

WAR AND PEACE

Instructor: Prof. Ingrid Kleespies
Office Hours: T, W 2:00-3:00pm & by appt.

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Vasily Vereshchagin, "Return from the Petrov Palace," 1895

Course Description

From the battlefield to the ballroom, Tolstoy's epic novel of life in Russia at the beginning of the nineteenth century is a profound meditation on the causes of war, the nature of social relationships, the poles of human suffering and love, and, perhaps most importantly, the nature and meaning of history itself. In this course we will read *War and Peace* closely in its entirety. We will examine the origins of the novel in Tolstoy's early writing and consider the historical, political, and social contexts, both of the events described (the Napoleonic Wars) and the period fifty years later in which Tolstoy wrote *War and Peace*. We will address some of the following questions: Is *War and Peace* a novel? How does Tolstoy's obsession with the theme of history shape the text on a variety of levels? What do various adaptations of the novel tell us about its reception at different historical moments? Finally, how might *War and Peace* be relevant to our own moment in history?

General Education Objectives

This course will provide students with an opportunity to explore the interrelationship between literature, art, and national identity. In so doing, it is designed to fulfill General Education distribution requirements in the categories of "Humanities" (H) and "International" (N). The content of the course draws students' attention to the values, attitudes, and norms that shape Russian culture (N). Students will be exposed to a variety of theoretical and critical approaches in the humanities, such as philosophy, history, critical theory, and film and music studies, as well as to techniques of close textual analysis of literary and historical texts (H). Students will be asked to develop their critical thinking skills through examination of a variety of cultural norms, including their own (N), and critique of various approaches to fundamental questions of history, narrative, representation, and identity (H). Additionally, students will be required to communicate knowledge, thoughts and reasoning clearly and effectively in written assignments, class presentations, debates, and in small group/whole class discussion (H).

Required Texts

1. Leo Tolstoy, *War and Peace*, Tr. Pevear & Volokhonsky, Alfred A. Knopf, 2007 .
2. Leo Tolstoy, *The Cossacks and Other Stories*, Tr. McDuff, Penguin Classics, 2007.
3. Leo Tolstoy, *Childhood, Boyhood, and Youth*, Tr. Edmonds, Penguin Classics, 1964.
4. Additional readings are available on Canvas and E-Reserves.

Course Requirements

Attendance and Participation (10%). Attendance (5%) and participation (5%) are mandatory. Please come to class having completed the assigned reading and prepared to take part in discussion. Failure to participate on a regular basis will significantly affect your grade. Requirements for class attendance and make-up exams, assignments, and other work in this course are consistent with university policies that can be found in the online catalog at: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>

Group Presentation (15%). You will be expected to participate in one 15 minute group presentation on a topic relevant to the course. Topics and sign-up sheet will be provided.

Response Papers and Cartoon (25%). Five response papers of 1-2 pages in length are due at scheduled intervals during the course of the semester. Those related to *War and Peace* will require you to trace a particular theme over the course of the book. You will be expected to share response papers in class. You will also be asked to complete a brief cartoon version of *War and Peace* at the end of the semester.

Mid-Term Essay of 4-5 pages (25%). Topics will be provided, but you are also free to write about a topic of your own choosing with prior instructor approval. **Due Oct. 5** in class and via **turnitin.com** by 12:50pm.

Final Paper of 5-7 pages (25%). You will be expected to develop the theme you have identified in your response papers into the topic of your final essay. **Due Dec. 5** in class and via **turnitin.com** by 12:50pm.

Grading Scale

A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D	D-	E
94-100	90-93	87-89	84-86	80-83	77-79	74-76	70-73	67-69	64-66	60-63	0-59

*A C- will not be a qualifying grade for major, minor, Gen Ed, Gordon Rule or Basic College Distribution Credit. Grading Policy: www.registrar.ufl.edu/catalog/policies/regulationgrades.html.

Course Policies

Class Demeanor: Students are expected to arrive to class on time and behave in a manner that is respectful to the instructor and to fellow students. Please avoid the use of cell phones and restrict eating to outside of the classroom. Opinions held by other students should be respected in discussion, and conversations that do not contribute to the discussion should be held at minimum, if at all.

University Honesty Policy: **Plagiarism will not be tolerated.** UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge which states, "We, the members of the University of Florida

community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: "On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment." The Honor Code (<https://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/process/student-conduccionor-code/>) specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. Furthermore, you are obligated to report any condition that facilitates academic misconduct to appropriate personnel. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor.

