

**FALL 2020**

**RUT 3101 (RUT1; 26134): Russian Masterpieces**

**General Education Course (H, N)**

**M, W, F: Period 9 (4:05 PM - 4:55 PM)**

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

*office hours:* Thursdays, 3-5 p.m., by appointment, via ZOOM

**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, Dostoevsky, Tolstoy, and Chekhov. Join us for a course that's not too difficult but that is very memorable.

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

**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

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>

**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. FALEN (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)
- All other texts will be available online or provided by the instructor.

You should be aware of the fact that some translations of literary texts written in languages other than English are inferior to other translations. The Internet usually makes available some of the very old translations that have mistakes, typos and serious misreadings and misunderstandings. Outdated or "unsuccessful"/sloppy translations sometimes create a wrong impression about a literary work. If in doubt, please, ask me.

### ***Mode of Instruction***

The RUT 3101 course will be taught entirely online in synchronous mode on the ZOOM/Canvas platform. The only difference from the F2F delivery is that instructor and students won't be in physical proximity but will be interacting in real time online at the designated class meeting times. The instructor will conduct instruction and monitor students' progress via direct

interaction in class, by evaluating submitted written assignments, and by two graded exam papers -- a midterm and a final one.

## **GRADE DISTRIBUTION:**

- **Attendance and Participation: 20%**
- **Quizzes: 20%**
- **Take-home mid-term exam: 30%**
- **Take-home final exam: 30%**

## **COURSE ASSIGNMENTS**

### **1. *Attendance & Participation (20%)***

**Attendance:** Attendance is mandatory and will be assessed by class roll at the beginning of each class. 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>). 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 0.5%. In addition, I will also post some prompts or discussion questions that you should keep in mind while reading the assigned portions of the text/s. 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”/“incomplete.”

### **2. *Quizzes: 4 (20%),*** 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. *Mid-term exam: 30%***
- 4. *Final exam: 30%***

The exams will be written in Canvas. You will have a week or more to complete them. 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.

## **Grading Scale (& GPA equivalent):**

A 100- 93 (4.0)	A- 92- 90 (3.67)	B+89- 87 (3.33)	B 86- 83 (3.0)	B- 82- 80 (2.67)	C+ 79- 77 (2.33)	C 76- 73 (2.0)	C- 72- 70 (1.67)	D+ 69- 67(1.33)	D 63- 66 (1.0)	D- 62- 60 (0.67)	E 59-  (0)
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**Note:** A grade of C– is not a qualifying grade for major, minor, Gen Ed, or College Basic distribution credit. For further information on UF's Grading Policy, see: <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/grades.aspx>

<http://www.isis.ufl.edu/minusgrades.html>

**Academic Honesty:** Students are required to be honest in their coursework and must properly cite all sources that they have consulted for their projects. Any act of academic dishonesty will be reported to the Dean of Students, and may result in failure of the assignment in question and/or the course. For University of Florida's honor code, see <http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/honorcodes/honorcode.php>

**Accommodations for Students with Disabilities** 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. Contact the Disability Resources Center (<http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc/>) for information about available resources for students with disabilities.

**Counseling and Mental Health Resources:** Students facing difficulties completing the course or who are in need of counseling or urgent help should call the on-campus Counseling and Wellness Center (352 392-1575; <http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc/>).

**Online Course Evaluation:** Students are expected to provide feedback on the quality of instruction in this course based on 10 criteria. These evaluations are conducted online at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu>. Evaluations are typically open during the last two or three weeks of the semester (or days, in the case of the summer), but students will be given specific times when they are open. Summary results of these assessments are available to students at <https://evaluations.ufl.edu>.

## ZOOM Netiquette

Please, read this section very carefully.

**It is important to recognize that the online classroom is in fact a classroom, and certain behaviors are expected when you communicate with both your peers and your instructors.**

*Do not share your Zoom classroom link or password with others.*

**When attending a Zoom class or meeting:**

- Arrive/Zoom in on time or a few minutes early if possible. Attendance will be taken at the start of each class session, and tardiness will be marked.
- Set up and mount the webcam video at the level of your eyes to show your full face. If you are using a laptop, you may need to place a book or two under it. Test the audio of your webcam. *For any technical difficulties, please contact the UF Computing Help Desk (352-392-4357). <https://elearning.ufl.edu/media/elearningufl.edu/zoom/How-to-Join-a-Meeting.pdf>*
- During class session, set yourself on mute unless you want to speak or you are called upon.
- If you want to speak, you can raise your hand (click the “raise hand” button at the center bottom of your screen) and wait to be called upon.
- Your webcam must remain on throughout the class hour. We expect students to interact with each other using audio and their webcam whenever possible. **If you have a reason to keep your webcam and audio off, please communicate that reason with me or through the Dean of Students Office.**
- When you are assigned to a breakout room, enable your webcam and microphone so that your partners may hear and see who they are working with.
- Find a quiet indoor space with stable internet connection to attend class. The study space does not need to be a separate room; a chair and desk/table set for school work in a quiet corner should be sufficient. The space should be conducive to work, including pair/group work. Make sure you are uninterrupted by other household members, including pets.
- Refrain from eating during the class hour, as you would in a face-to-face course.
- Follow the same rules of respectful interaction as you would in a face-to-face course. This is especially important in a remote situation, where multiple voices attempting to speak at once result in no one being heard.
- Alert your instructor as soon as possible if you experience technical difficulties. A “chat” can be sent at any moment during a Zoom session if, for example, you find that your webcam or microphone are not functioning properly.
- Relax and enjoy class! Remote learning presents some challenges but many rewards as well.

