

University of Pittsburgh
Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures

Russian 0590/EngLit 0590: Formative Masterpieces of 19th Century Russian Literature
Spring Semester 2020
Tuesdays and Thursdays 2:30—3:45
CL 149

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Office Hours: Tuesdays 12:00—1:00; Wednesdays 1:00—3:00; Thursdays 11:00—12:00;
and by appointment

I. REQUIRED TEXTS:

- Chekhov, Anton. *Anton Chekhov's Selected Stories*. Ed. Cathy Popkin. NY: Norton, 2014.
Dostoyevsky, Fyodor. *Demons*. Trans. Robert Maguire. NY: Penguin, 2008.
Gogol, Nikolai. *The Overcoat and Other Tales of Good and Evil*. Tr. David Magarshack. NY: Norton, 1965.
Lermontov, Mikhail. *A Hero of Our Time*. Tr. Vladimir Nabokov. Woodstock, NY: Ardis, 1986.
Proffer, Carl, ed. *From Karamzin to Bunin: An Anthology of Russian Short Stories*. Bloomington: Indiana UP, 1969.
Pushkin, Alexandr. *The Complete Prose Tales of Alexandr Sergeyevitch Pushkin*. Tr. Gillon R. Aitken. NY: Norton, 1996.
Turgenev, Ivan. *Fathers and Children*. Tr. and ed. Michael Katz. 2nd ed. NY: Norton, 2008.

II. RECOMMENDED SECONDARY SOURCES:

- Andrew, Joe. *Writers and Society during the Rise of Russian Realism*. Atlantic Heights, NJ: Humanities P, 1980.
—. *Russian Writers and Society in the Second Half of the Nineteenth Century*. Atlantic Heights, NJ: Humanities P, 1982.
Fanger, Donald. *Dostoevsky and Romantic Realism: A Study of Dostoevsky in Relation to Balzac, Dickens, and Gogol*. Chicago: U of Chicago P, 1965.
Frank, Joseph. *Dostoevsky: The Miraculous Years, 1865-1871*. Princeton: Princeton UP, 1995.
Freeborn, Richard. *The Rise of the Russian Novel*. Cambridge: Cambridge UP, 1973.
Gifford, Henry. *The Novel in Russia from Pushkin to Pasternak*. NY: Harper & Row, 1964.
Lezhnev, Abram. *Pushkin's Prose*. Tr. Roberta Reeder. Ann Arbor: Ardis, 1983.
Maguire, Robert A., ed. *Gogol from the Twentieth Century*. Tr. Robert A. Maguire. Princeton: Princeton UP, 1974.
Mersereau, John Jr. *Russian Romantic Fiction*. Ann Arbor: Ardis, 1983.
Mirsky, Dmitri S. *A History of Russian Literature*. NY: Alfred A. Knopf, 1958.
Mochulsky, Konstantin. *Dostoevsky: His Life and Works*. Tr. Michael A. Minihan. Princeton: Princeton UP, 1967.
Simmons, Ernest J. *Leo Tolstoy: The Years of Development, 1828-1879*. NY: Vintage, 1946.
—. *Leo Tolstoy: The Years of Maturity, 1880-1920*. NY: Vintage, 1946.
Slonim, Marc. *The Epic of Russian Literature*. NY: Oxford UP, 1950.
—. *Modern Russian Literature: From Chekhov to the Present*. NY: Oxford UP, 1953.
Steiner, George. *Tolstoy or Dostoevsky: An Essay in the Old Criticism*. NY: Knopf, 1959.

III. READING ASSIGNMENTS:

All reading assignments must be completed prior to the date indicated in the Schedule of Assignments. Students are responsible not only for the physical act of reading the words contained in the assigned texts, but also are obligated to reflect on them and be able to discuss the ideas (and events) these words

signify. Students who have not prepared the assigned readings for the class meeting receive an automatic grade of “F” for that day’s meeting.

