Undergraduate Comprehensive List

1. Karamzin, “Poor Liza”
3. Gogol, Petersburg Tales (“Nevsky Prospekt”, “The Nose”, “The Overcoat”, “Notes of a Madman”) and Inspector General or Dead Souls
4. Lermontov, A Hero of Our Time
5. Turgenev, Fathers and Sons
6. Dostoevsky, Crime and Punishment or Brothers Karamazov
7. Tolstoy, War and Peace or Anna Karenina
8. Chekhov, two plays or selection of 5 short stories
9. Bely, Petersburg
10. Akhmatova, “Requiem” or selections of short poems
12. Bulgakov, Heart of a Dog or Master and Margarita
13. Mayakovsky, Bedbug or selection of long poems
14. Kharms, “The Old Woman” and “Mini-Stories” (from The Man with the Black Coat)
15. Zamyatin, We
16. Gladkov, Cement (or another work of Socialist Realism or prototype of SR)
17. Solzhenitsyn, One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich
18. Nabokov, one novel of choice
19. Platonov, one novel or selection of short stories
20. Pelevin, one novel of choice

Students are expected to supplement this core list with 5 titles of their own choosing. These titles might reflect students’ interests in another sub-field (film, visual art, anthropology, gender studies, history, etc.); or another period (medieval Russia; post-Soviet/Contemporary literature). These titles will be submitted to the Departmental Representative one month before the Comprehensive Examination. In consultation with the Department Representative, students may also substitute up to 5 works with others relevant titles from areas of course study (for instance, courses on sci-fi, contemporary literature, poetry, memoirs).