Required Texts: All works are to be read before each class meeting:

1. Xeroxed packet of relevant material.
2. The Queen of Spades and Other Stories by A. S. Pushkin (World Classics)
3. The Complete Tales of Nicholai Gogol, Ed. by L. Kent, 2 vols (Chicago)
7. Gogol from the Twentieth Century (Princeton)

Recommended works: 8-10. Poor Folk; The Double; Notes From Underground by F. Dostoevsky

(reading One of these is mandatory)
11-12. The Little Man; The Petty Demon, by F. Sologub (Ardis)
13-14. Petersburg by Andrei Bely; Master & Margarita by M. Bulgakov

Week of:

Sept. 7 Organization & Introduction: Nature of literary tastes; notes on Russian cultural history; distribution of Xeroxed materials. Start reading longer works (Inspector General, Dead Souls, Part 1) now!
First homework over the week-end: Dictionary definitions (2 sources) of the following terms involving Gogol's fiction: Fantasy, Arabesques, Grotesque, Myth, Gothic, Baroque, Classicism, Romanticism, Realism, Satire, Image, Dream, Setting, Short story; Novella; Picaresque novel, Novel; Russian (Eastern) Orthodoxy; Catholicism. Find on the Map Poland, Russia, Ukraine and Belarus.

Sept. 14 Literary movements and schools in eighteenth- & nineteenth-century Russia; reading those who came before Gogol. (G. Derzhavin and N. Karamzin "Poor Liza," both in Xerox pocket).

Sept. 21 The nature of literary games and competitions. A. Pushkin: "The Tales of Belkin" & "Queen of Spades" in The Queen of Spades and Other Stories (World Classics)


Oct. 26 Further elaborations of the Arabesques. Readings from the Xerox Pocket: Articles from the Arabesques; "The Bronze Horseman" by Pushkin; "Shtoss" by M. Lermontov; 1st paper due.


Nov. 16 Gogol: Dead Souls (Yale Press). 1-hour Quiz

Nov. 23 Thanksgiving Recess. Read one essay in Gogol from the Twentieth Century & one item 9-15

Nov. 30 Discussion: Gogol from the Twentieth Century. Intro to the works for the reading period.

Dec. 7 Reading Period: Recomm. add. source: V. Terras: Handbook of Russian Literature (Yale)

Grading: Homework 5%; Weekly discuss: 25%; 2 short papers: 15% / ea; Quiz: 20%; Final paper: 20%
Suggestions: 1st paper: Create an essay tracing one prominent device of repetition/variation (image, dream, setting, scene, act, character, theme or any other element) which played a prominent structural function in any one work by Gogol covered in our readings. Make sure that the thrust of your argument is clearly stated as a topic sentence at the beginning of your essay and don't forget to provide the title. (3-4 pp). 2nd paper: Compare/contrast two works of fiction (or poetry) by two authors again choosing one or two invariant points of comparison along the lines of inquiry in paper 1 (4 - 5 pp.); Final paper: 7-10 pp. involving at least 3 sources of literary analysis/criticism from the Bibliography attached.