IV. ATTENDANCE:

Students are expected to attend all classes. Attendance will be taken at the beginning of each class meeting and students will receive a grade each meeting for participation in the discussions. Any students arriving after attendance has been taken must check in with the instructor at the end of the class or accept being marked absent. Excused absence due to illness—personal or in the family—must be documented and absent students are responsible for acquiring relevant class notes. Excused absences will receive a grade of “EA.” All unexcused absences will receive an automatic grade of “UA” for that session. Four such “UA” grades will result in an “F” for the course.

V. COURSE METHODOLOGY:

The course will consist principally of lectures and dialogues between students and the instructor. Daily grades (“A” to “F”) for each meeting of the class will be assigned on the basis of participation in the classroom dialogues. Students are encouraged to meet with the instructor by appointment to discuss their grades and work in the course (reading, participation, and quizzes). Silence during classroom dialogues receives a grade of “C”; after five consecutive such grades, silence receives a grade of “D”; and after five more, a grade of “F.” The opening of each session (10-15 minutes) will be for students to ask questions about the assigned reading, the cultural historical context, or matters pertaining directly to Russia and Russian literature. Questions are a part of each student’s participation grade. Please note: despite what you have been told, there are stupid questions and such questions will lower the daily grade for participation! So, prepare carefully.

VI. QUIZZES:

There will be unannounced quizzes during the semester. Each quiz will last a maximum of 10 minutes. Quizzes will consist of **some** of the following: identification, terms, narrative developments, and historical or critical commentary. Students who are absent on the day of a quiz receive no grade on the quiz. No quiz will be re-scheduled and no make-up quizzes are permitted.

VII. EXAMINATIONS:

The course includes an in-class midterm and final examination, the dates for which are indicated in the Schedule of Assignments at the end of this syllabus. No make-up examinations will be administered unless students can provide proof of medical incapacitation. The midterm and final examinations will consist of a series of identifications (names, years, titles, events, etc.) and two essay-answers (out of four assigned topic-questions). All examination answers must be written in the booklets provided by the instructor or sent to the instructor as a pdf-file before leaving the classroom. Answers must be written on alternate lines and must be legible.

VIII. EVALUATION:

Students will be evaluated on the basis of their participation in class discussion and analysis, quizzes, the midterm and the final examination. Students are encouraged to consult with the instructor during office hours concerning their work in the course. Grades will be calculated using the following formula: participation (30%), quizzes (20%), midterm (20%), and final examination (30%).

IX. DISABILITY RESOURCE SERVICES:

If you have a disability for which you are or may be requesting an accommodation, you are encouraged to contact both your instructor and the Office of Disability Resources and Services, 140 William Pitt Union, 412-648-7890, as early as possible in the term. Disability Resources and Services will verify your disability and determine reasonable accommodations for this course. For more information, visit <http://www.studentaffairs.pitt.edu/drs/>

X. ACADEMIC INTEGRITY POLICY:

Cheating/plagiarism will not be tolerated. Students suspected of violating the University of Pittsburgh Policy on Academic Integrity, from the February 1974 Senate Committee on Tenure and Academic Freedom reported to the Senate Council, will be required to participate in the outlined procedural process as initiated by the instructor. A minimum sanction of a zero score for the quiz or exam will be imposed. View the complete policy at www.cfo.pitt.edu/policies/policy/02/02-03-02.html

XI. E-MAIL COMMUNICATION POLICY:

Each student is issued a University e-mail address (username@pitt.edu) upon admittance. This e-mail address may be used by the University for official communication with students. Students are expected to read e-mail sent to this account on a regular basis. Failure to read and react to University communications in a timely manner does not absolve the student from knowing and complying with the content of the communications. The University provides an e-mail forwarding service that allows students to read their e-mail via other service providers (e.g., Hotmail, AOL, Yahoo). Students that choose to forward their e-mail from their pitt.edu address to another address do so at their own risk. If e-mail is lost as a result of forwarding, it does not absolve the student from responding to official communications sent to their University e-mail address. To forward e-mail sent to your University account, go to <http://accounts.pitt.edu>, log into your account, click on **Edit Forwarding Addresses**, and follow the instructions on the page. Be sure to log out of your account when you have finished. (For the full E-mail Communication Policy, go to www.bc.pitt.edu/policies/policy/09/09-10-01.html.)

