

Alexandra Shapiro (née Litvar)
Russian Flagship Lecturer
Co-director, Russian Study Away Program in Armenia and Georgia

Education

ACTFL Certified OPI tester of Russian, Full certification 17 January 2020 – 16 January 2024
Middlebury College, VT June 2016 – July 2016
STARTALK Summer Institute: Proficiency-based Pedagogy For Teachers of Russian.

Moscow State Regional University May, 19 2016
PhD

Dissertation: “*The Problem of Time, Space and Memory in the Biographical Novels of Vladimir Nabokov, the American Period*”

Maxim Gorky Literary Institute, Moscow, Russia August 2013 – July 2015
Doctoral student in Comparative Literature

Dissertation: “*The Problem of Time, Space and Memory in the Biographical Novels of Vladimir Nabokov, the American Period*”

Moscow State Linguistic University (MSLU), Moscow, Russia 2002- 2007

Master of Arts in Foreign Language Acquisition (English and French)

Thesis: “Lexis as genre-forming means in *The Hobbit* by J. R. R. Tolkien.”

Research paper: “Lexical means of fantasy style formation in “The Hobbit” by J. R. R. Tolkien.”

Teaching Experience

University of Georgia, Athens, GA
Russian Flagship Lecturer

January 2019 – present
40 hours/week

Intensive Beginner Russian 1011-1012 5-credit course

Intensive Intermediate Russian 2001-2002 4-credit course

Russian for Heritage Speakers 2010 3-credit course

Russian Conversion and Composition I 3001 3-credit course

Intensive Russian Conversion and Composition I/II 3011-3012 3-credit course

Tutorial in Professional Russian I and II 3911-3912 3-credit course

Created the courses, organized the courses’ ELC pages, taught classes, facilitated discussions, created and graded tests, papers, and weekly assignments, conducted exams, consulted students outside classroom hours.

Directed Study in Russian 1-credit course

Mentored the Russian Flagship ambassadors, teaching assistants and FLTAs.

Organized Flagship cultural extracurricular events.

World of Russian student-led website Fall, 2022 – present

Mentored students in website creation. Decolonizing Russian studies through highlighting other areas where Russian is commonly spoken. Outreach project with Georgian high schools.

Pennsylvania State University, State College, PA
Lecturer of Russian, remote

June – July 2023,
100 contact hours/4 weeks

Intensive Russian I, online

Created and taught a synchronous first-year Russian course online using the open-access “Mezhdu nami” textbook.

Pennsylvania State University, State College, PA

Lecturer of Russian, adjunct

30 hours / week

Russian Culture and Civilization (online)

Spring and Fall semesters 2017 and

2018

Together with colleagues supervised the course, edited its content, monitored students' participation, and adjusted the course information, graded discussions and research papers.

Intensive Russian II

July 2018

Russian I and II

Fall and Spring semesters 2016 -

2018

Pennsylvania State University, State College, PA

Fall semester 2015

ESL instructor, ESL 015

10 hours/ week

Organized the course's ANGEL page, prepared lectures, taught classes, facilitated discussions, graded tests, papers, and weekly assignments. Participated in Second language acquisition workshop aimed at sharing practical experience in teaching ESL with the colleagues at Penn State.

Moscow State Linguistic University (MSLU)

August 2007 – December 2007

Instructor

20 hours/ week

English language instructor first-year upper-intermediate level English. Taught speech, reading and grammar courses.

Lyceum #1555, MSLU Affiliate

English Teacher

September 2006– August 2008

20 hours/ week

Teacher of English for 8th and 9th grades (elementary, intermediate and advanced levels). Taught English as a second (ESL) and third language to 6 groups of 8-12 students. Designed lectures and activities; constructed exams; supervised in-class debates; supervised and graded exams; conducted oral exams. Wrote school curricula for Home Reading and Speech classes in ESL.

Conference and other presentations

Roundtable on Teaching Media Literacy, panelist. “*Promoting Critical Media Literacy in a Russian Language Class: A Case Study*” at the American Association of Teachers of Slavic and East European Languages (AATSEEL) conference (February 2024)

Roundtable “*The New Study Abroad Landscape: Challenges and Opportunities*”, panelist at the American Association of Teachers of Slavic and East European Languages (AATSEEL) conference (February 2024)

Shapiro, A. “*Addressing the Elephant in the Room: Adapting Russian Language Curricula to the Russian-Ukrainian War*”, a talk at the American Association of Teachers of Slavic and East European Languages (AATSEEL) conference (2/19/2023)

Roundtable “*Highlighting Culture while Teaching Different Levels of Russian Language Proficiency*”, organizer, chair, panelist at the Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies (ASEEES) national convention (11/11/2022)

Flagship Exchange Panel: Professional Language, panelist. (7/13/2022, virtual)

Panel discussion: “Understanding the War in Ukraine: Cultural and Historical Perspectives”, panelist, University of Georgia (4/1/2022)

Shapiro, A. (February 2022) *Developing Intercultural Competence in Intermediate to Advanced Russian Courses: practical application*, a talk at the American Association of Teachers of Slavic and East European Languages (AATSEEL) conference.

