

Russian 212: Masterpieces of Russian Literature (Nineteenth Century)

Fall Semester 2006

MWF 10:00-10:50

Clough 300

Instructor: Dr. Charles Arndt
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Office Hours: M 3:00-4:00, W 3:00- 4:00 and by appointment

Course Objectives: Russian literature of the Nineteenth Century is a complex and fascinating phenomenon. Ironically, it flourishes with particular vibrancy during one of Russia's most repressive regimes – that of Nikolai I (known as “The Iron Tsar”). Russian literature of this time grapples with some of the most interesting and difficult questions concerning the intellectual's role in society, personal and social mores, and the role of literature itself. This course aims at fostering an appreciation for the many-sidedness of Russian literature of this period, while explaining the cultural and socio-political context of its development. Another important goal of this course is to develop writing skills (through essay assignments, peer and instructor review of these essays, and their subsequent revision – see Schedule).

Required Texts:

Alexander Pushkin, *Eugene Onegin*
Alexander Pushkin *The Complete Prose Tales of Alexander Sergeyevich Pushkin*
Mikhail Lermontov *A Hero of Our Time*
Nicolai Gogol *Plays and Petersburg Tales*
Ivan Turgenev *Fathers and Sons*
Ivan Goncharov *Oblomov*
Fyodor Dostoevsky *Crime and Punishment*
Leo Tolstoy *Anna Karenina*
Anton Chekhov *Anton Chekhov's Plays*

Class participation is vital to this course. Each student should be able to make informed comments about the assigned reading. I will take attendance every class. Mid-way through each month I will talk with each student about his/her class participation.

Three absences will cause your grade to drop. If you cannot make it to class for some reason I need to be notified at least two days in advance (you will need to have a good reason). **If you miss a class, make sure you check with a classmate to get both notes and confirm the next assignment (changes will be made to the syllabus as needed).** I do not provide lecture notes to students who miss class. If you are absent, it is your

responsibility to catch up on what you missed from someone in the class. **Arriving to class late (no matter how late) three times will equal one absence.**

All assigned reading and writing is due at the beginning of the class for which it is assigned. Extensions will not be granted unless approved in advance (a least a week before the assignment is due) and under very extenuating circumstances. There are no make-up essays or quizzes but, as you can see, there will be plenty of "evaluative opportunities." **All work for this class must be done in compliance with the Rhodes Honor Code.**

Three essays on topics you choose are required in this course. As you will notice in the schedule, for each essay there is an initial and final submission. If you take the advice given after the initial submission, you will probably do fine on the final submission. If, however, you ignore the advice on the initial submission and try to write the final essay at the last minute, you will probably not do very well. The final grade on each essay will be an average of the grades of each submission. Students will also give a 20-minute in-class presentation of their final essay. The grade on the final essay will be an average of the initial submission, presentation, and final submission.

Quizzes may be announced or unannounced, but will always deal with very recent readings or issues we discussed in class.

Evaluation:

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| 1. Class participation | 25% |
| 2. Three Essays ¹ (7-10 pages in length) | 50% |
| 3. Informational Quizzes | 25% |

Syllabus

Subject to change

Wed., Aug 23	Getting Acquainted/Administrative Details Introduction to Themes of Course SETTING THE STAGE: RUSSIA'S TURN WESTWARD
Fri., Aug. 25	Riasanovsky <i>History of Russia</i> (on reserve) 319-329 The "Iron Tsar" Nicholas I. Mirsky <i>History of Russian Literature</i> (on reserve) 106-116 Alexander Pushkin – Turn in Discussion Questions
Mon., Aug 28	Alexander Pushkin <i>Eugene Onegin</i> 5-81 (To Chapter 4) RUSSIA CONFRONTS ROMANTICISM EUGENE ONEGIN: DANDYISM AND A NEW KIND OF HERO

¹ This includes initial and final submissions.