## **COURSE CALENDAR**

Please note:

- This schedule of readings is preliminary and may undergo modifications as the semester progresses.
- All reading and writing assignments must be completed by the beginning of the class period under which they are listed. Please, have the assigned books/readings close at hand for every zoom meeting.

**August 31:** Introduction: Russian culture and society

## ALEXANDER PUSHKIN

**September 2:** Introduction: Russian culture and society; Pushkin, biography

[Alexander Pushkin \(Алекса́ндр Серге́евич Пу́шкин\)](#)

**September 4:** 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.

On the advantages of slow reading: <https://www.theverge.com/2018/8/27/17787916/reader-come-home-maryanne-wolf-neuroscience-brain-changes>

### September 7 - no class, Labor Day

**September 9:** *Eugene Onegin*, Chapter I (pp. 5-31)

**September 11:** *Eugene Onegin*, Chapter 2 (pp. 33-54)

Tchaikovsky, "Eugene Onegin," opera, clips

**September 14:** *Eugene Onegin*, Chapter 3 (pp. 55-72), stanzas 1-31

Tchaikovsky, "Eugene Onegin," opera, clips

**September 16:** *Eugene Onegin*, Chapter 3 (pp. 73-81), Tatiana's letter + stanzas 32-41

Tchaikovsky, "Eugene Onegin," opera, clips

**September 18:** *Eugene Onegin*, Chapter 4 (pp. 85-106), stanzas 1-51

Tchaikovsky, "Eugene Onegin," opera, clips

**September 21:** *Eugene Onegin*, Chapters 4- 5 (pp. 107-129), stanzas 1-45.

Tchaikovsky, "Eugene Onegin," opera, clips

**September 23-25:** *Eugene Onegin*, Chapter 6 (pp. 133-154), stanzas 1-46.

Tchaikovsky, "Eugene Onegin," opera, clips

**September 28:** *Eugene Onegin*, Chapter 7 (pp. 155-182), stanzas 1-55.

Tchaikovsky, "Eugene Onegin," opera, clips

**September 30-October 2:** *Eugene Onegin*, Chapter 8 (pp. 183-212), stanzas 1-51.

Tchaikovsky, "Eugene Onegin," opera, clips

**Quiz 1, due Sunday, October 4**

## NIKOLAI GOGOL

**September October 5-7:**

Gogol, "The Overcoat" (a PDF file, Canvas)

**RUSSIAN CALLIGRAPHY** (a clip)

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

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

Is Akakii a minimalist? [Minimalism: A Documentary About the Important Things \(Official Trailer\)](#)

## FYODOR DOSTOEVSKY

**OCTOBER 9-14:** Dostoevsky, *Crime and Punishment* (Part 1, online)

Texts: Dostoevsky, *Crime and Punishment* (Part 1, chapters 1-7):

<http://www.gutenberg.org/files/2554/2554-h/2554-h.htm>

Irvin Weil on Dostoevsky: [Irwin Weil on Dostoevsky](#)

*Crime and Punishment*, film (from minute 3): [Crime and Punishment ep. 1 \(part 1/8\) eng sub](#)

[Crime and Punishment ep. 1 \(part 2/8\) eng sub](#)

**Quiz 2 due Saturday, October 17**

## LEO TOLSTOY

**October 16- November 20:** Leo Tolstoy, *Anna Karenina*

**October 16-23:** AK, Part I

**October 26-30:** AK, Part II

**Quiz 3 (due Sunday, November 1, 11.59 p.m.)**

**November 2-6:** AK, Part III, Part IV

**November 9-13:** Part V, Part VI

**November 11,** NO CLASS (Veterans' Day)

**Midterm take-home exam (due Sunday, November 15, 11.59 p.m. or sooner)**

**November 16-20:** AK: Part VII, Part VIII

### **Anton Chekhov**

**Chekhov in photographs:** [http://izbrannoe.com/news/lyudi/anton-pavlovich-chekhov-na-fotografiyakh/?utm\\_source=newsletter&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=sotbit\\_maili](http://izbrannoe.com/news/lyudi/anton-pavlovich-chekhov-na-fotografiyakh/?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=sotbit_maili)  
[ng 2](#)

**November 23:** Chekhov, "The Death of a Clerk," "Small Fry," "Malefactor," "The Student" (PDF files, Canvas)

**November 25-27:** *no classes, Thanksgiving*

**November 30:** Chekhov, "Kashtanka" (PDF file, Canvas)

**Galina Rylkova, "Homo Sachaliensis": Chekhov's 'Character' as a Strategy," e-book, Library West**

**December 2-6:** Chekhov, *The Seagull (book)*

**December 9:** Chekhov, "The Darling" (a PDF file, Canvas)

**Tolstoy's response to Chekhov's "The Darling" (a PDF file, Canvas)**

**Concluding remarks, questions, discussion**

**Quiz 4, due Saturday December 12**

**Final Take-Home exam due Friday, December 18 or earlier**