

Carleton University  
Winter 2020  
College of Humanities  
Department of English

**HUMS 4903A/ENGL 4003B:**  
**Advanced Research Seminar in Vladimir Nabokov and Marcel Proust**

**Prerequisite:**  
**Fourth-year standing or permission from the department**

**Time of Class:**  
**Tuesdays and Thursdays**  
**10:05 am-11:25 am**  
**Location: 302 Patterson**  
*Please confirm location on Carleton Central*

**Instructor: Professor D. Dragunoiu**  
**Email: [dana.dragunoiu@carleton.ca](mailto:dana.dragunoiu@carleton.ca)**  
**Office: 1925 Dunton Tower**  
**Phone: 613-520-2600, ext. 1556**  
**Office Hours:**  
**Tuesdays and Thursdays, TBA**



*Marcel Proust*  
*Photo by Otto*  
*Wegener 1895*

In this seminar we will engage in the close reading of two giants of twentieth-century literature: Marcel Proust and Vladimir Nabokov. Though Nabokov was a harsh critic when it came to his fellow writers, he did admit to admiring Proust. Indeed, it is possible to say that Nabokov considered Proust to be his most significant rival given Proust's stylistic gifts and pre-eminence as the twentieth-century's greatest artist of memory. Nabokov's works are replete with direct references, coded allusions, and parodies of Proust, and these engagements with Proust intensify as his career develops.



*Vladimir Nabokov.*  
*Pastel by Magda*  
*Nachma*

We will read the supreme achievements of Nabokov's English-language period: his autobiography *Invitation of a Memory* and the two novels *Lolita* and *The Eye*. These will be read in conjunction with the first two volumes of Proust's *In Search of Lost Time*: *Swann's Way* and *Within a Budding Grove*. We will learn how to conduct advanced research, experiment with crafting of scholarly arguments, and—as a culminating project—annotate Nabokov's published lectures on Proust with the objective to have them published in [TheNabokovian.org](http://TheNabokovian.org), the official site of the International Vladimir Nabokov Society.

Students proficient in French are encouraged to read and quote Proust in the French original. Everyone else will be reading and citing from the Moncrieff-Kilmartin-Enright translation of Proust's *Search*.

All students are strongly encouraged to read all the texts in advance during the summer. This will provide them with a base knowledge of these complicated works before the beginning of the school year. During the seminar itself, these texts ought to be read a second time for maximum absorption and enjoyment.

Because one of the course components is the annotation of Nabokov's lectures on Proust, it is best for students to use the editions cited below. French-speaking students ought to use the Gallimard editions of Proust's work.

**NB: Students who miss four or more classes will not be eligible to submit work or write exams.**

### **Required Texts**

Marcel Proust, *In Search of Lost Time: Swann's Way* (Volume 1). Translated by C.K. Scott Moncrieff and Terence Kilmartin. Revised by D.J. Enright. New York: Modern Library, 2003.

Marcel Proust, *In Search of Lost Time: Within a Budding Grove* (Volume 2). Translated by C.K. Scott Moncrieff and Terence Kilmartin. Revised by D.J. Enright. New York: Modern Library, 2003.

Vladimir Nabokov, *Speak, Memory: An Autobiography Revisited*. New York: Vintage, 1989.

Vladimir Nabokov, *Lolita*. New York: Vintage, 2010.

Vladimir Nabokov, *Pale Fire*. New York: Vintage, 2011.

Course texts will be available from Octopus Books (116 Third Avenue, the Glebe; phone #: 613-233-2589). These texts can be purchased in person or ordered on the bookstore's website ([www.octopusbooks.ca](http://www.octopusbooks.ca)). Web orders are sent directly to the student's home (at extra cost). **If purchasing in person, please bring your course number and the course instructor's name with you.**

### **READING SCHEDULE**

Tuesday, Jan 7	Introduction. Signing up for presentations and annotations.
Thursday, Jan 9	Nabokov's Lecture on Proust, in <i>Lectures on Literature</i> , available at Reserve Desk, Carleton Library.
Tuesday, Jan 14	Proust, <i>Swann's Way</i> : Part I: Combray