XII. SCHEDULE OF ASSIGNMENTS:

week 1:

Tuesday, 7 January: Introduction, syllabus, student information
Thursday, 9 January: Nikolai Karamzin: "Poor Liza"

week 2:

Tuesday, 14 January: Alexander Pushkin: *The Tales of Belkin* ("From the Editor," "The Shot," and "The Blizzard")
Thursday, 16 January: Alexander Pushkin: *The Tales of Belkin* ("The Undertaker," "The Postmaster" and "The Squire's Daughter")

week 3:

Tuesday, 21 January: Alexander Pushkin: "Queen of Spades"
Thursday, 23 January: Nikolai Gogol: "The Nose"

week 4:

Tuesday, 28 January: Nikolai Gogol: "The Portrait" and "Nevsky Avenue"
Thursday, 30 January: Nikolai Gogol: "The Overcoat"

week 5:

Tuesday, 4 February: Mikhail Lermontov: *A Hero of Our Time* (“The Author’s Introduction,” “Bela,” and “Maksim Maksimich”)

Thursday, 6 February: Mikhail Lermontov: *A Hero of Our Time* (“Introduction of Pechorin’s Diary,” “Taman,” “Princess Mary,” and “The Fatalist”)

week 6:

Tuesday, 11 February: Ivan Turgenev: *Fathers and Children* (chapters 1-15)

Thursday, 13 February: Ivan Turgenev: *Fathers and Children* (chapters 16-22)

week 7:

Tuesday, 18 February: Ivan Turgenev: *Fathers and Children* (chapters 23-28)

Thursday, 20 February: Ivan Turgenev: “Bezhin Meadow”

week 8:

Tuesday, 26 February: Nikolai Leskov: “Lady Macbeth of Mtsensk District”

Thursday, 27 February: **IN-CLASS MIDTERM**

week 9:

Tuesday, 3 March: Fedor Dostoevsky: *Demons* (Part One, Chapters One to Three)

Thursday, 5 March: Fedor Dostoevsky: *Demons* (Part One, Chapters Four to Five)

SPRING BREAK

week 10:

Tuesday, 17 March: Fedor Dostoevsky: *Demons* (Part Two, Chapters One to Five)

Thursday, 19 March: Fedor Dostoevsky: *Demons*: (Part Two, Chapters Six to Ten)

week 11:

Tuesday, 24 March: Fedor Dostoevsky: *Demons* (Part Three, Chapters One to Four)

Thursday, 26 March: Fedor Dostoevsky: *Demons* (Part Three, Chapters Five to Eight, and “At Tikhon’s”)

week 12:

Tuesday, 31 March: Leo Tolstoy: “The Death of Ivan Ilych”

Thursday, 2 April: Vsevolod Garshin: “The Red Flower” and Vladimir Korolenko: “Makar’s Dream”

week 13

Tuesday, 7 April: Anton Chekhov: “Vanka,” “At Home,” “Kashtanka,” “Rothschild’s Violin,” “The Student,” and “Anna on the Neck”

Thursday, 9 April: Anton Chekhov: “The Man in a Case,” “Gooseberries,” “About Love,” “Sweetheart,” and “The Lady with the Dog”

week 14:

Tuesday, 14 April: Maksim Gor’kii: “Chelkash”

Thursday, 68 April: Ivan Bunin: “The Gentleman from San Francisco”

FINAL EXAMINATION:

**Tuesday, 21 April
12:00 — 1 :50**