



**Reading List—Pam McFarland**  
**The Golden Age of Russian Literature: Short**  
**Stories from Pushkin to Chekhov**  
**LLI 686**

**Required texts:** *A Swim in the Pond in the Rain* by George Saunders (2021), and *The Queen of Spades, the Captain's Daughter, and Other Stories*, by Alexander Pushkin, digiReads (available for \$11.95 on Amazon). Or, you might be able to find a book with the Pushkin stories at the library or online – they are classics, and although the page numbers might be different, you will still be able to read the stories and be able to discuss them.

**Please read the material for Week 1, prior to first class.**

**Week 1: (Nov 1)**

- A discussion of close reading
- Overview of 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century Russian literature, focusing specifically on the short story
- Discussion of pp 3-60 in Saunders

**Week 2: (Nov 8)**

- Alexander Pushkin: father of a new era for the short story in Russia
- Discussion of “The Captain’s Daughter,” and “Queen of Spades,” pp 5-96 in Pushkin

**Week 3: (Nov 15)**

- Turgenev
- Discussion on “The Singers,” Saunders, pp. 63-117

**Week 4: (Nov 22)**

- Chekhov
- Discussion of “Gusev” (short story provided by instructor via email or PDF)
- Discussion of “Gooseberries,” Saunders, pp 311-343

**Week 5: (Nov 29)**

- Gogol
- Discussion of “The Nose,” Saunders, pp. 244-305, and “The Overcoat,” pages provided by instructor.

**Week 6: (December 6)**

- Tolstoy
- Discussion of “Master and Man,” Saunders, pp. 165-244, and *Alyosha the Pot*, pp. 349-381.