Thursday, Jan 16	Combray
Friday, Jan 17	<b>Last day for registration for winter courses</b> <b>Last day to change courses or sections for winter-term courses</b>
Tuesday, Jan 21	Part II: Swann in Love
Thursday, Jan 23	Swann in Love
Tuesday, Jan 28	Part III: Place-Names—The Name
Thursday, Jan 30	<i>Within a Budding Grove</i> , Part I: Madame Swann at Home
Friday, Jan 31	<b>Last day for withdrawal from winter term and winter portion of fall/winter courses with full fee adjustment. Withdrawals after this date will result in a permanent notation of WDN on the official transcript.</b>
Tuesday, Feb 4	Madame Swann at Home
Thursday, Feb 6	Madame Swann at Home
Tuesday, Feb 11	Part 2: Place-Names—The Place
Thursday, Feb 13	Place-Names—The Place
<b>FEBRUARY 17-21</b>	<b>WINTER BREAK; NO CLASSES.</b>
Tuesday, Feb 25	Place-Names—The Place
Thursday, Feb 27	Place-Names—The Place
Tuesday, March 3	Nabokov, <i>Speak, Memory</i>
Thursday, March 5	<i>Speak, Memory</i>
Tuesday, March 10	<i>Speak, Memory</i> ; <b>annotated bibliography due</b>
Thursday, March 12	Nabokov, <i>Lolita</i>
Friday, March 13	<b>Last day to request Formal Examination</b> <b>Accommodation Forms for April examinations to the Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities. Note that it may not be possible to fulfil accommodation requests received after the specified deadlines.</b>
Tuesday, March 17	<i>Lolita</i>
Thursday, March 19	<i>Lolita</i>
Tuesday, March 24	<i>Lolita</i> + “On A Book Entitled <i>Lolita</i> ”
Thursday, March 26	Nabokov, <i>Pale Fire</i>
Tuesday, March 31	<i>Pale Fire</i>
Thursday, April 2	<i>Pale Fire</i>
Tuesday, April 6	<i>Pale Fire</i> ; <b>essays due; annotations due.</b>

### Terms of Evaluation

**Grade Distribution:** 20% beginning-of-class unannounced quizzes; 10% oral presentation on an assigned topic; 10% annotated bibliography for research essay; 10% oral presentation on work-in-progress on research essay; 30% research essay; 15% annotations to Nabokov’s lectures on Proust; 5% presentation of work-in-progress on annotations to Nabokov’s lectures on Proust.

**Ten unannounced multiple-choice QUIZZES** at the beginning of class: In order to ensure that students come prepared for seminar sessions, they will write **twelve**

unannounced multiple-choice quizzes designed to test their detailed knowledge of the works scheduled for analysis during that particular class. Of these twelve quizzes, only the **ten** highest-earning quizzes will count towards the final grade. Each quiz will contain ten questions and will be worth 2% of the final grade. All multiple-choice quizzes will be written at the beginning of class; those arriving late will not be able to write the quizzes and will therefore forfeit the quiz grade.

**ORAL PRESENTATION** on an assigned topic: each member of the class will deliver a class presentation. The presentation ought to be between 15-20 minutes in length. The topics will be circulated in advance and students will select their topic and date of presentation on the first day of class. The presentation will be graded on its substance and quality of oral delivery.

**ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY:** The annotated bibliography must contain approximately 8-10 bibliographic items relevant to a student-selected research topic. These may include books, essays, reviews or any other material that is justifiably relevant to the chosen research topic. Each annotation must provide a short summary of the work in question and a brief explanation of its relevance to the chosen research topic.

**ORAL PRESENTATION ON WORK-IN-PROGRESS** on research essay: These oral presentations are intended to provide the class with a summary of a student's work in progress on the research essay. Presenters will provide a synopsis of their research projects, explain why their research topics are of interest, what scholarship already exists on these particular topics, and what difficulties they are encountering in pursuing these topics. Members of the class will be invited to provide constructive criticism that will help presenters to bring their projects to a satisfying conclusion.

**RESEARCH ESSAY:** The essay should be approximately 16-20 pages long (double spaced, 12-point font). Longer papers will not be accepted. Research papers should be extensively researched, thoughtfully argued, and elegantly written. They should also strive to make an original contribution to the field of Nabokov and Proust studies. All members of the seminar are strongly encouraged to discuss their research projects with the instructor during office hours. Late papers will be penalized 2% per day, including weekends and holidays. Each essay will be graded on form—organization, grammar, syntax—(50%), and content—knowledge of texts, complexity of argument and analysis, appropriateness of scholarly research—(50%). **NB: The final-essay grades are contingent upon an informal oral examination by the instructor.**

