

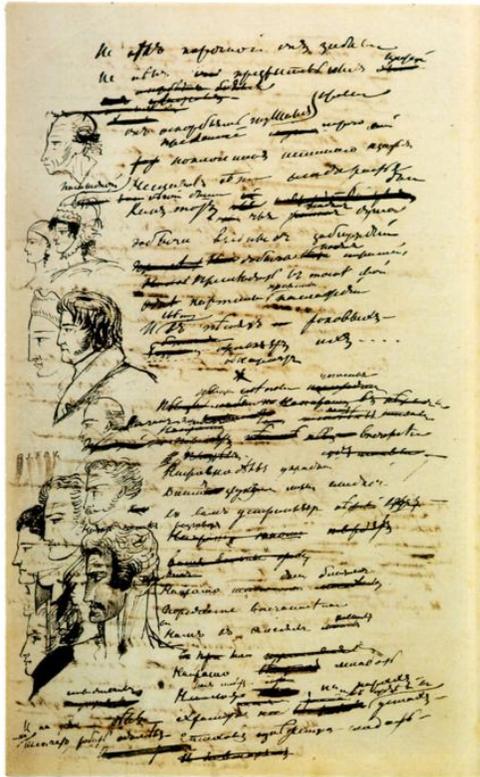
FALL 2017

RUT 3101 (1404): Russian Masterpieces

General Education Course (H, N)

M, W, F 5th period, TUR 2333

Instructor: Professor Galina Rylkova (grylkova@ufl.edu)

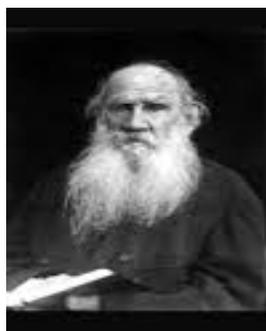


Texts to be discussed:

- Pushkin, *Eugene Onegin*
- Gogol, *The Overcoat*
- Dostoevsky, *Crime and Punishment*
- Tolstoy, *Anna Karenina*
- Chekhov, *The Seagull*
- Pasternak, *Doctor Zhivago*
- *Selections from Russian Poetry (20th-21st centuries)*

Format: Lectures and discussion. The main emphasis will be on what is called “close reading” of the assigned texts. Factual quizzes, and take-home mid-term and final. No knowledge of Russian required.

Course description: When Virginia Woolf read Dostoevsky, she compared the experience to crawling out from under a train wreck. Down through the years millions of readers have had powerful – if far more pleasant – experiences reading Pushkin, Gogol, Tolstoy, Chekhov, and Pasternak. Join us for a course that's not too difficult but that is very memorable. Students will get acquainted with selected Russian masterpieces, well known to the majority of Russians and people all over the world. Russian culture has been traditionally logocentric, with writers playing an unusually important role in defining Russia's social, political and cultural development.



We live in this world like a child who enters a room where a clever person is speaking. The child did not hear the beginning of the speech, and he leaves before the end; and there are certain things which he hears but does not understand.

(Leo Tolstoy)

Learning Outcomes: Students will get acquainted with selected Russian masterpieces, well known to the majority of Russians. Russian culture has been traditionally logocentric, with writers playing an unusually important role in defining Russia's social, political and cultural development. As one expert put it, "Russian literature is compact, intensely self-reflexive, and always about to forget that it is merely made up out of words. Imagined characters walk out of fiction into real life, while real-life writers are raised to the status of myth." Reading Russian literature is a rewarding aesthetic experience, in the course of which students will also learn some basic literary and cultural concepts which they will be able to apply to the analysis of any literary or cultural text/situation in the future.

In addition to gaining a deeper appreciation of Russian culture and literature, students will develop a broader cultural literacy and an understanding of the changing definition and role of literature in society.

Therefore, by the conclusion of the course it is expected that students will be able to:

- Demonstrate knowledge of the content of specific literary works and the structures and conventions of different literary genres.
- Critically assess the variety of roles that literature has played historically and continues to play in the humane life.
- Draw connections between literary texts and their biographical, historical, and cultural contexts of authorship and reading.

