

Russian 212: Masterpieces of Russian Literature (Nineteenth Century)

Spring Semester 2008

MWF 11:00-11:50

Rhodes Tower 410

Instructor: Dr. Charles Arndt
Office: 317 Rhodes Tower
Phone: 843-3743; 843-3733 (dept. secretary, Kathy Foreman)
Email: arndtc@rhodes.edu
Office Hours: M 1:00-2:00, W 1:00- 2:00 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. In addition, there is the constant issue of the West's influence on Russian culture and of Russian literature's influence on the West (what Malcolm V. Jones said about the Russian intelligentsia could easily be said about Russian literature of the nineteenth century, namely, that it is “both a channel for the assimilation of Western cultural traditions and a vehicle for the affirmation of Russia's own unique experience and values ... ”¹). 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 aim of this course is to develop the students' writing skills (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*

¹ *The Cambridge Companion to The Classic Russian Novel*, eds. Malcolm V. Jones and Robin Feuer Miller. Cambridge UP: Cambridge, 1998. p. 2

Additional readings may be handed out and others will be available on reserve in the library throughout the course of the semester. Besides readings, we will be viewing film adaptations of a number of works of nineteenth-century Russian literature.

Course Requirements and Evaluation:

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| 1. Class participation | 10% |
| 2. Three Essays ² (7-10 pages in length) | 75% |
| 3. Informational Quizzes | 15% |

The majority of time spent in class will be in discussions about the reading. Class participation, therefore, is the bread-and-butter of this course. I will take attendance every class. All students are expected to participate in class discussions.

There will be three essays on topics you choose. As you will notice in the schedule, for the first two essays 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 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 those essays with two submissions will be an average of the grades of each submission.

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

Schedule

Subject to change!

Wed., Jan. 9	Getting Acquainted/Administrative Details Introduction to Themes of Course SETTING THE STAGE: RUSSIA'S TURN WESTWARD
Fri., Jan. 11	<i>RUSSIA CONFRONTS ROMANTICISM</i> Talk about writing and syllabus – Possible quiz D. Mirsky <i>A History of Russian Literature</i> 106-116 Alexander Pushkin (get started on <i>Eugene Onegin</i>)
Mon., Jan. 14	<i>EUGENE ONEGIN: DANDYISM AND A NEW KIND OF HERO</i> Alexander Pushkin <i>Eugene Onegin</i> 2-54 (To Chapter 3)

² This includes initial and final submissions.

Wed., Jan. 16	Alexander Pushkin <i>Eugene Onegin</i> 57-129 (To Chapter 6)
Fri., Jan. 18	Alexander Pushkin <i>Eugene Onegin</i> 133-212 (Watch-out! This is 79 pages! Plan ahead!)
Mon., Jan. 21	Martin Luther King Jr. Day – no class
Wed., Jan. 23	In Class: Viewing of Film <i>Onegin</i> with Ralf Fiennes! (Part 1) “The Queen of Spades”
Fri., Jan. 25	Alexander Pushkin Viewing of Film <i>Onegin</i> with Ralf Fiennes! (Part 2) Possible Quiz on <i>Eugene Onegin</i> and “The Queen of Spades”
Mon., Jan. 28	Alexander Pushkin “The Postmaster”
Wed., Jan. 30	Mikhail Lermontov “Bela” from <i>A Hero of Our Time</i>
Fri., Feb. 1	Mikhail Lermontov “The Fatalist” from <i>A Hero of Our Time</i>
Mon., Feb. 4	Nikolai Gogol “The Overcoat”
Wed., Feb. 6	<u>Deadline for Submission of First Paper Topic</u> Ivan Turgenev <i>Fathers and Children</i> 1-55 (To Chapter XIV)
Fri., Feb. 8	Ivan Turgenev <i>Fathers and Children</i> 55-106 (To Chapter XXII)
Mon., Feb. 11	Ivan Turgenev <i>Fathers and Children</i> 106 – 157 (The End)
Wed., Feb. 13	<u>Initial Submission of First Paper (see next page!!!!)</u>

