

PHIL 3010 A Philosophical Traditions: Russian Philosophy

Session: Fall 2020

Day & Time: Tuesday, 11.30 am - 2.30 pm

Professor: Iva Apostolova

Contact info: Iva.Apostolova@carleton.ca

Required Course Materials: There is a course pack that will be made available to students registered in the course through the library service *Ares* (through cuLearn).

Course format: Since this is a time slotted course, there will be *synchronous* as well as *asynchronous* elements combined. To be sure, students will not be expected to be present online for the full three hours. However, any scheduled “in-class” assignments will be fitted in the regular class time slot and students will be expected to be present online for those.

The *asynchronous* elements of the course include but are not limited to the professor’s lecture notes which should help the students read and interpret the original texts (to be found in the course pack). The professor will use a variety of platforms, such as the BBButton and Kaltura, to deliver those.

The *synchronous* elements will require students to be present for an hour or so of live sessions which will consist of short lectures and Q&A/discussion periods. Depending on the final number of registered students, it is most likely that students will have assigned groups and time slots of attending the live sessions. For example, if the final number of registered students is 30, the students will be divided into two groups, 15 people each. Group A will attend the live sessions from, say, 11.30 am to 12.30 pm each Tuesday, while group B will attend the live sessions from, say, 1.30 to 2.30 pm each Tuesday. The group division is done because none of the embedded online platforms can handle a large number of attendees at one time. Details about the logistics will be posted on cuLearn in due course.

Objectives: The main objective of this course is to introduce students to some of the main figures in Russian philosophy from 18th to 20th Century. The course is structured both chronologically and thematically. We will familiarize ourselves with Russian philosophers from different epochs, as well as from different philosophical and intellectual traditions, such as Slavophiles and Westernizers, Existentialists and Revolutionaries, Nihilists and Philosophers of Language. In learning about the different schools of thought, we will draw parallels with Western philosophical traditions. No preliminary and prerequisite knowledge of any Western or non-Western philosophical tradition is needed for this course. We will start with the Russian Socrates and end with a reflection on some of the post-communist political and philosophical currents of Russia.

Course Evaluation:

- “In class” **midterm** to take place on Tuesday, **October 20, 2020**. The midterm is worth **30%** of the final grade. Students will be asked to answer questions based on the material covered in class. Topics and authors to be covered on the midterm will be posted on cuLearn in advance. The midterm will take place during the regular class time slot so students are expected to make themselves available during that time; the same rules of deferral for a regular in-class assignment apply here. Logistical details to follow.
- Take-home text review. The take-home text review is due, electronically, any time before but no later than **November 3, 2020**. The text review is worth **30%** of the final grade. Details about the text review to come on cuLearn.
- Final take-home assignment. The final take-home assignment is due, electronically, any time before but no later than **December 23, 2020**. The final assignment is worth **40%** of the final grade. Instructions on questions and further details will be made available on cuLearn in due course. **Note that failure to meet the deadline of the final assignment will result in 0 (zero).**

All the assignments are based upon the material **covered “in class”**. Additional information regarding the assignments will be provided on cuLearn.

Course Description:

Here is the list of the philosophers whose texts are included in the course pack (in the order in which they will be covered):

1. Gregory Skovoroda (1722-1794), Enlightenment Philosopher
2. Mikhail Bakunin (1814-1876), Westernizer, Anarchist, Nihilist, Professional Revolutionary
3. Nikolai Chernyshevsky (1828-1889), Nihilist, Materialist
4. Fyodor Dostoyevsky (1821-1881), Existentialist, Slavophile
5. Vladimir Solovyev (1853-1900), Existentialist, Christian Philosopher
6. Nikolai Berdyaev (1874-1948), Existentialist
7. Pyotr Ouspensky (1878-1947), Mysticist
8. Vladimir Lenin (1870-1924), Marxist, Revolutionary
9. Pavel Florenski (1882-1937), Christian Philosopher
10. Nikolai Lossky (1870-1965), Intuitivist-Personalist
11. Mikhail Bakhtin (1895-1975), Aesthetician, Philosopher of Act
12. Alexander Zinovyev (1922-2006), Socialist, Marxist, Philosopher-Dissident

Disclaimers:

Please allow 48 hours for a response to any email communication with the professor. Exemption from exams, assignments or term papers will be granted only upon a presentation of a valid and verifiable medical document (or equivalent) either prior to the scheduled assignment or shortly afterward. It is the responsibility of the student to advise the professor well in advance (at least a week) if there is a possibility that the student may miss a due date for a take-home assignment or an in-class exam. If an assignment is lost, it is the responsibility of the student to prove (or provide a copy of the assignment) that the assignment was submitted.

