poem). Also, please let me know if there is something you’d like to perform individually.