**ANNOTATIONS TO NABOKOV'S LECTURES ON PROUST:** Each student will choose to annotate a segment of Nabokov's lectures on Proust. An example of such annotations can be found

for *Speak, Memory* <https://thenabokovian.org/annotations/speak-memory>

for *Pale Fire* <https://thenabokovian.org/node/35440>

for Nabokov's lectures on Russian literature

[https://thenabokovian.org/annotations/Lectures\\_on\\_Russian\\_Literature](https://thenabokovian.org/annotations/Lectures_on_Russian_Literature)

### **PRESENTATION OF WORK-IN-PROGRESS to Nabokov's lectures on Proust.**

Students will make a short, informal presentation to the class outlining their progress on the annotations. Though successes ought to be noted, emphasis ought to be placed on impediments encountered. Focusing on the impediments will elicit the help of classmates and instructor in overcoming these impediments through shared knowledge and the sharing of bibliographic materials.

**Attendance and participation:** Faithful attendance and informed participation are mandatory. Members of the class are expected to attend all sessions and to prepare readings and assignments carefully. **NB: Students who miss *four or more* classes will not be eligible to submit work or pass the course.**

**Standing in a course is determined by the course instructor subject to the approval of the Faculty Dean. This means that grades submitted by the instructor may be subject to revision. No grades are final until they have been approved by the Dean.**

### **General Guidelines**

1. Turn off cell phones and other technological devices upon arrival to class. This classroom has a "no-screen" policy. Official note takers will be assigned to take notes on a regular basis for everyone in class. These notes will be posted on CU Learn for everyone to use. Only official note takers will have access to a screen. Everyone else ought to take notes by hand. Studies show that taking notes by hand is far more conducive to learning. Should the "no-screen" policy cause trouble or anxiety, students are encouraged to seek a special dispensation from the instructor.
2. Do not arrive late to class. Arriving late is disrespectful and it disturbs both the instructor and the students. If arriving late due to unforeseen circumstances, please minimize the disturbance by sitting in a seat close to the doors.
3. Chatting with classmates during a lecture, seminar or class discussions is unacceptable in a university setting. It disturbs both students and instructor.



## University Regulations for All Humanities Courses

### Copies of Written Work Submitted

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Always retain for yourself a copy of all essays, term papers, written assignments or take-home tests submitted in your courses.

### Academic Integrity at Carleton

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Plagiarism is presenting, whether intentionally or not, the ideas, expression of ideas, or work of others as one's own. Plagiarism includes reproducing or paraphrasing portions of someone else's published or unpublished material, regardless of the source, and presenting these as one's own without proper citation or reference to the original source. Examples of sources from which the ideas, expressions of ideas or works of others may be drawn from include but are not limited to: books, articles, papers, literary compositions and phrases, performance compositions, chemical compounds, art works, laboratory reports, research results, calculations and the results of calculations, diagrams, constructions, computer reports, computer code/software, and material on the internet. More information can be found [here](#).

### Academic Accommodation Policy

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#### **Academic Accommodation**

You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term. For an accommodation request the processes are as follows:

**Pregnancy obligation:** write to the instructor with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details see the [Student Guide](#)

**Religious obligation:** write to the instructor with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details see the [Student Guide](#)

**Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities:** The Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) provides services to students with Learning Disabilities (LD), psychiatric/mental health disabilities, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD), chronic medical conditions, and impairments in mobility, hearing, and vision. If you have a disability requiring academic accommodations in this course, please contact PMC at

613-520-6608 or [pmc@carleton.ca](mailto:pmc@carleton.ca) for a formal evaluation. If you are already registered with the PMC, contact your PMC coordinator to send me your Letter of Accommodation at the beginning of the term, and no later than two weeks before the first in-class scheduled test or exam requiring accommodation (if applicable). After requesting accommodation from PMC, meet with me to ensure accommodation arrangements are made. Please consult the [PMC website](#) for the deadline to request accommodations for the formally-scheduled exam (if applicable).

### **Survivors of Sexual Violence**

As a community, Carleton University is committed to maintaining a positive learning, working and living environment where sexual violence will not be tolerated, and is survivors are supported through academic accommodations as per Carleton's Sexual Violence Policy. For more information about the services available at the university and to obtain information about sexual violence and/or support, visit: [carleton.ca/sexual-violence-support](http://carleton.ca/sexual-violence-support)

### **Accommodation for Student Activities**

Carleton University recognizes the substantial benefits, both to the individual student and for the university, that result from a student participating in activities beyond the classroom experience. Reasonable accommodation must be provided to students who compete or perform at the national or international level. Please contact your instructor with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. <https://carleton.ca/senate/wp-content/uploads/Accommodation-for-Student-Activities-1.pdf>

## **Grading System at Carleton University**

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Standing in a course is determined by the course instructor, subject to the approval of the faculty Dean. Standing in courses will be shown by alphabetical grades. The system of grades used, with corresponding grade points and the percentage conversion is below. Grade points indicated are for courses with 1.0 credit value. Where the course credit is greater or less than one credit, the grade points are adjusted proportionately.

