

Department of Slavonic & Finno–Ugrian Studies  
University of Delhi

Common Pool of Generic Electives (GE) Courses  
Offered by  
**Department of Slavonic & Finno - Ugrian Studies**  
**B.A. (Hons.)**  
**Semester- III**

**Generic Elective Course-4: Russian Short Stories**

CREDIT DISTRIBUTION, ELIGIBILITY AND PRE-REQUISITES OF THE COURSE

Course Title & Code Credits	Credit Distribution of the Course			Eligibility Criteria	Pre-requisite of the course (if any)	Department Offering the course
	Lecture	Tutorial	Practical/Practice			
<b>Russian Short Stories</b>	3	1	-	As per university rules	NA	Department of Slavonic & Finno–Ugrian Studies

**Course Objectives:**

1. To introduce students to the rich tradition of Russian short stories.
2. To explore the historical, social, and cultural contexts of Russian short fiction.
3. To develop students' critical reading and analytical skills through close readings of key texts.
4. To familiarize students with different literary styles and movements in Russian literature.

**Assessment Methods:**

**As per the university examination/assessment scheme**

**Unit 1: Introduction to the Russian Short Story**

**(15 Hours)**

- 1.1. The origins and evolution of the Russian short story.
- 1.2. Key themes and characteristics of Russian short story.
- 1.3. The influence of folklore and oral storytelling traditions.
- 1.4. The role of short fiction in Russian literary history.

**Unit 2: 19<sup>th</sup> Century Russian Short Stories**

**(15 Hours)**

## Department of Slavonic & Finno–Ugrian Studies

### University of Delhi

2.1. Alexander Pushkin – The Queen of Spades.

2.2. Nikolai Gogol – The Overcoat.

2.3 Leo Tolstoy – How Much Land Does a Man Need?

2.4 Anton Chekhov – The Lady with the Dog.

2.5 Maxim Gorky – Old Izergil

#### **Unit 3: 20th-Century Russian Short Stories**

**(15 Hours)**

3.1. Mikhail Zoshchenko – The Crisis.

3.2. Isaac Babel – My First Goose.

3.3. Daniil Kharms – The Old Woman.

3.5. Varlam Shalamov – Kolyma Tales (Selected Stories).

#### **Unit 4: Contemporary Russian Short Stories**

**(15 Hours)**

4.1. Ludmila Petrushevskaya – The Time: Night (excerpts) or any other short story

4.2. Victor Pelevin – Hermit and Six-Toes.

4.3. Tatyana Tolstaya – Night.

4.4. Vladimir Sorokin – Horse Soup.

#### **Primary Readings:**

1. Pushkin, Alexander. The Queen of Spades. Translated by Richard Pevear and Larissa Volokhonsky. New York Review Books, 2009.
2. Gogol, Nikolai. The Overcoat and Other Stories. Translated by Ronald Wilks. Penguin Classics, 2006.
3. Dostoevsky, Fyodor. The Dream of a Ridiculous Man and Other Stories. Translated by David Magarshack. Penguin Classics, 2009.
4. Tolstoy, Leo. How Much Land Does a Man Need? and Other Stories. Translated by Aylmer Maude. Penguin Classics, 1993.
5. Chekhov, Anton. The Lady with the Dog and Other Stories. Translated by Constance Garnett. Dover Publications, 1992.
6. Babel, Isaac. Red Cavalry and Other Stories. Translated by Peter Constantine. W.W. Norton & Co., 2003.
7. Platonov, Andrei. Soul and Other Stories. Translated by Robert Chandler. New York Review Books, 2008.
8. Petrushevskaya, Ludmila. The Time: Night. Translated by Sally Laird. Northwestern University Press, 1994.. Translated by Keith Gessen and Anna Summers. Penguin Books, 2009.
9. Sorokin, Vladimir. Red Pyramid: Selected Stories. Translated by Max Lawton. Introduction by Will Self. NYRB Classics, 2023.
10. Tolstaya, Tatyana. Night. Translated by Jamey Gambrell. New York Review Books, 2013.
11. Secondary Readings:

## Department of Slavonic & Finno–Ugrian Studies

### University of Delhi

12. Kahn, Andrew. *The Cambridge Companion to the Russian Short Story*. Cambridge University Press, 2006.
13. Terras, Victor. *A History of Russian Literature*. Yale University Press, 1991.
14. Wachtel, Michael. *The Russian Short Story: A Critical Anthology*. Oxford University Press, 2010.
15. Erlich, Victor. *Russian Formalism: History, Doctrine*. Mouton, 1981.
16. Bethea, David. *The Russian Short Story: From Pushkin to Pelevin*. Routledge, 2007.