Wed., Aug. 30	Alexander Pushkin <i>Eugene Onegin</i> 84-154 (To Chapter 7)
Fri., Sep. 1	Alexander Pushkin <i>Eugene Onegin</i> 155-212
Mon., Sep. 4	Labor Day – no class
Wed., Sept. 6	In Class: Viewing of Film <i>Onegin</i> with Ralf Fiennes! (Part 1) “The Queen of Spades”
Fri., Sept. 8	Alexander Pushkin Viewing of Film <i>Onegin</i> with Ralf Fiennes! (Part 2) Quiz on <i>Eugene Onegin</i> and “The Queen of Spades”
Mon., Sept. 11	Alexander Pushkin “The Stationmaster”
Wed., Sept. 13	Mikhail Lermontov “Bela” from <i>A Hero of Our Time</i>
Fri., Sept. 15	Mikhail Lermontov “The Fatalist” from <i>A Hero of Our Time</i>
Mon., Sept. 18	Nikolai Gogol “The Overcoat”
Wed., Sept. 20	<u>Deadline for Submission of First Paper Topic</u> Discussion of Paper Topics Nikolai Gogol “The Nose”
Fri., Sept. 22	Ivan Turgenev <i>Fathers and Children</i> 1-89 (Chapter XX)
Mon., Sept. 25	Ivan Turgenev <i>Fathers and Children</i> (89-166) (The End)
Weds., Sept. 27	<u>Initial Submission of First Paper</u>

Critiques of *Fathers and Children* (in the Norton Critical Edition)

- Fri., Sept. 29 Fyodor Dostoevsky *Crime and Punishment* 1 – 99 (Part Two, Chapter III)
In class: Discussion of Initial Submissions
- Mon., Oct. 2 Fyodor Dostoevsky *Crime and Punishment* 99 – 199 (Part Three, Chapter IV)
- Weds., Oct. 4 Fyodor Dostoevsky *Crime and Punishment* 199 – 296 (Part Four, Chapter IV)
- Fri., Oct. 6 Fyodor Dostoevsky *Crime and Punishment* 296 - 390 (Part Six, Chapter III)
- Mon., Oct. 9 **Final Submission of First Paper**
Fyodor Dostoevsky *Crime and Punishment* 390 – 465 (The End)
- Weds., Oct. 11 Fyodor Dostoevsky *Crime and Punishment* 296 - 390 (Part Six, Chapter III)
- Fri., Oct. 13 Critiques of *Crime and Punishment*
- Mon., Oct. 16 **Fall Recess – Grades Due**
- Wed., Oct. 18 Ivan Goncharov *Oblomov* 7 – 138 (Part Two)
- Fri., Oct. 20 **Deadline for Submission of Second Paper Topic**
Ivan Goncharov *Oblomov* 139 – 259 (Part Three)
- Mon., Oct. 23 Ivan Goncharov *Oblomov* 259 – 335 (Part Four)
- Weds., Oct. 25 Ivan Goncharov *Oblomov* 335 – 441 (The End)

Fri., Oct. 27	<u>Initial Submission of Second Paper</u> In class: Viewing of film <i>Oblomov</i> (Part 1) Evening (Time and Place TBA): Viewing of film <i>Oblomov</i> (Part 2)
Mon., Oct. 30	In class: Discussion of film “What is Oblomovism” in Belinsky, Chernyshevsky, and Dobrolyubov, ed. Matlaw, on reserve
Wed., Nov. 1	Lev Tolstoy <i>Anna Karenina</i> 1 – 100 (Part I, Chapter XXXIII)
Fri., Nov. 3	<u>Final Submission of Second Paper</u> Lev Tolstoy <i>Anna Karenina</i> 100 – 250 (Part III, Chapter XII)
Mon., Nov. 6	Lev Tolstoy <i>Anna Karenina</i> 250 – 351 (Part IV, Chapter X)
Weds., Nov. 8.	Lev Tolstoy <i>Anna Karenina</i> 351 – 451 (Part V, Chapter XIX)
Fri., Nov. 10	Lev Tolstoy <i>Anna Karenina</i> 451 – 575 (Part VI, Chapter XXIII)
Mon., Nov. 13	Lev Tolstoy <i>Anna Karenina</i> 575 – 679 (Part VII, Chapter XXVI)
Weds., Nov. 15	Lev Tolstoy <i>Anna Karenina</i> 679 – 740 (The End)
Fri., Nov. 17	Critiques of <i>Anna Karenina</i>
Mon., Nov. 20	Anton Chekhov “The Seagull”
<u>Thanksgiving Vacation</u>	
Mon., Nov. 27	Anton Chekhov “The Cherry Orchard”
Weds., Nov., 29	Critiques of “The Seagull” and “The Cherry Orchard” Discussion of Final Papers

Fri., Dec. 1 Presentations of Final Papers

Mon., Dec. 4 Presentations of Final Papers

Wed., Dec. 6 Presentations of Final Papers

Final Papers: Written version due by Weds., Dec. 13