[Grading System](#)

## **Course Sharing Websites and Copyright**

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Classroom teaching and learning activities, including lectures, discussions, presentations, etc., by both instructors and students, are copy protected and remain the intellectual property of their respective author(s). All course materials, including PowerPoint presentations, outlines, and other materials, are also protected by copyright and remain the intellectual property of their respective author(s).

Students registered in the course may take notes and make copies of course materials for their own educational use only. Students are not permitted to reproduce or

distribute lecture notes and course materials publicly for commercial or non-commercial purposes without express written consent from the copyright holder(s).

## Statement on Class Conduct

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The Carleton University Human Rights Policies and Procedures affirm that all members of the University community share a responsibility to:

- promote equity and fairness,
- respect and value diversity,
- prevent discrimination and harassment, and preserve the freedom of its members to carry out responsibly their scholarly work without threat of interference.



## Deferred Term Work

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In some situations, students are unable to complete term work because of illness or other circumstances beyond their control, which forces them to delay submission of the work.

Students who claim illness, injury or other extraordinary circumstances beyond their control as a reason for missed term work are held responsible for immediately informing the instructor concerned and for making alternate arrangements with the instructor and **in all cases this must occur no later than three (3.0) working days after the term work was due.**

The alternate arrangement must be made before the last day of classes in the term as published in the academic schedule. Normally, any deferred term work will be completed by the last day of term. More information is available [in the calendar](#).

## Deferred Final Exams

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Students who are unable to write a final examination because of a serious illness/emergency or other circumstances beyond their control may apply for accommodation. Normally, the accommodation for a missed final examination will be granting the student the opportunity to write a deferred examination. In specific cases when it is not possible to offer a deferred examination, and with the approval of the Dean, an alternate accommodation may be made. [More information.](#)

The application for a [deferral](#) must:

1. be made in writing or online to the Registrar's Office no later than **three working days** after the original final examination or the due date of the take-home examination; and,
2. be fully supported by appropriate documentation and, in cases of illness, by a medical certificate dated no later than one working day after the examination, or by appropriate documents in other cases. Medical documents must specify the date of the onset of the illness, the (expected) date of recovery, and the extent to which the student was/is incapacitated during the time of the examination. The University's preferred medical form can be found at the Registrar's Office [forms and fees page](#).

Any questions related to deferring a Final Exam or Final Assignment/Take Home Examination should be directed to the [Registrar's Office](#).

## Withdrawal From Courses

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Withdrawn. No academic credit, no impact on the CGPA. WDN is a permanent notation that appears on the official transcript for students who withdraw after the full fee adjustment date in each term (noted in the Academic Year section of the Calendar each term). Students may withdraw on or before the last day of classes.

Important dates can be found [here](#).

## Financial vs. Academic Withdrawal

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**Make sure that you are aware of the separate deadlines for Financial and Academic withdrawal!**

Making registration decisions in Carleton Central involves making a financial and academic commitment for the courses you choose, regardless of attendance. If you do not attend – you must withdraw in Carleton Central within the published deadlines to cancel your registration. [More information](#)

## Department Contact Information

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**College of the Humanities** 300 Paterson Hall (613)520-2809

[CollegeOfHumanities@cunet.carleton.ca](mailto:CollegeOfHumanities@cunet.carleton.ca)

Drop box for CLCV, HUMS LATN GREK Term Papers and assignments is outside 300 P.A.

**Greek and Roman Studies** 300 Paterson Hall (613)520-2809

[GreekAndRomanStudies@cunet.carleton.ca](mailto:GreekAndRomanStudies@cunet.carleton.ca)

Drop Box is outside of 300 P.A.

**Religion** 2A39 Paterson Hall (613)520-2100

[Religion@cunet.carleton.ca](mailto:Religion@cunet.carleton.ca)

Drop box for RELI and SAST Term Papers and assignments is outside of 2A39 P.A.

**Registrar's Office** 300 Tory (613)520-3500

<https://carleton.ca/registrar/>

## Student Resources on Campus

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[CUKnowHow Website](#)

[Academics: From registration to graduation, the tools for your success.](#)