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 храни,
Вы не оставьте меня.

***

Зима! Крестьянин, торжествуя,
На дровнях обновляет путь;
Его лошадка, снег почуя,
Плетется рысью как-нибудь;

***

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

***

Унылая пора! Очень очарованье!

In this course you will read short stories, poems, and a novel in verse by Alexander Sergeevich Pushkin
COURSE GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

In this course you will work on developing your reading and writing skills in Russian at the more advanced level. Specifically, we will strive to raise your reading skills to the superior level. You will also continue developing writing and oral skills: specifically, detailed narration.

Nineteenth century is called the Golden Age of Russian literature. The lists of great authors and great works are extremely long, and this course does not attempt to present a survey of such works and writers. For this course, I chose only the works of Alexander Sergeevich Pushkin for several reasons:

- while Pushkin’s prose translates very well into English, his verse loses its poetic magic in translation;
- at least some part of language proficiency is built on and supported by cultural proficiency; Pushkin is considered by Russians (and not only Russians) 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 fairytales.

The choice of texts and their sequence are dictated by the pedagogical goal of developing language skills. Reading prose in a foreign language is always easier than reading poetry. Russian is both foreign and native language for you; therefore, you will have easier time to read Pushkin’s verse than non-heritage learners, but it will still be challenging. We will start with short verses (to prepare you for the longer work which is a novel in verse), then switch to prose (to give you a break from verse), then endeavor to read Pushkin’s greatest 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: 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. This course will, therefore, dramatically increase your vocabulary, which will give you greater freedom in expressing complex thoughts in Russian, and your general knowledge about Russian history and culture. In addition, there will be some grammatical elements that will be new to you and seem unusual. This will help you expand your repertoire of syntactic forms of expression in Russian.

At the end of the course you will be able to:

- raise your reading abilities to the superior level (as measured by the ACTFL Proficiency Guidelines);
- dramatically increase your vocabulary;
- develop your narration and interpretation skills;
- reinforce your writing skills (including correct spelling and punctuation);
- express your thoughts in a Russian-like way, getting rid of "English-isms".

You will also know about the following:

- basic facts from Pushkin's biography;
- some of his best prose and verse;
- some basic facts about 19th-century Russian history;
- realias of life in the 19th-century Russia.

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. I 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

You can also explore these on-line dictionaries: http://slovary.yandex.ru/ (offers a variety of Russian-language definition dictionaries (equivalents of Webster's)) and www.lingvo.com or www.multitran.ru (bilingual dictionaries).
GRADING

Your final grade will be calculated as follows:

- 25% - Participation in class
- 25% - Narration papers
- 10% - Language-learning journal
- 15% - Short presentations/oral narration
- 15% - Quizzes (vocabulary and grammar)
- 10% - Final reflection paper

Narration Papers (25%)

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. To develop these skills, you will be responsible for writing 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 accuracy.

Language-learning Journal (10%)

You will keep a journal throughout the semester to take a note of words, expressions and grammatical constructions that are new to you. The journals will need to be divided into sections based on themes; some sections are mandatory and others are optional.

The following is a list of mandatory sections:
- nature (anything that refers to climate, weather, natural elements, flora or fauna)
- realias of life in the 19th century (objects, habits, traditions, titles, etc. that no
In this last section you can create your own categories (that are not required). You can choose to divide words into parts of speech (verbs, nouns, adjectives) or you may choose to organize them into some thematic categories.

The Journal will allow you to “customize” your language learning. If your vocabulary is already rather developed in Russian, you can use the Journal to create “domains” of words. For example, how many verbs related to speaking can you come up with in Russian? (talk, tell, say, murmur, whisper, mutter, chat, blabber, etc. + idiomatic expressions). If you hear lots of words that are new to you in class, please write them down in your journal. It is especially important to note the words you cannot easily access on your own. 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.

Each word/expression in your Journal must be accompanied either by a translation into English or a dictionary explanation in Russian.

I will collect your journals a few times in the semester and will return them to you at the next class period. Your grade will depend on thoroughness of your work: 3-5 words in a two-week period is an obvious neglect of your duties. It would be fair to estimate an average of 30-40 words/expressions per week.

You will have regular individualized vocabulary quizzes based on your Journal’s entries. 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.

**Short presentations/Narration (15%)**

Depending on the size of the class, each student will lead 3-4 presentations.

Starting on January 25th each of you will be responsible for preparing a good oral narration of the assigned reading and a short presentation on the realias of life, historical events, socio-cultural norms characteristic of the XIX century, which are crucial to our understanding of the text.

Your grade will be based on the thoroughness of your preparation (as evidenced in narration by the level of details included, and in your presentation - by the extent of the research you’ve conducted.)
Quizzes (15%)  

There will be regular individualized quizzes over selected vocabulary items and grammar concepts. Your vocabulary list will be created by you whereas the quizzes will be administered by your peers. You will receive specific instructions on how to prepare for the quiz well in advance.

Final Paper (10%)  

This is your chance to reflect on the issues we will have raised in class this semester. You can write on a particular theme of the readings you will have done or focus on a specific work that you found most interesting or challenging. You will need to analyze the information you’ve learned. The paper will need to be no less than 3 typed pages long and must be turned in by the end of the examination period.

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. If you are in doubt about the instructions for any assignment in this course, it is your responsibility to ask your instructor for clarification.

Notice of accommodation  

If you are a student with a documented disability on record at Brandeis University and wish to have reasonable accommodation made for you in this class, please see me as soon as possible.