

FALL 2018

RUT 3101 (1404): Russian Masterpieces



General Education Course (H, N)

M, W, F: Period 9 (4:05 PM - 4:55 PM), TUR 2336

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

office hours: Tuesdays 3.15-4.30 p.m.; Thursdays 4.15-5.30 p.m., room 256 Dauer Hall

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 take-home 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 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:

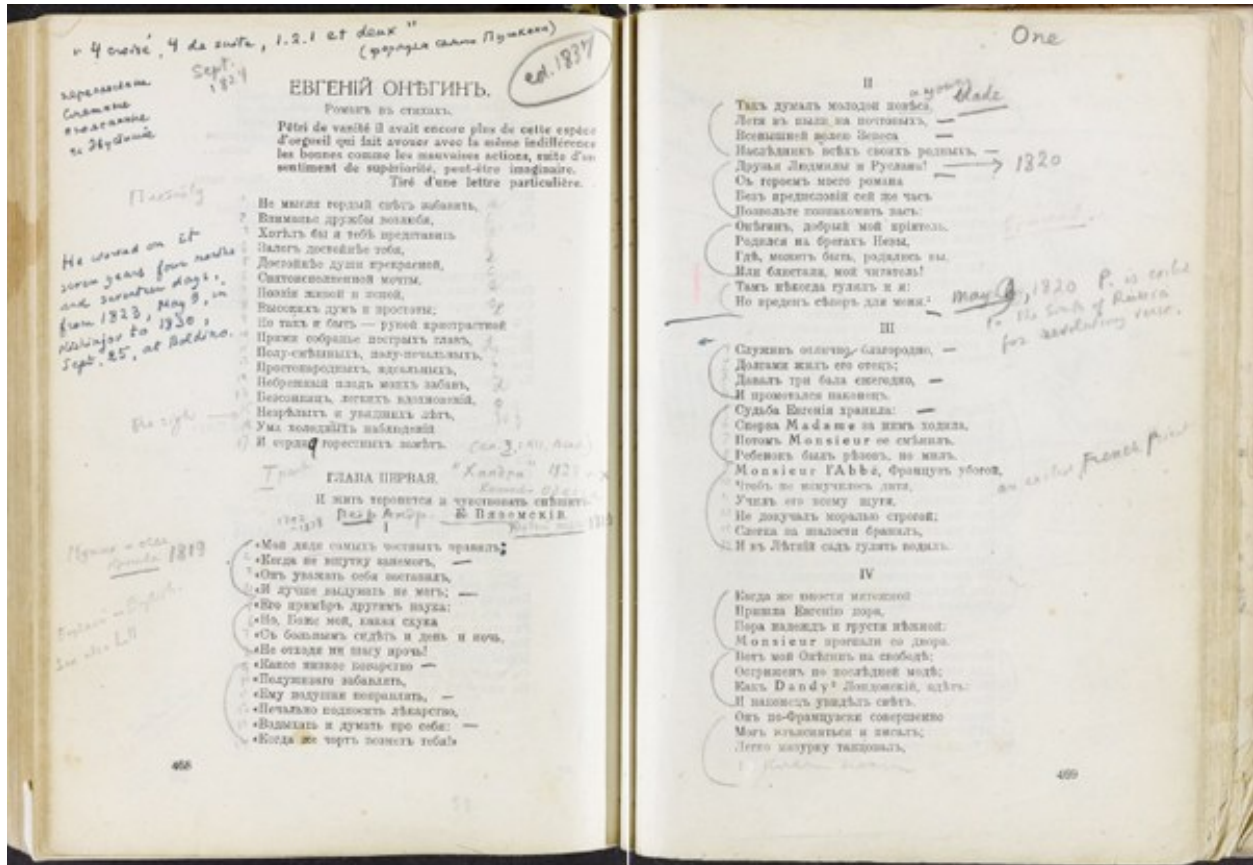
RUT 3101 counts for three (3) hours of the University of Florida's General Education Requirement in the **Humanities (H)** area by providing instruction in the key themes, principles and terminology of a humanities discipline. **Course with the Humanities (H) designation** reflect the following objectives: 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)
- 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.

