

# THE CENTER FOR TRANSLATION STUDIES

School of Literatures, Cultures and Linguistics | College of Liberal Arts and Sciences | University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

## The World in Translation Literary Works and Problems of Translation CWL 496, Fall 2009

**Tuesdays/Thursdays 12:30-1:50 pm**  
**Classroom: 136 Davenport Hall**

This reading-intensive course introduces students to a number of masterpieces of world literature and the challenges they pose for a translator. From classics of Western civilization, to the contemporary remakes, from the literature of the absurd, to the postmodernist novel and “potential literature,” we will look at the texts in and of themselves; we will regard them as part of a particular cultural context; we will explore the ways in which they move across the cultures; and we will consider them from a translator’s point of view. An introductory course for the Undergraduate Certificate in Translation Studies, it counts as an elective for the Certificate and can be taken for graduate credit. Students should be able to read in a language other than English and be interested in advancing their knowledge of that language. The format of instruction is informal discussion in English. Assignments include quizzes, translations, one formal presentation, three 3-5-page essays, work in archives, and a 5-7-page final paper.

### Select required readings:

- Alexievich, Svetlana. *Voices of Chernobyl* [Tchernobylskaia molitva] (Trans. Keith Gessen) NY: Picador, 2006. 236 pp. ISBN 0312425848.
- Carroll, Lewis. *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*; and, *Through the Looking-Glass*. NY: Barnes & Noble, 2005. 286 pp. ISBN 1593080158.
- Homer, *Iliad* (Trans. Robert Fagles), excerpts. NY: Viking, 1990. 683 pp. ISBN 0670835102.
- Lear, Edward. *The Complete Nonsense of Edward Lear*. London: Faber, 2001. 288 pp. ISBN 0571207367.
- Lispector, Clarice. *The Stream of Life* [Agua viva] (Trans. Elizabeth Lowe and Earl Fitz) Minneapolis: U of Minnesota P, 1998. 79 pp. ISBN: 0816617821
- Merwin, W.S. and Clarence Brown, trans. *The Selected Poems of Osip Mandelstam*. NY: New York Review Books, 2004. 167 pp. ISBN 1590170911.
- Nabokov, Vladimir. *Pnin*. NY: Knopf, 2004. 143 pp. ISBN 1400041988.
- Nafisi, Azar. *Reading Lolita in Tehran*. NY: Random House, 2008. 400 pp, ISBN 0812979303.
- Queneau, Raymond. *Exercises in Style* [Exercices de style] (Trans. Barbara Wright). NY: New Directions, 1981. 197 pp. ISBN 0811207897.
- Pushkin, Alexander. *Eugene Onegin* [Evgenii Onegin] (Trans. by John Falen). NY: Oxford UP, 2009. 240 pp. ISBN 9780199538645.
- Seth, Vikram. *The Golden Gate*. NY: Vintage, 1991. 307 pp. ISBN 0679734570.

**Instructor: Dr. Anastasia Lakhtikova**  
**[alakhtik@illinois.edu](mailto:alakhtik@illinois.edu)**

**[www.translation.illinois.edu](http://www.translation.illinois.edu)**

*Please contact us at [translation@illinois.edu](mailto:translation@illinois.edu) for more information on the Certificate in Translation Studies*