	Fyodor Dostoevsky <i>Crime and Punishment</i> 1 – 53 (Part One, Chapter VI)
Fri., Feb. 15	Fyodor Dostoevsky <i>Crime and Punishment</i> 53 – 131 (Part Two, Chapter VI)
Mon., Feb. 18	Fyodor Dostoevsky <i>Crime and Punishment</i> 131 – 188 (Part Three, Chapter III).
Wed., Feb. 20	Fyodor Dostoevsky <i>Crime and Punishment</i> 188 – 248 (Part Four, Chapter II).
Fri., Feb. 22	Fyodor Dostoevsky <i>Crime and Punishment</i> 248 - 303 (to the end of Part Four)
Mon., Feb. 25	<u>Final Submission of First Paper</u> Fyodor Dostoevsky <i>Crime and Punishment</i> 304 – 357 (Part Five, Chapter 5)
Wed., Feb. 27	Fyodor Dostoevsky <i>Crime and Punishment</i> 357- 408 (Part Six, Chapter V)
Fri., Feb. 29	Fyodor Dostoevsky <i>Crime and Punishment</i> 408 – 465 (to the end) <u>Deadline for Submission of Second Paper Topic</u>
Mon., March 3	<u>Spring Recess – Mid-Term Grades Due</u>
Mon., March 10	Ivan Goncharov <i>Oblomov</i> 13 – 62 (Part One, Chapter 5)
Wed., March 12	Ivan Goncharov <i>Oblomov</i> 62 – 112 (This is not the beginning of or end of a chapter/part – the last paragraph of this page begins with “The morning could not be said to be wasted in the Oblomov house.”)

- Fri., March 14 Ivan Goncharov *Oblomov* 112 – 165 (Part Two, Chapter 3)
- Mon., March 17 Ivan Goncharov *Oblomov* 165 – 232 (Part 2, Chapter 9)
- Wed., March 19 **Initial Submission of Second Paper**
 In class: Viewing of film *Oblomov* (Part 1)
 Evening (Time and Place TBA): Viewing of film *Oblomov* (Part 2)
 Ivan Goncharov *Oblomov* 232 – 283 (Part 3, Chapter 1)
- Easter Recess**
- Mon., March 24 Ivan Goncharov *Oblomov* 232 – 386 (Part 4, Chapter 3 – Watch Out! This is 100 pages! Plan accordingly)
- Wed., March 26 Ivan Goncharov *Oblomov* 386 – 439 (Part 4, Chapter 8)
- Fri., March 28 Lev Tolstoy *Anna Karenina* 1 – 70 (Part I, Chapter XXII)
- Mon., March 31 Lev Tolstoy *Anna Karenina* 70 – 139 (Part II, Chapter XIII)
- Wed., April 2 **Final Submission of Second Paper**
 Lev Tolstoy *Anna Karenina* 139 – 207 (Part II, Chapter XXXIV)
- Fri., April 4 Lev Tolstoy *Anna Karenina* 207 – 275 (Part III, Chapter XIX)
- Mon., April 7 Lev Tolstoy *Anna Karenina* 275 – 342 (Part IV, Chapter VIII)
- Wed., April 9 Lev Tolstoy *Anna Karenina* 343 – 413 (Part V, Chapter V)

Fri., April 11	Lev Tolstoy <i>Anna Karenina</i> 413 – 482 (Part V, Chapter XXIX)
Mon., April 14	Lev Tolstoy <i>Anna Karenina</i> 482 - 548 (Part VI, Chapter XVI)
Wed., April 16	Lev Tolstoy <i>Anna Karenina</i> 548 – 616 (Part VII, Chapter IV)
Fri., April 18	Lev Tolstoy <i>Anna Karenina</i> 616 – 684 (Part VII, Chapter XXVIII)
Mon., April 21	Lev Tolstoy <i>Anna Karenina</i> 684 – 740 (the end)
Wed., April 23	Anton Chekhov “The Cherry Orchard” <u>Final Paper Topics Due</u>
Fri., April. 25	Discussion of Final Paper Topics Evaluations

Final Papers: Written version due by Fri., May 2, 5:30PM

Final Grades Due: Mon., May 5