

## Curriculum Vitae

Yelena Matusevich

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**Present Status:** French Citizen, Permanent Resident of USA (Green Card).

### Education:

**Ph.D** in French, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

MA in French (minor in German), University of Oklahoma, Norman, OK.

MA in French Linguistics, Herzen State University, St. Petersburg, Russia.

### Professional Experience:

**2002-present** — Associate Professor of French, University of Alaska, Fairbanks.

**1998-2002** — Assistant Professor of French, University of Alaska, Fairbanks.

### Fellowships:

July 2008 — Coolidge Fellow, Association for Religion and Intellectual Life,  
Union Theological Seminary, Columbia University, NY.

Spring 2005 — Senior Fellow, Centre for Historical Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New  
Delhi, India.

Fall 2004 — Research Fellow, Institute of Theology and Philosophy, St.  
Petersburg, Russia.

January 2004 — Research Fellow, McGill University, Montreal.

Summer 2003 — Research Fellow, *Centre National des Recherches  
Scientifiques* (C.N.R.S), Paris, France.

### Awards:

2007 — Emil *Usibelli* Distinguished Teaching Award.

2007 — CLA Dean's Award.

2004, 2005, 2006 — Nominations for Usibelli Distinguished Teaching Award.

April 2003 — Outstanding Advisor Award, CLA.

April 2002 — CLA Teaching Excellence Award.

2000-present—Honorary Membership (for the quality of students) in the *Société des Professeurs Français et Francophones d'Amérique*.

**Teaching Interests:**

**French:** all levels of language, literature, and culture courses.

**Interdisciplinary Studies:** World Literature, 'Great Books,' Theory of Culture, European Civilization and Thought, Literature and Philosophy, Literature and Religious Thought, History of Ideas, Literature and Art.

**German:** Introductory level

**Latin:** Introductory level

**Selected Teaching Portfolio (French):**

New courses created since 2002:

**French 431** *History of French Theatre: from Middle Ages to the 20<sup>th</sup> century*

In order to combine the study of the history of French theater with the actual staging of a play, the fall semester is divided into two equal parts: the introduction to the history of French Theatre and the rehearsals of a play. Principles of French pronunciation and speech are applied in rehearsal of the plays. We have staged, among others, *La cantatrice chauve* and *La leçon* by E. Ionesco, and *Homulus le muet* by J. Anouilh. See: <http://www.uaf.edu/language/frenplay.html>

**French 431:** *French Narrative: 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century short stories*

The course offers a considerable variety of texts from several major French writers of the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. These texts, representative for the literary movements of these two centuries of French prose, are examined from stylistic as well as from historical points of view, reflecting the preoccupations of French civilization during the given time period. The texts are studied chronologically.

**French 432:** *Introduction to French and European Cinema*

This course seeks to provide the introduction to the French cinema as a mirror of the national and European history, civilization and mentality. The principal historical periods will be approached through analysis of representative films of the time. The ultimate goal of this course is to acquaint students, through the study of film production, with contemporary French civilization as well as to introduce them to the artistic and aesthetic values that constitute the essence of French culture. The course also includes the discussion of the most influential works of French & European cinema, assessments of film forms, genres, and movements, historical overview of the evolution of cinema.

**Independent Study French 488:** Basic Translation Practicum

This course trains an independent study student to acquire knowledge of specific translation techniques such as learning how to use dictionaries and translation tools like word frequency count efficiently; how to analyze and translate texts; improve bilingual vocabulary; learn about the basic structure of translated texts; go through the process of writing simple to more accurate translations; develop student's French reading skills with the aid of prepared word frequency list and concordance of the text.

### **World Literature Courses:**

#### **English/For. Lang. 200X:** *Universal Themes: Short Stories.*

The course is designed to introduce students to some of the most talented writers from France, Japan, Germany, Argentina, Austria, US and Russia. Readings will include works from authors like Bunin, Ryunosuke Akutagawa, Hawthorne, Anatole France, Chekhov, O'Connor, Kafka, Balzac, Dostoevsky, Borges, Dumas, Gogol, Maupassant, Nagibin and Günter Grass. Through various traditional (books) and non-traditional (film) texts from around the world, students will develop the ability to analyze literature in different ways. Students will examine the works both within their cultural context, and their relationship to universal themes that transcend the boundaries of time and place.