GENERAL EDUCATION INFORMATION:

RUT 3101 counts for three (3) hours of the University of Florida's General Education Requirement in the **Humanities (H)** area by providing instruction in the key themes, principles and terminology of a humanities discipline. **Course with the Humanities (H) designation** reflect the following objectives: Humanities courses provide instruction in the history, key themes, principles, terminology, and theory or methodologies used within a humanities discipline or the humanities in general. Students will learn to identify and to analyze the key elements, biases and influences that shape thought. These courses emphasize clear and effective analysis and approach issues and problems from multiple perspectives.

RUT 3101 also counts for three (3) hours of the University of Florida's General Education Requirement in the **International (N)** area by addressing values, attitudes and norms of a non-US culture. **Course with the International (N) designation** reflect the following objectives: International courses provide instruction in the values, attitudes and norms that constitute the contemporary cultures of countries outside the United States. These courses lead students to understand how geographic location and socioeconomic factors affect these cultures and the lives of citizens in other countries. Through analysis and evaluation of the students' own cultural norms and values in relation to those held by the citizens of other countries, they will develop a cross-cultural understanding of the rest of the contemporary world.

See: <http://gened.aa.ufl.edu/subject-area-objectives.aspx> ([Links to an external site.](#))[Links to an external site.](#)

A minimum grade of C is required for general education credit.

Required texts: these books are really required. Please, **order the hard copies** of these books to use in class. **Please, pay attention to the Publisher and Translator.** These specific details are very important.

- Alexander Pushkin, *Eugene Onegin* TRANSLATED BY JAMES E. FALLEN (bookstore or amazon.com)
- Leo Tolstoy, *Anna Karenina*, TRANSLATED BY PEVEAR AND VOLOKHONSKY (bookstore or amazon.com)
- Anton Chekhov, *THE ESSENTIAL PLAYS*, TRANSLATED BY MICHAEL HEIM (bookstore or amazon.com)
- *Boris Pasternak, Doctor Zhivago*, TRANSLATED BY HAYWARD AND HARARI (bookstore or amazon.com)
- All other texts will be available online or provided by the instructor.

GRADE DISTRIBUTION:

- **Attendance: 15%**
- **Quizzes: 25%**
- **Take-home mid-term exam: 30%**
- **Take-home final exam: 30%**

COURSE ASSIGNMENTS

1. *Attendance & Participation (15%)*

Attendance: Attendance is mandatory and will be assessed by class roll or sign-up sheet. Students are permitted **two** unexcused absences, beyond which **each additional** unexcused absence will result in a lowering of the final grade by one full letter. Absences will be excused in accordance with UF policy. Acceptable reasons include illness, religious holidays, military obligation, and the twelve-day rule (<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx> ([Links to an external site.](#))[Links to an external site.](#)). Should you miss a class for any reason, you are responsible for informing yourself as to what was covered in class.

Participation: Students are expected to read and review the assigned readings before class. Each class will begin with a series of basic questions on the contents of the assigned readings. If students are unable to answer these questions, it will be assumed that they have not prepared the homework and will lose 1%. In addition, I will also send you some prompts or discussion questions that you should keep in mind while reading the assigned portions of the text/s. Discussion questions will be posted on e-learning on the Canvas website. Consistent participation in class discussions, demonstrated knowledge of the assigned readings will also contribute to this portion of the final grade. There will be occasional creative assignments that will be graded as “complete” or “incomplete.”

2. **Quizzes: 5 (25%),** please, see course calendar for approximate dates.

These will be written in Canvas to check your factual knowledge and understanding of the assigned texts. These will include some of the discussion questions as well.

3. **Take-home mid-term exam: 30%**
4. **Take-home final exam: 30%**

The exams will be written at home, which will help you to check your factual knowledge and understanding of the assigned texts. The exams will be comprised of identification, textual analysis, and short essay questions based on readings, lectures and classroom discussion. They will also include a research portion and a creative assignment.

