

Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures
SLA429 / SLA1408, Taras Shevchenko, 2008–2009

Mid-Term Examination

Due: Tuesday, February 24, 2009, 3:00 PM at the beginning of class

Undergraduate and Graduate students must write two short essays—one each in questions 1 and 2, below. For the second essay you may choose either question 2A or question 2B. Be specific in your answers. Document your arguments by reference to examples in the poems. Essays should be typed. Citations from Shevchenko should be typed in Ukrainian (Cyrillic) where possible, otherwise in transliteration (Remember that you can copy and paste from the texts in the internet that are linked to the lists of assigned reading).

In all cases, you must show a good command of the poetry we have read. Additional information from biographical or interpretative sources is welcome and useful (although you CAN write an excellent essay without it).

Undergraduate and Graduate students answer Questions 1 and 2.

Question 1.

Write a short essay (3–4 typed, double-spaced pages) interpreting the poem “Try lita.”

Question 2.

Write a short essay (2–3 typed, double-spaced pages) on either of these two topics. Whichever topic you choose, you should address the question of how Shevchenko's poems from the *Try lita* period differ from his earlier works.

Choice A:

Compare Shevchenko's presentation of madness in “Prychynna” and in “Vid'ma” (Osyka).

Choice B:

Compare Shevchenko's depiction of the Kobzar in “Perebendia” and in “Slipyi” (Nevol'nyk).

Graduate students must write (in addition to questions 1 and 2) an additional short essay.

Question 3.

Read Rory Finin's essay, “Mountains, Masks, Metre, Meaning: Taras Shevchenko's ‘Kavkaz.’” in *The Slavonic and East European Review*, Volume 83, Number 3, 1 July 2005, pp. 396-439 (Available online and through our Assignment 6 web page). Write a critique of Finin's interpretation of “Kavkaz.” You may agree or disagree, but you should briefly re-state his argument and analyze it's strengths and weaknesses. Your critique should be 3–4 typed, double-spaced pages in length