#### **Honors program, English 300X:** *Emerging Personality: from Antiquity to Renaissance* (Cross-listed with Philosophy and Humanities Department)

This course explores the origins and evolution of the Western notion of individuality as influenced by Antiquity and the Christian tradition. This course includes texts by Epicurus, Seneca, St. Paul, St. J. Chrysostome, St. Augustine, St. Bernard, Chrétien de Troyes, Dante, Petrarch, Chaucer, Pico della Mirandola, Boccaccio, Benvenuto Cellini, Erasmus and Montaigne, as well as the correspondences of their contemporaries.

#### **English/For. Lan. 200X:** *The Theme of Revolt in the Western and Eastern European Literatures*

The course centers on the issues of revolt and intellectual responsibility explored by Zola, Dostoyevsky, Claudel, Camus, Dürrenmatt, Kundera, Böll and Bulgakov. The course offers the unique possibility of discussion of many existential issues: youth culture, genius versus commoner etc.

#### **English/For. Lan. 200X:** *History and Origin of Love*

Can we even talk about the evolution of the feeling that we presume eternal and innate to human nature? This course challenges the common ideas about love and explores the concept of love via literatures of different countries, diverse historical and cultural contexts. The course will include texts by Greek, Latin, Irish, French, German, British and Russian authors.

#### **English/For. Lan. 200X:** *Evil and Responsibility in Literature*

This course will explore the idea of evil and responsibility through the selection of texts from various literary traditions. The course seeks to foster thoughtful

discussion about outstanding works of literature dealing with the fundamental existential issues. Authors represented in the course includes St. Augustine, Dante, Goethe, Dostoyevsky, Tolstoy, Bulgakov, Nietzsche, Camus and Sartre.

### **Publications:**

### **Books:**

*Le siècle d'or de la mystique française: de Jean Gerson (1363-1429) à Jacques Lefèvre d'Étaples (1450?-1536)*, Editions Archè-SARL (Paris-Milan), 2004.

*Saluting Aron Ya. Gurevich: Essays in History, Literature and Related Studies*. Editor & contributor. Brill Academic Publishers (Leiden, Netherlands), July 2010.

### **Book chapters:**

- “Jean Gerson on Virtues and Princely Education,” with Istvan Bejczy, in *Princely Virtues in the Middle Ages, 1200-1500*. Brepols (2007), 219-236.
- “Gerson’s Legacy” in *A Companion to Jean Gerson*. Leiden: Brill (2006), 357-400.
- “The Reconsideration of Jean Gerson’s Attitude Toward Joan of Arc in the Light of His Views on Popular Devotion,” in *Joan of Arc and Spirituality*, Palgrave/St.Martin’s Press (2003), 167-183.
- “Jean Gerson-Nicolas of Cusa-Jacques Lefèvre d’Étaples: the Continuity of Ideas,” in *Spirituality in the Age of Cusanus*, Leiden: Brill (2002), 237-265.

### **Articles:**

1. “(Re)Constructing the European Past: Christianity and the French Religious Memory,” *Crosscurrents Magazine*, December 2010.
2. “Jean Gerson’s Legacy in Tübingen and Strasburg,” *Medieval History Journal*, October 2010.
3. “Jean Gerson and the Creation of German Protestant Identity,” *Revue d’Histoire Ecclesiastique*, October 2010.
4. “Jean Gerson,” *Cambridge Dictionary of Christianity*, Cambridge University Press July 31, 2010.
5. “Aron Gurevich’s Dialogue with Mikhail Bakhtin,” in “*Saluting Aron Ya. Gurevich: Essays in History, Literature and Related Studies*, May 2010, pp. 334-373.