Accommodations: Students requesting classroom accommodation must first register with the Dean of Students Office. The Dean of Students Office will provide documentation to the student who must then provide this documentation to the Instructor when requesting accommodation. For more information see <https://drc.dso.ufl.edu/>.

Missed coursework may be made up, pending discussion with instructor.

Resources Available for Students

Health and Wellness

- U Matter, We Care: umatter@ufl.edu; 392-1575
- Counseling & Wellness Ctr.: <http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc/Default.aspx> 392-1575
- Sexual Assault Recovery Services (SARS): Student Health Care Center; 392-1161
- University Police Dept.: <http://www.police.ufl.edu/>; 392-1111 (911 for emergencies)

Academic Resources

- E-learning technical support: Learningsupport@ufl.edu; <https://lss.at.ufl.edu/help.shtml>; 352-392-4357 (opt. 2)
- Career Resource Center: Reitz Union; <http://www.crc.ufl.edu/>; 392-1601
- Library Support: <http://cms.uflib.ufl.edu/ask>
- Teaching Center: Broward Hall; 392-2010 or 392-6420
- Writing Studio: 302 Tigert Hall; <http://writing.ufl.edu/writing-studio/>; 846-1138

Course Schedule

<u>Date</u>	<u>In Class</u>	<u>Reading Assignment for Next Class</u>
August 22	Introduction What is <i>War & Peace</i> ? The Death of Tolstoy	_____
August 24	Lev Nikolaevich Tolstoy: Life and Times of a Great (?) Man	“A History of Yesterday”*
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August 27	Chronicling the Self I: “A History of Yesterday,”	<i>Childhood</i> , pp.13-66 (Chaps.1-18)
August 29	Chronicling the Self II: <i>Childhood</i>	<i>Childhood</i> , pp.66-103 (Chaps.19-28); <i>Boyhood</i> , pp.107-120 (Chaps.1-4)
August 31	Chronicling the Self II: <i>Childhood</i> and <i>Boyhood</i> Presentation #1: The Russian Estate (8/31)	<i>Boyhood</i> , pp.121-176 (Chaps. 5-27); Response Paper #1 due 9/5
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September 3	NO CLASS (Labor Day)	<i>Boyhood</i> , pp.121-176 (Chaps. 5-27)
September 5	Chronicling the Self III: <i>Boyhood</i> ; Response Paper #1	<i>Youth</i> , pp.179-239 (Chaps.1-22)
September 7	Chronicling the Self III: <i>Youth</i> Presentation #2: The Holy Fool in Russian Culture (9/7)	<i>Youth</i> , pp.239-319 (Chaps.23-45)
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September 10	Chronicling the Self III: <i>Youth</i>	“Sevastopol in December;” pp.185-202
September 12	Chronicling War: <i>Sevastopol Sketches</i> and the Crimean War Presentation #3: The Social Legacy of the Crimean War (9/12)	“Sevastopol in May,” pp.203-255
September 14	Chronicling War: <i>Sevastopol Sketches, II</i>	“Sevastopol in August, 1855” pp.256-333

September 17	Chronicling War: <i>Sevastopol Sketches</i> , III	<i>War and Peace</i> , pp.3-56 (v.I:pt.1:ch.1-v.I:pt.1:ch.13)
September 19	The Origins of War and Peace and the Napoleonic Era	<i>War and Peace</i> , pp.56-104 (I:1:14-I:1:24)
September 21	Love and the Battlefield: Austerlitz, 1805 Presentation #4: The Russian Salon (9/21)	<i>War and Peace</i> , pp.105-149 (I:1:25-I: 2:8)

September 24	Austerlitz, continued	<i>War and Peace</i> , pp.149-200 (I:2:9-I:2:21)
September 26	Peacetime and its Complexities Presentation #5: The “Reform Tsar” Alexander I (Cult of Personality) (9/26)	<i>War and Peace</i> , pp.201-244 (I:3:1-I:3:7); Response Paper #2 due 9/28
September 28	Peacetime and its Complexities Response Paper #2	<i>War and Peace</i> , pp.244-290 (I:3:8-I:3:18)