GRADE DISTRIBUTION:

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

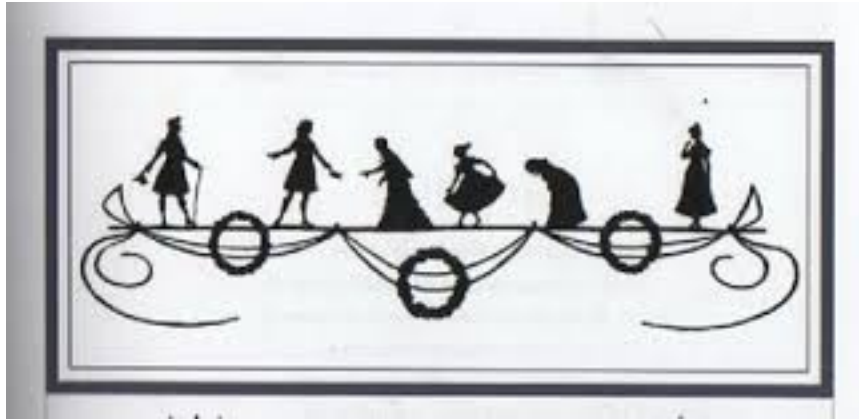
COURSE ASSIGNMENTS

1. *Attendance & Participation (20%)*



Attendance: Attendance is mandatory and will be assessed by class roll 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”/“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. **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.



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> (Links to an external site.)Links to an external site.

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> (Links to an external site.)Links to an external site.

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/> (Links to an external site.)Links to an external site.) 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/> (Links to an external site.)Links to an external site.).

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>.



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, bring the assigned books/readings to class.

August 22: Introduction: Russian culture and society



ALEXANDER PUSHKIN

August 24: Introduction: Russian culture and society; Pushkin, biography

[Alexander Pushkin \(Алекса́ндр Серге́евич Пу́шкин\) \(Links to an external site.\)](#)[Links to an](#)



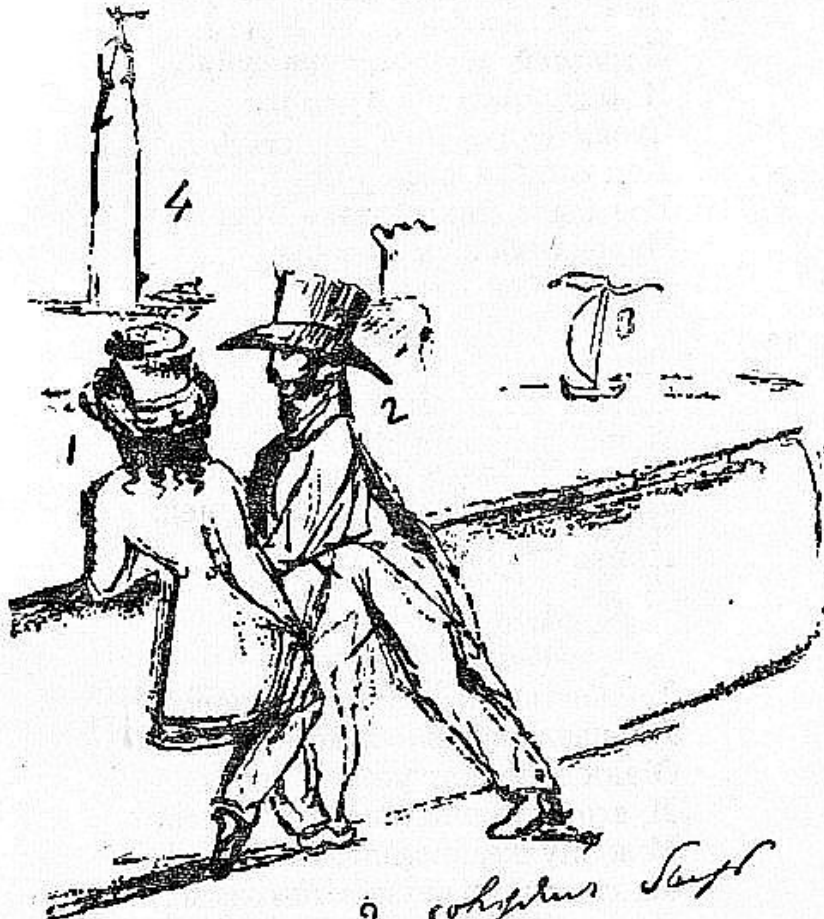
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August 27: Alexander Pushkin, *Eugene Onegin*, translated by James E. Falen

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

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

August 29: *Eugene Onegin*, Chapter I (pp. 5-31)



1. человек - 2. золотой лист
 оперешил во время / 3. вода
 4. крестовый, нечего не обидеть
 Промт, баша медь кап -
 мушка гуд бут мука -
 реиди укыубини и бунуф
 капандурс

August 31: *Eugene Onegin*, Chapter 2 (pp. 33-54)

Tchaikovsky, "Eugene Onegin," opera, clips

September 3 - no class, Labor Day

September 5: *Eugene Onegin*, Chapter 3 (pp. 55-72), stanzas 1-31

Tchaikovsky, "Eugene Onegin," opera, clips

September 7: *Eugene Onegin*, Chapter 3 (pp. 73-81), Tatiana's letter + stanzas 32-41

Tchaikovsky, "Eugene Onegin," opera, clips

September 10: *Eugene Onegin*, Chapter 4 (pp. 85-106), stanzas 1-51

Tchaikovsky, "Eugene Onegin," opera, clips

September 12: *Eugene Onegin*, Chapters 4- 5 (pp. 107-129), stanzas 1-45.