Note that the standard time for marking assignments is 2 (two) calendar weeks.

Note that the proposed course outline is subject to revisions and change according to time constraints and in-class progress.

Department of Philosophy and Carleton University Policies (Fall/Winter 2020-21)

Assignments:

Please follow your professor's instructions on how assignments will be handled electronically. There will be NO hard copies placed in the essay box this coming year.

Evaluation:

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.

Deferrals for Term Work:

If students are unable to complete term work because of illness or other circumstances beyond their control, they should contact their course instructor no later than *three working days* of the due date. Normally, any deferred term work will be completed by the last day of the term. Term work cannot be deferred by the Registrar.

Deferrals for Final Exams:

Students are expected to be available for the duration of a course including the examination period. Occasionally, students encounter circumstances beyond their control where they may not be able to write a final examination or submit a take-home examination. Examples of this would be a serious illness or the death of a family member. If you miss a final examination and/or fail to submit a take-home examination by the due date, you may apply for a deferral no later than *three working days* after the original due date (as per the University Regulations in [Section 4.3 of the Undergraduate Calendar](#)). Visit the [Registrar's Office](#) for further information.

Plagiarism:

It is the responsibility of each student to understand the meaning of 'plagiarism' as defined in the Undergraduate or Graduate Calendars, and to avoid both committing plagiarism and aiding or abetting plagiarism by other students. ([Section 10.1 of the Undergraduate Calendar Academic Regulations](#))

Academic Accommodation:

You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term:

- *Pregnancy or religious obligation:* write to your professor 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 visit the [EDC](#) website.
- *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 for a formal evaluation. If you are already registered with the PMC, contact your PMC coordinator to send your Letter of Accommodation at the beginning of the term, and no later than two weeks before the first in-class test or exam requiring accommodation. After requesting accommodation from PMC, meet with your professor to ensure accommodation arrangements are made.
- *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 where survivors are supported through academic accommodations as per [Carleton's Sexual Violence Policy](#).
- *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.

Important Dates:

Sept. 9 Classes start.

Sept. 23 Last day for registration and course changes for fall term and fall/winter (two-term) courses.

Sept. 30 Last day for entire fee adjustment when withdrawing from fall term or two-term courses. Withdrawals after this date will result in a permanent notation of WDN on the official transcript.

Oct. 12 Statutory holiday. University closed.

Oct. 26-30 Fall Break – no classes.

Nov. 27 Last day for summative tests or examinations, or formative tests or examinations totaling more than 15% of the final grade, before the official examination period.

Dec. 11 Last day of fall term classes. ***Classes follow a Monday schedule.*** Last day for academic withdrawal from fall term courses. Last day for handing in term work and the last day that can be specified by a course instructor as a due date for term work for a fall term course.

Dec. 12-23 Final examinations for fall term courses and mid-term examinations in two-term courses. Examinations are normally held all seven days of the week.

Dec. 23 All take-home examinations are due.

Jan. 6 Classes begin.

Jan. 20 Last day for registration and course changes in the winter term.

Jan. 31 Last day for a full fee adjustment when withdrawing from winter term courses or from the winter portion of two-term courses. Withdrawals after this date will result in a permanent notation of WDN on the official transcript.

Feb. 15 Statutory holiday. University closed.

Feb. 15-19 Winter Break – no classes.

Mar. 26 Last day for summative tests or examinations, or formative tests or examinations totaling more than 15% of the final grade, in winter term or fall/winter courses before the official examination period.

Apr. 2 Statutory holiday. University closed.

Apr. 9 Last day of two-term and winter term classes. Last day for academic withdrawal from fall/winter and winter courses. Last day for handing in term work and the last day that can be specified by a course instructor as a due date for two-term and for winter term courses.

Apr. 10 No classes or examinations take place.

Apr. 11-23 Final examinations for winter term and two-term courses. Examinations are normally held all seven days of the week.

Apr. 23 All take-home examinations are due.

Addresses:

Department of Philosophy:

www.carleton.ca/philosophy

520-2110

Registrar's Office:

www.carleton.ca/registrar

520-3500

Academic Advising Centre:

www.carleton.ca/academicadvising

520-7850

Writing Services:

<http://www.carleton.ca/csas/writing-services/>

520-3822

MacOdrum Library

<http://www.library.carleton.ca/>

520-2735