October 1	Peacetime and its Complexities Presentation #6: Dueling as 19 th Century Russian Social Institution (10/1)	<i>War and Peace</i> , pp.290-336 (I:3:19-II:1:12); Mid-Term Essay due 10/5
October 3	Peacetime and its Complexities	<i>War and Peace</i> , pp.336-381 (II:1:13-II:2:10); Mid-Term Essay due 10/5
October 5	Locating the Heart of the Nation Mid-Term Essay due	<i>War and Peace</i> , pp.381-424 (II:2:11-II:3:3)

October 8	Locating the Heart of the Nation, continued	<i>War and Peace</i> , pp.424-470 (II:3:4-II:3:20)
October 10	Locating the Heart of the Nation, continued	<i>War and Peace</i> , pp.470-529 (II:3:21-II:4:11)

October 12	NO CLASS	<i>War and Peace</i> , pp.470-529 (II:3:21-II:4:11)
October 15	Locating the Heart of the Nation, continued Presentation #7: Russian Fortune-Telling and Other Folk Practices (10/15)	<i>War and Peace</i> , pp.529-554 (II:4:12-II:5:6)
October 17	Omens of Disaster	<i>War and Peace</i> , pp.554-592 (II:5:7-II:5:19)
October 19	Omens of Disaster, Cont'd	<i>War and Peace</i> , pp.592-640 (II:5:20-III:1:10)
October 22	Omens of Disaster, Cont'd	<i>War and Peace</i> , pp.640-686 (III:1:11-III:2:1)
October 24	Foreign Invasion: the Battle of Borodino and Napoleon in the Russian Countryside Presentation #8: Images of Napoleon in Russian Culture (10/24)	<i>War and Peace</i> , pp.686-730 (III:2:2-III:2:12); Response Paper #3 due 10/26
October 26	The Battle of Borodino, cont'd Response Paper #3	<i>War and Peace</i> , pp.730-777 (III:2:13-III:2:25)
October 29	The Battle of Borodino, cont'd	<i>War and Peace</i> , pp.777-820 (III:2:26-III:2:39)
October 31	Moscow Burning: The Great Fire of 1812 Presentation #9: The Fire of Moscow (10/31)	<i>War and Peace</i> , pp.821-867 (III:3:1-III:3:17)
November 2	NO CLASS (Homecoming)	<i>War and Peace</i> , pp.821-867 (III:3:1-III:3:17)
November 5	Moscow Burning: The Great Fire of 1812	<i>War and Peace</i> , pp.868-913 (III:3:18-III:3:29)
November 7	Moscow in 1812	<i>War and Peace</i> , pp.913-956 (III:3:30-IV:1:7); Response Paper #4 due 11/9

November 9	Moscow in 1812 Response Paper #4	<i>War and Peace</i> , pp.956-1001 (IV:1:8-IV:2:7);
November 12	NO CLASS (Veterans Day)	<i>War and Peace</i> , pp.956-1001 (IV:1:8-IV:2:7);
November 14	The Aftermath of War	<i>War and Peace</i> , pp.1001-1047 (IV:2:8-IV:3:7)
November 16	The Aftermath of War, continued Presentation #10: The “Cavalry Maiden” Nadezhda Durova (11/16)	<i>War and Peace</i> , pp.1048-1087 (IV:3:8-IV:4:5)
November 19	The Aftermath of War, cont’d	<i>War and Peace</i> , pp.1087-1125 (IV:4:6-IV:4:19); Response Paper #5 due 11/26
November 21	NO CLASS Thanksgiving	<i>See above</i>
November 23	NO CLASS Thanksgiving	<i>See above</i>
November 26	The Aftermath of War, cont’d Response Paper #5	<i>War and Peace</i> , pp.1129-1178 (Epilogue, Part I)
November 28	Tolstoy’s Infamous Epilogue, Part I; Debate: Is <i>W&P</i> an Anti-war book? Presentation #11: 1812 and After: Napoleon’s Defeat (11/28)	<i>War and Peace</i> , pp.1179-1215 (Epilogue, Part II); Cartoon due 11/30
November 30	Tolstoy’s Infamous Epilogue, Part II; Theory of history; In-Class Paper Workshop; Cartoon due	Cartoon Version due
December 3	Writing Day/Paper Consultations	Final Paper due 12/5
December 5	The Cultural Legacy of <i>War and Peace</i> ; Cartoon Slideshow; Final Paper due	