CLASSROOM POLICIES:

- **Makeup Policy:** Except in the case of certified illness or other UF accepted excuse (<https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx> ([Links to an external site.](#))[Links to an external site.](#)), there will be no make-up option for missed or late assignments/exams. Where possible, make-ups should be arranged by email or in person prior to the expected absence. In case of illness, student should contact instructor on his or her return to classes.
- **Late Policy:** A class roll will be available for students to sign at the front of the class before class begins. If a student is late, he or she will have to sign the "late roll sheet" after class. Such lateness distracts other students and the instructor and will affect the student's final participation grade. Students will lose **0.5%** from their final grade each time they arrive late.
- **Cell phone policy:** Students must turn cell phones to silent before coming to class. Each time a student's cell phone rings or each time that a student texts during class, 1% will be deducted from that student's final grade.
- **Laptop policy:** Students may use laptops to take notes or read electronic textbooks. Wifi must be disabled in class. Students who use the Internet will be marked as absent and 1% will be deducted from the student's final grade.

ALEXANDER PUSHKIN

August 23 : Introduction: Russian culture and society; Pushkin, biography

August 25: Alexander Pushkin, *Eugene Onegin*, translated by James E. Falen

Falen's Introduction (pp. VII-XXIV); Note on transliteration (XXV-XXX)

Eugene Onegin, Chapter I, (pp. 1-10), stanzas 1-15.

August 28: *Eugene Onegin*, Chapter I (pp. 5-31)

August 30: *Eugene Onegin*, Chapter 2 (pp. 33-54)

Tchaikovsky, "Eugene Onegin," opera, clips

September 1: *Eugene Onegin*, Chapter 3 (pp. 55-72), stanzas 1-31

Tchaikovsky, "Eugene Onegin," opera, clips

September 4 - no class, Labor Day

September 6: *Eugene Onegin*, Chapter 3 (pp. 73-81), Tatiana's letter + stanzas 32-41

Tchaikovsky, "Eugene Onegin," opera, clips

September 8: *Eugene Onegin*, Chapter 4 (pp. 85-106), stanzas 1-51

Tchaikovsky, "Eugene Onegin," opera, clips

September 11: *Eugene Onegin*, Chapter 5 (pp. 107-129), stanzas 1-45.

Tchaikovsky, "Eugene Onegin," opera, clips

September 13: *Eugene Onegin*, Chapter 6 (pp. 133-154), stanzas 1-46.

Tchaikovsky, "Eugene Onegin," opera, clips

September 15: *Eugene Onegin*, Chapter 7 (pp. 155-182), stanzas 1-55.

Tchaikovsky, "Eugene Onegin," opera, clips

September 18: *Eugene Onegin*, Chapter 8 (pp. 183-212), stanzas 1-51.

Tchaikovsky, "Eugene Onegin," opera, clips

Quiz 1 is due

NIKOLAI GOGOL

September 20-22: Gogol, "The Overcoat" (PDF file)

Simon Karlinsky, "Alienation and Love: "The Overcoat"" (PDF file)

"The Overcoat," film, theatrical adaptations (clip)

FYODOR DOSTOEVSKY

September 25, 27, 29: Dostoevsky, *Crime and Punishment* (Part 1, online)

Quiz 2 is due

LEO TOLSTOY

October 2- October 27: Leo Tolstoy

Texts: Leo Tolstoy, *Anna Karenina*

October 6 NO CLASS (Homecoming)

Quiz 3 (due October 16)

Midterm take-home exam (due October 23)

ANTON CHEKHOV

October 30, November 1, 3,6: Anton Chekhov: "The Seagull"

November 8: Chekhov, "The Darling" + Tolstoy's response (PDF files)

November 10, NO CLASS (Veterans' Day)

Quiz 4 due November 13

BORIS PASTERNAK

November 13, 15, 17, 20, 27, 29, December 1: Boris Pasternak, *Doctor Zhivago*

November 22, 24 NO CLASS (Thanksgiving)

Quiz 5 due December 3

ANNA AKHMATOVA

December 4,6: Anna Akhmatova, "Requiem"; "Lot's Wife"; "Muse", "Dante" (online, PDF files)

Final Take-Home exam due December 14 or earlier