

Department of Slavonic & Finno–Ugrian Studies  
University of Delhi

Common Pool of Generic Electives (GE) Courses Offered by  
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Offered by  
Department of Slavonic & Finno-Ugrian Studies

**General Elective Course: 3**  
**RUSSIAN NOVEL OF GOLDEN ERA**

CREDIT DISTRIBUTION, ELIGIBILITY AND PRE-REQUISITES OF THE COURSE

Course Title & Code Credits	Credits	Credit Distribution of the Course			Eligibility Criteria	Pre-requisite of the course (if any)
		Lecture	Tutorial	Practical/Practice		
GE 3- Russian Novel of Golden Era	4	3	1	-	As per university rules	NIL

**Learning Objective:**

- To develop the analytical skills of the learners;
- To be able to comprehend and critically interpret the text and the subtext of the literary work;
- To be able to recognize literary elements such as theme, plot, characterization and the genre of the work;
- To develop the ability to recognise and coherently express views and thoughts;
- To develop writing and discussion skills through compositions and discussions.

**Outcome of this course:**

- the learners will learn to appreciate literary beauty, style, and artistic expression;
- will be able to understand the interconnectedness between historical, political, and philosophical influences and the literary work;
- will enhance the capacity to engage with multifaceted ideas and various outlooks;
- will enhance the skill to empathise with literary characters and learn from their experience.

**Assessment Methods:**

As per the University's evaluation scheme.

**SYLLABUS OF G.E.-3**

**Unit 1:** Alexander S. Pushkin – ‘Evgeni Onegin’ (1825) (15 Hours)

- Understanding the literary landscape of 19th-century Russia.
- A.S. Pushkin's Life and Works: Overview of Pushkin's literary career, notable writings, and contributions.
- Evgeni Onegin: In-depth analysis of Pushkin's iconic novel:

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- Social and literary context.
- Structured reading and comprehension.
- Character analysis: The ideal Russian woman and the superfluous hero.
- Plot and conflict.
- Exploration of syncretic Realism.

**Unit 2: Ivan S. Turgenev – ‘On the Eve’ (1859)**

(15 Hours)

- Placing the writer in the literary process of the 19th century
- Symbolism behind the title of the novel On the Eve;
- quest for an idealistic, selfless hero and the fate of Russia;
- Russian intellectual passivity vs. foreign radical passion;
- Elena Stakhova – a symbol of strong-willed, independent woman;

Or

**Ivan Sergievich Turgenev – ‘Fathers and Sons’ (1862)**

- Placing the writer in the literary process of the 19<sup>th</sup> century
- Life and literary writings by Turgenev: an overview.
- ‘Fathers and Sons’- Structured reading
- Analysis of the work – contextualising the novel; the ‘intellectual-democrate as the central literary type; the ‘nihilist’ hero; the plot, conflict and the characters. Conflict of generations - sons against fathers.

**Unit: 3 Ivan Goncharov – ‘Oblomov’ (1859)**

(15 Hours)

- Placing the writer in the literary process of the 19th century
- Social and literary context.
- Structured reading and comprehension.
- the phenomenon of ‘Oblomovism’ in the novel
- critique of the aristocratic class and the inertia of 19th century Russian society
- The Symbolism of the Sofa in the novel
- The challenges of women character

**Unit 4: Leo N. Tolstoy – ‘Anna Karenina’ (1879)**

(15 hours)

- Situating the writer in the literary process of the mid-19th century
- Literary career and literary writings by Tolstoy: an overview
- The reflections on the social-political situation of Russia;
- ‘Anna Karenina’ – Structured reading
- Analysis of the novel- Specificities of plot and the composition; Anna's tragedy; the ‘woman’ and the ‘peasant’ question;

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Reading list:

Madesker, M. “Romanticism and Realism in Pushkin's Evgenii Onegin” McMaster university  
Hamilton v Ontario  
<https://macsphere.mcmaster.ca/bitstream/11375/9596/1/fulltext.pdf>

Milton, Ehre “Oblomov and His Creator-The Life and Art of Ivan Goncharov” Princeton University Press,  
ISBN: 0-691-06245-5  
[https://api.pageplace.de/preview/DT0400.9781400868186\\_A26068417/preview-9781400868186\\_A26068417.pdf](https://api.pageplace.de/preview/DT0400.9781400868186_A26068417/preview-9781400868186_A26068417.pdf)

J. Douglas Clayton, “New Directions in Soviet Criticism on Evgenii Onegin” Pages 208-219 Published  
online: 14 Apr 2015  
<https://doi.org/10.1080/00085006.1980.11091624>

**Novels:**

Eugene Onegin: A novel in verse by Alexander Pushkin  
<https://almabooks.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Eugene-Onegin-extract-1.pdf>

On the eve: Ivan S. Turgenev  
<https://archive.org/details/ontheeve00turg>

Oblamov: Ivan Goncharov  
<https://archive.org/details/cu31924026662092/page/n2/mode/1up>

Anna Karenina: L.N Tolstoy  
<https://dn790000.ca.archive.org/0/items/annakareninatols00tolsiala/annakareninatols00tolsiala.pdf>