6. "Nietzsche at Bakhtin's Carnival: Patterns of Influence." *LiCuS: Journal of Literary Theory and Cultural Studies*, Vol. IV (2009), No. 6.
7. "Why Russians Should Not Read Sartre Or the Search for God in Two Extremities of Europe," *Crosscurrents*, December 2009, vol. 59, 4: 540-546.
8. "Nietzsche's Influence on Mikhail Bakhtin's Aesthetics of Grotesque Realism," *Comparative Literature and Culture*, 11.2, June 2009, <http://docs.lib.purdue.edu/clcweb/vol11/iss2/7/>.
9. "Chaotic foundations: Nietzsche & Mikhail Bakhtin," in *Journal of Language, Literature and Cultural Studies*, (Spring 2008): 116-130.
10. "In Memoriam for A.Y. Gurevich," with Janos Bak, in *Speculum*, US, 82 (2007): 826-28.
11. "Aron Gurevich and the Silence," in *VOX: A Philosophy Journal*, <http://vox-journal.ru>, №2, May, 2007 (in Russian), on-line.
12. "Jean Gerson (1363- 1429) and the Formation of German National Identity," in *Révue de l'Histoire Ecclésiastique*, Belgium, 101, 3-4, (2006): 963-987.
13. Obituary for A. Gurevich, in *The Medieval History Journal*, vol. 9, 2, New Delhi, India, December 2006, v-ix.
14. "Gerson et les femmes", in *Le Moyen Age*, Belgium, 2, (2006): 337-353.
15. "Gerson and Petrarch, Italy and France: Cultural Confrontation, 14<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> centuries," in *Voprosy Filosofii [Questions of Philosophy]*, Moscow Institute of Philosophy, (in Russian), 9 (July 2005): 107-121.
16. "A. Gurevich's Contribution to Historical Science," in *Arbor Mundi*, (in Russian), Moscow, (April 2005): 12-35.
17. "Writing Medieval History: Aaron Gurevich," in *Journal of Medieval and Early Modern Studies*, US (February 2005): 121-159. Translated into Hungarian by György F. Széphelyi, *Budapesti Könyvszemle BUKSZ*, vol. 19, No. 1 (2005 Spring): 88-95.
18. "Le bal des voleurs: exemple du théâtre au second degré de Jean Anouilh", in *Études Littéraires*, Quebec, Canada (Fall 2004): 95-107.
19. "On Concepts, History and Autobiography: An Interview with Aaron Gurevich," in *The Medieval History Journal*. Preface by Jacques Le Goff. New Delhi, India (October 2004): 163-199.
20. "Gerson as a Family Pastor," in *Journal of Family History*, US, (Spring 2004): 153-168.
21. "Late Medieval Control of Masculinity and Jean Gerson," *Révue de l'Histoire Ecclésiastique*, Belgium, (Fall 2003): 413-437.

22. "Gerson et Pétrarque: humanisme et l'idée nationale" in *Renaissance et la Reforme*, Tours, France (February 2003): 45-80.
23. "From Monastic to Individual Spirituality: Another Perspective on Jean Gerson's Attitude Toward Women", in *Magistra*, US (July 2000): 62-90.
24. "Les possédés" de Zola et de Dostoïevski: Étude comparative des personnages révolutionnaires dans *L'Assommoir* (1877) et *Germinal* (1885) de Zola et dans *Les Possédés* (1872) de Dostoïevski," in *Cahiers naturalistes*, France (September 1999): 317-333.

**Book reviews:**

1. The Pastoral Care of Women in Late Medieval England by Beth Allison Barr, *Révue de l'Histoire Ecclésiastique*. Spring 2009.
2. *Proving Woman: Female Spirituality and Inquisitional Culture in the Later Middle Ages*, by Dyan Elliott, *Révue de l'Histoire Ecclésiastique*. 101/1 (2006), p. 431-432.
3. *The Work of Jacques Le Goff and the Challenges of Medieval History* by Miri Rubin, *European Studies Journal*. Spring 1999, 89-90.

**In press:**

- "Jean Gerson's Struggle with Political Power: the Issue of Religious Zeal," *Journal of Medieval and Early Modern Studies*.

**Work in progress:**

**Article:** "The End of Grotesque Realism and the Reformation"

**Book:** *Jean Gerson's Legacy: Protestant and Catholic Perspectives in Germany and France*

(working title).

**Other Publications:**

Short fiction published in US, Germany and Russia, in 8 different literary journals and magazines.

