

**FALL 2024**

**RUT 3101 (29126): Russian Masterpieces**



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

**M, W, F: Period 7 (1:55 PM - 2:45 PM)**

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

**Course description:** 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.

**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, creative assignments, and mid-term and final.

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 general.

**Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs) assessed through homework/participation, quizzes, and exam papers:**

- SLO1 (N/Content): demonstrate knowledge of the content of specific literary works and the structures and conventions of different literary genres.
- SLO2 (H/Critical Thinking): critically assess the variety of roles that literature has played historically and continues to play in the human life.
- SLO3 (N/Communication): draw connections between literary texts and their biographical, historical, and cultural contexts of authorship and reading. Be aware of politically and culturally sensitive issues and language to avoid conflicts, biases, and misunderstandings; be open-minded, explore and respect different views and opinions.

As part of **the Western Canon**, students will read Acts II and III from Shakespeare's *Hamlet*, excerpts from Maupassant's *Afloat*, and Schopenhauer's "On the Suffering of the World." All three works are either mentioned directly or referred to in Chekhov's *The Seagull* (from the cluster "Anton Chekhov"). When discussing Pushkin's *Eugene Onegin* (from the cluster "Alexander Pushkin"), students will read excerpts from Byron's *Child Harold's Pilgrimage* and Richardson's *Clarissa*. Both texts are repeatedly mentioned in the novel and are essential for understanding the background of the main characters.

### **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 as PDF files.

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 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.”

### **Participation Rubric:**

#### **Outstanding**

· Consistently thorough preparation of readings as

#### **Satisfactory**

· Predominantly thorough preparation of readings as

#### **Unsatisfactory**

· Generally incomplete preparation of readings as

evidenced by ability to answer introductory questions

- Discussion contributions manifesting mastery of concepts, terminology, methodologies, and intellectual nuances of material

evidenced by ability to answer introductory questions

- Discussion contributions manifesting basic though not necessarily sophisticated understanding of concepts, terminology, methodologies, and intellectual nuances of material

evidenced by ability to answer introductory questions

- Discussion contributions manifesting inaccuracy or confusion in understanding of concepts, terminology, methodologies, and intellectual nuances of material

**TIPS:** *Interpretive* (or *Critical*) questions are open-ended and are concerned with textual meaning. They ask for opinions on themes, figurative language and symbolism within the narrative. They also ask for judgments regarding the period, history, politics and ethical questions that are relevant to the text. The open-endedness of Interpretive and Critical questions—which often use phrases such as "do you think" or "why do you suppose"—indicates that there may well be neither simply "right" nor simply "wrong" answers; the success of a response is based on the evidence and reasoning students employ to support their analysis and judgment.

**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 policy

<https://catalog.ufl.edu/UGRD/academic-regulations/grades-grading-policies/>

### Grading scale & GPA equivalents

A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D	D-	E, I, NG, S-U, WF
94-100	90-93	87-89	83-86	80-82	77-79	73-76	70-72	67-69	63-66	60-62	0-59
4.0	3.67	3.33	3.0	2.67	2.33	2.0	1.67	1.33	1.0	.67	0

**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>.

**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.](#))), 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.

**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.

## 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 class meeting.

**August 23:** Introduction: Russian culture and society



### ALEXANDER PUSHKIN

**August 26:** Introduction: Russian culture and society; Pushkin, biography

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

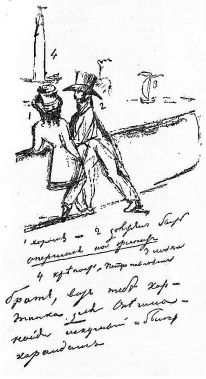
**August 28:** Alexander Pushkin, *Eugene Onegin*, translated by James E. Falen

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>

**August 30:** *Eugene Onegin*, Chapter I (pp. 5-31); Byron's *Child Harold's Pilgrimage* (excerpt, a PDF file).



**September 2 - no class, Labor Day**

**September 4:** *Eugene Onegin*, Chapter 2 (pp. 33-54); Richardson, *Clarissa* (excerpt, a PDF file).

Tchaikovsky, “Eugene Onegin,” opera, clips

**September 6:** *Eugene Onegin*, Chapter 3 (pp. 55-72), stanzas 1-31

Tchaikovsky, “Eugene Onegin,” opera, clips

**September 9:** *Eugene Onegin*, Chapter 3 (pp. 73-81), Tatiana's letter + stanzas 32-41

Tchaikovsky, “Eugene Onegin,” opera, clips

**September 11:** *Eugene Onegin*, Chapter 4 (pp. 85-106), stanzas 1-51

Tchaikovsky, “Eugene Onegin,” opera, clips

**September 13:** *Eugene Onegin*, Chapters 4- 5 (pp. 107-129), stanzas 1-45.

Tchaikovsky, “Eugene Onegin,” opera, clips

**September 16-18:** *Eugene Onegin*, Chapter 6 (pp. 133-154), stanzas 1-46.

Tchaikovsky, “Eugene Onegin,” opera, clips



**September 20:** *Eugene Onegin*, Chapter 7 (pp. 155-182), stanzas 1-55.

Tchaikovsky, “Eugene Onegin,” opera, clips

**September 23-25:** *Eugene Onegin*, Chapter 8 (pp. 183-212), stanzas 1-51.

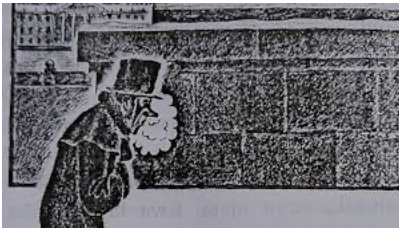
Tchaikovsky, “Eugene Onegin,” opera, clips

**Quiz 1, due Friday, September 27, 11.59 p.m. (Canvas)**

## NIKOLAI GOGOL

**September 27-30:**

Gogol, “The Overcoat” (a PDF file, Canvas)



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

“The Overcoat,” film, theatrical adaptations (clips)

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



## FYODOR DOSTOEVSKY

**OCTOBER 2-11:** 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 12, 11.59 p.m. (Canvas)**

## LEO TOLSTOY

**October 14- November 15:** Leo Tolstoy, *Anna Karenina*



**October 14-21:** AK, Part I

**October 23-25:** AK, Part II

**Quiz 3 due Sunday, October 27, 11.59 p.m. (Canvas)**

**October 28-30:** AK, Part III

**November 1-4:** Part IV

**Midterm take-home exam (due Wednesday, November 6, 11.59 p.m., Canvas)**

**November 6:** Part V

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

**November 8:** Part VI

**November 13:** Part VII

**November 15:** Part VIII

## Anton Chekhov

**November 18:** Chekhov, *The Seagull*, Act I (*book*); Shakespeare's *Hamlet*, Acts II and III (online)

**November 20:** Chekhov, *The Seagull*, Act I, Act II (*book*); Maupassant, *Afloat* (excerpt, a PDF file)

**November 22:** Chekhov, *The Seagull*, Act III (*book*); Schopenhauer's "On the Suffering of the World" (a PDF file)

**November 25-29: no classes, Thanksgiving**

**December 2:** Chekhov, *The Seagull*, Act IV (*book*); Schopenhauer's "On the Suffering of the World" (a PDF file)

**December 4:** 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 Friday, December 6, 11.59 p.m. (Canvas)**

**Final Take-Home exam due Tuesday, December 10, 11.59 p.m. or earlier**