Shapiro, A. (March 2021) *Russian Social Media Use in a Language Classroom Setting*, a talk at the Round Table “*The use of social networks online for language learning in higher education: Just a means of entertainment or a real source for language acquisition?*”, Northern (Arctic) Federal University (Arkhangelsk, Russia) and Ural Federal University (Ekaterinburg, Russia) (virtual).

Smith, A., **Shapiro, A.** (February 2021) *Fostering Intercultural Competence in the Beginner’s Russian Courses Through Online Cultural Presentations and Discussions*, a talk at the American Association of Teachers of Slavic and East European Languages (AATSEEL) conference.

Shapiro, A., Smith, A. (February 2021) *Round Table on “Beginner’s Russian*, panelists at the American Association of Teachers of Slavic and East European Languages (AATSEEL) conference (virtual).

Shapiro, A. “Time and Memory in Vladimir Nabokov’s “Biographical” prose”, a talk at “RE:Constructions, Memory and Imagination” University of Virginia Slavic Forum. UVA (04/01/2017)

Publications

Shapiro, A. “*Teaching Critical Media Literacy in an Advanced Level Classroom Through the Eyes of Journalism as a Profession*”. Special Issue of the Russian Language Journal on teaching media literacy in the Russian language classroom, (Under Review)

Shapiro, A. Foreword. *The Image of Light and Silence. Essays on Russian Literature*. [Образ св’ета I tishini. Ocherki russkoi slovestnosti.] By Marina Abdokova. BOS publishing. Moscow, 2020.

Shapiro, A. “Hanri Bergson and Vladimir Nabokov’s Concept of Memory” [Kontsept pamati v ponimanii Anri Bergsona I Vladimra Nabokova], [Zvuk I Otvuk. Obzor Kriticheskoy Misli o Tvorchestve Vladimira Nabokova]. *Moscow City Psychological-Pedagogical University “Language and Text”*. (06/2016).

Shapiro, A. “*Ada or Ardor: time and space in V. Nabokov’s art*” [Ada ili radosti strasti: funktsii vremeni I prostranstva v tvorchestve V. Nabokova], *Peoples' Friendship University of Russia # 3* (2015)

Shapiro, A. “*Speak, Memory: Images of The Past in the context of Nabokov’s creative Method*” [Pamat, govori: obrazi minuvshogo v kontekste tvorcheskogo metoda V. Nabokova] *A.M. Gorki Literary Institute Journal # 4*, (2014)

Shapiro, A.Y. (Litvar). “Sound and Repercussion. A Review of Critical Response to Vladimir Nabokov’s Art” [Zvuk I Otvuk. Obzor Kriticheskoy Misli o Tvorchestve Vladimira Nabokova]. *Moscow City Psychological-Pedagogical University “Language and Text”*. (02/2014). <<http://psyjournals.ru/langpsy/2014/n1/67280.shtml>>

Shapiro, A. (Litvar). “The Mystery and interpretations of the Novel *Real Life of Sebastian Knight* by V. Nabokov” [Zagadki I interpretatsii romana V. Nabokova “Podlinnaya Zhizn Sebastiana Nigha”]. *The Ural State University Anthology* # 4, (2013): 158-170.

Litvar, A. “The Theme of Lost Time in V. Nabokov’s *The Event* [Tema “Utrachennogo Vremeni” V Piese V. Nabokova “Sobitije”]. *The Russian University of Theatre Arts Anthology* # 1. (2013): 96-109.

Litvar, A. “Vladimir Nabokov and Henri Bergson: the resonance of meanings and images” [Vladimir Nabokov i Henri Bergson: Rezonans Smislov I Obrazov]. *The Russian University of Theatre Arts Anthology* # 3. (2011): 175-186. Print.

Litvar, A. (October, 2006). “The Use of the European Language Portfolio in Teaching Foreign Languages.” Special Meeting of the Council of Europe: Section of the European Languages. Moscow, Russia.

Service

The University of Georgia, Department of Germanic & Slavic Studies

2021 – present	UGA Mentor Program
August 2022 – present	Franklin College Faculty Senate GSS representative
August 2022 – present	UGA outreach program to Elbert County High School
2021-2022	Kickligher award committee member
2019 – present	Department of Germanic and Slavic Studies Undergraduate Cultural Assessment

Professional affiliations

2020- present	AATSEEL, American Association of Teachers of Slavic and East European Languages
2016- present	ACTR, American Councils of Teachers of Russian
2015-2018, present	ASEEES, Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies

Languages

Russian: native

English: near-native

French: intermediate

Spanish: beginner