**Conference papers and other presentations since year 2002:**

- "Aron' Gurevich's Legacy," Medieval Congress, Leeds, July 2010.
- "The Use of Gerson's Texts in Works of Early Modern Pietists," Loyola University, Department of Theology, May 2010.
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- “Jean Gerson's Struggle with Political Power: the Issue of Religious Zeal,” Medieval Congress, Kalamazoo, MI, May 2010.
- “Jean Gerson’s Legacy in Tübingen and Strasburg, ” Medieval Congress, Kalamazoo, MI, May 2009.
- “Nietzsche Through Bakhtin & Malraux: Theological Perspective,” Union Theological Seminary, NY, July 2008.
- “Jean Gerson and the Creation of German Protestant Identity: New Documents,” Medieval Congress, Kalamazoo, MI, May 2008.
- “Nietzsche's Influence On Mikhail Bakhtin, ” Department Of Comparative Literature, UIUC, May 2008.
- Freedom in Bakhtin and Nietzsche,” Institute of Theology and Theology, St. Petersburg, Russia, June 2007.
- “Gerson’s Reception in Germany,” Medieval Congress, Kalamazoo, MI, May 2007.
- “Mystical and grotesque aspects of body in morality play by Jean Gerson,” MLA, December 2006.
- “Chaotic foundations: Nietzschean aesthetics in Mikhail Bakhtin’s model of medieval popular culture,” 20<sup>th</sup> Century Literature and Culture Conference, Louisville, KY, 23-25 February 2006.
- “The essential differences between Moscow and Paris “branches” of the *Annales* School of Historical Anthropology”, Conference in honor of Aaron Gurevich’s 80<sup>th</sup> birthday, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, India, March 2005.
- “Jean Gerson on Princely Virtues,” International Conference on Princely Virtues in the Middle Ages, 1200-1500, University of Nijmegen, Netherlands, October 2004.
- “Civilization versus Culture,” at The 33rd Annual Meeting of the International Society for the Comparative Study of Civilizations, June 10-13, 2004, University of Alaska Fairbanks.
- “Bakhtin versus Gurevich: complimentary and conflicting conceptions of culture,” International Medieval Congress, Leeds, UK, July 2002.

#### **Professional Service:**

- *Crosscurrents* magazine, Association for Religion and Intellectual Life, NY, advisory board member.
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- Brill Academic Publishers, Netherlands, reader and reviewer.

- *Revue d'Histoire Ecclesiastique*, Belgium, reader and reviewer.
- *International Jean Gerson Society*, founder & vice president.
- *Société des Professeurs Français et Francophones d'Amérique*, New York, NY.

**University Service:**

Peer Review Committee

Head of French Program

Department Committees (Hiring, Accreditation, Outcome Assessment etc)

Head of the Interdisciplinary MA committee

Undergraduate Adviser

French Club

**Public Service:**

Cultural liaison with French Consulate in San Francisco

Public translator

Fairbanks French community liaison

Judge for Foreign Languages Competition in Fairbanks School District

**Grants:**

*Alaska Humanities Forum Grant*, for the project “The Last Hope: the Fate of Jewish Immigration to Alaska,” Fall 2009.

*Alaska Humanities Forum Grant*, for the project “*The Legend of St. Herman of Alaska: Valaam (Russia)-Valaam (Spruce Island, Kodiak, AK)*”, Spring 2004, Fall 2003.

*President’s Special Grant* to conduct an open-ended interview with Aaron Gurevich in Moscow, Fall 2002, UAF.

*Provost’s Special Grant*, for the same, Fall 2002, UAF.

*Faculty Development Awards*, UAF, Fall 2001, Spring 2004, Spring 2005.

**Other projects:**

Documentary Film *The Legend of St. Herman of Alaska*, producer & researcher.

**Professional Membership:**

PMLA

*Société des Professeurs Français et Francophones d'Amérique*, NY, New York  
*Jean Gerson Society*

**Languages:**

Native fluency in French.

Near fluency in English.

Native fluency in Russian.

Proficient in German: speaking, reading, teaching the introductory level.

Proficient in Latin: reading knowledge, teaching the introductory level.

**Other activities:**

Second career as an artist (acrylics, water color, wood). Collective and personal exhibits in Fairbanks, Aix-en-Provence, St. Petersburg, and Portland, OR.