Tchaikovsky, "Eugene Onegin," opera, clips

September 14: *Eugene Onegin*, Chapter 6 (pp. 133-154), stanzas 1-46.

Tchaikovsky, "Eugene Onegin," opera, clips



September 17: *Eugene Onegin*, Chapter 7 (pp. 155-182), stanzas 1-55.

Tchaikovsky, "Eugene Onegin," opera, clips

September 19: *Eugene Onegin*, Chapter 8 (pp. 183-212), stanzas 1-51.

Tchaikovsky, "Eugene Onegin," opera, clips

Quiz 1, due Monday, September 21

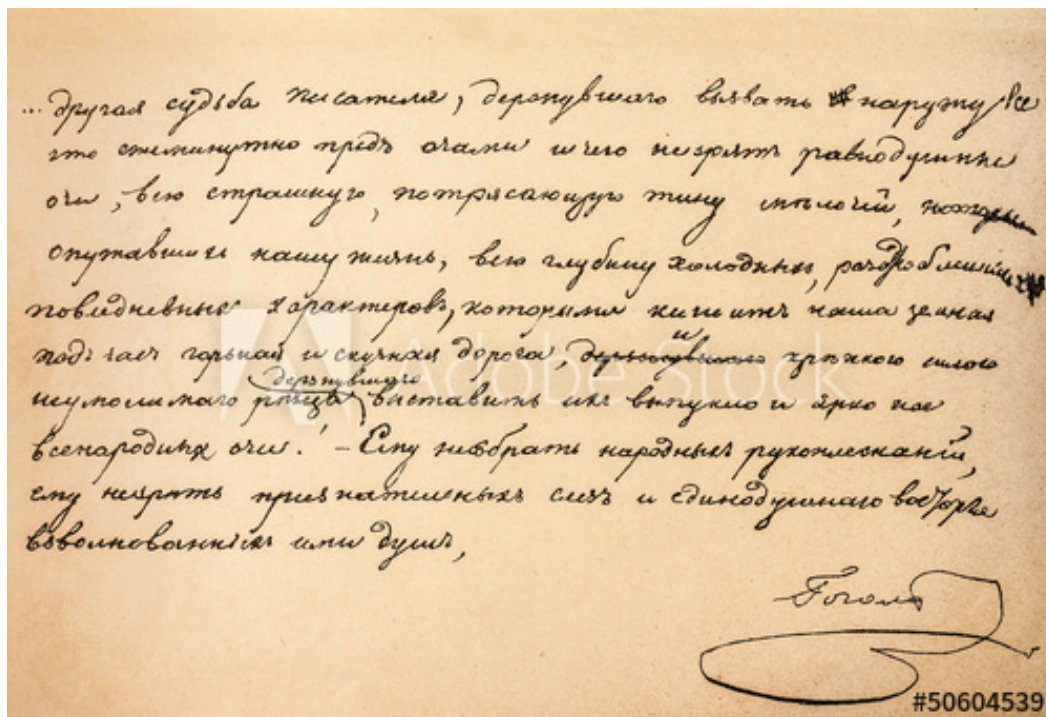
NIKOLAI GOGOL

September 21-24:

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

RUSSIAN CALLIGRAPHY

[Imperial Russian Calligraphy \(Links to an external site.\)](#)[Links to an external site.](#)



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

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



FYODOR DOSTOEVSKY

September 24-28, OCTOBER 1-3 : 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> (Links to an external site.)Links to an external site.

Irvin Weil on Dostoevsky: [Irvin Weil on Dostoevsky](#) (Links to an external site.)Links to an



[external site.](#)

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



[sub \(Links to an external site.\)Links to an external site.](#)

[Crime and Punishment ep. 1 \(part 2/8\) eng sub \(Links to an external site.\)Links to an external](#)



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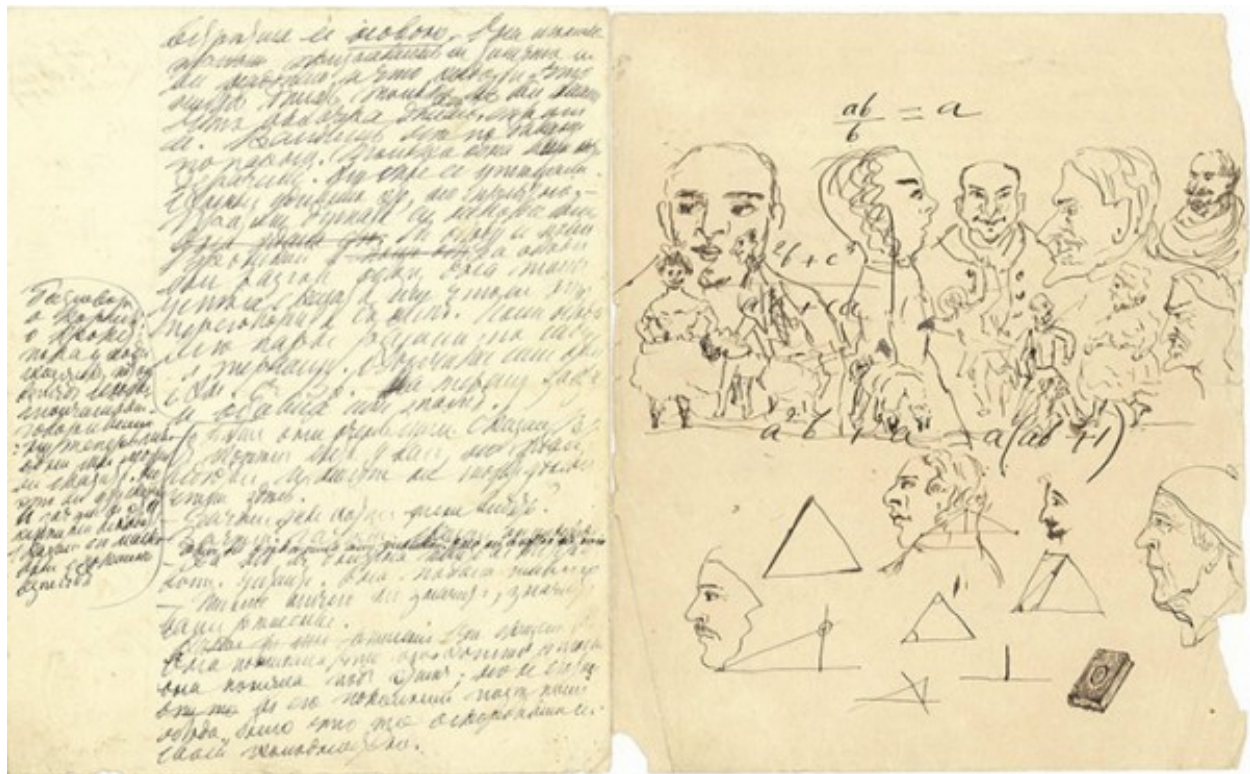


Quiz 2 due Friday, October 5

LEO TOLSTOY

October 5- November 9

Texts: Leo Tolstoy, *Anna Karenina*



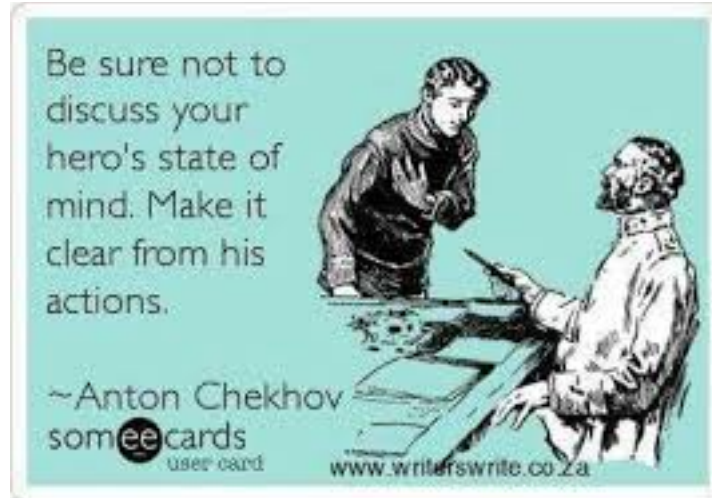
Quiz 3 (due Monday, October 22)

November 2, no class, Homecoming

Midterm take-home exam (due Thursday, November 5)

November 12, NO CLASS (Veterans' Day)

Anton Chekhov



November 14, 16, 19

Chekhov, "The Death of a Clark," "Small Fry," "Malefactor," "The Enemies," "Sleepy," "Kashtanka," "The Student" (PDF files, Canvas)

November 21, no class, Thanksgiving

November 26-December 5

Chekhov, *The Seagull* (book), "The Darling" (a PDF file, Canvas)

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



Quiz 4, due Thursday, November 29

Final Take-Home exam due Wednesday, December 12 or earlier

