

# WAR AND PEACE

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

**Email:** iakl@ufl.edu  
**Office:** 328 Pugh Hall



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 E-Reserves and are indicated by an asterisk.

## Course Requirements

**Attendance and Participation (25%).** Attendance (10%) and participation (15%) 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. If you miss more than 4 classes, please drop this course. (For details, see "Attendance Policies," *Undergraduate Catalog*.)

**Group Presentation (10%).** 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.

**Five Response Papers of 1-2 pages (20%).** Response papers 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 (20%).** Topics will be provided, but you are also free to write about a topic of your own choosing with prior instructor approval. **Due Feb.17** 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 April 19** in class and via **turnitin.com** by 10:40am.

**\*Plagiarism will not be tolerated.** Any example of academic dishonesty will be subject to university rules and regulations: [www.registrar.ufl.edu/catalog/policies/students.html](http://www.registrar.ufl.edu/catalog/policies/students.html).

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

**\*Disability Policy:** Students requesting classroom accommodation must register with the Dean of Students Office and provide appropriate documentation. [www.dso.ufl.edu/drc](http://www.dso.ufl.edu/drc).

## 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](http://www.registrar.ufl.edu/catalog/policies/regulationgrades.html).

**Honor Code:** [www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/honorcodes/honorcode.php](http://www.dso.ufl.edu/sccr/honorcodes/honorcode.php).

**Counseling and Wellness Center:** [www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc](http://www.counseling.ufl.edu/cwc)

## Course Schedule

<u>Date</u>	<u>In Class</u>	<u>Reading Assignment for Next Class</u>
January 4	Introduction What is <i>War &amp; Peace</i> ? The Death of Tolstoy	_____
January 6	Lev Nikolaevich Tolstoy: Life and Times of a Great (?) Man	“A History of Yesterday”*
January 9	Chronicling the Self I: “A History of Yesterday,”	<i>Childhood</i> , pp.13-66 (Chaps.1-18)
January 11	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)
January 13	Chronicling the Self II: <i>Childhood</i> and <i>Boyhood</i>	<i>Boyhood</i> , pp.121-176 (Chaps. 5-27) ; <b>Response Paper #1</b> due 1/18
January 16	<b>NO CLASS</b> (MLK Day)	<i>Boyhood</i> , pp.121-176 (Chaps. 5-27)
January 18	Chronicling the Self III: <i>Boyhood</i> ; <b>Response Paper #1</b>	<i>Youth</i> , pp.179-239 (Chaps.1-22)
January 20	Chronicling the Self III: <i>Youth</i>	<i>Youth</i> , pp.239-319 (Chaps.23-45)
January 23	Chronicling the Self III: <i>Youth</i>	“Sevastopol in December;” pp.185-202
January 25	Chronicling War: <i>Sevastopol Sketches</i> and the Crimean War <b>Presentation #1: The Social Legacy of the Crimean War (1/25)</b>	“Sevastopol in May,” pp.203-255

January 27	Chronicling War: <i>Sevastopol Sketches</i> , II	“Sevastopol in August, 1855” pp.256-333
<hr/>		
January 30	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)
February 1	The Origins of War and Peace and the Napoleonic Era	<i>War and Peace</i> , pp.56-104 (I:1:14-I:1:24)
February 3	Love and the Battlefield: Austerlitz, 1805	<i>War and Peace</i> , pp.105-149 (I:1:25-I: 2:8)
<hr/>		
February 6	Austerlitz, continued	<i>War and Peace</i> , pp.149-200 (I:2:9-I:2:21)
<b>Presentation #2:</b> The “Reform Tsar” Alexander I (Cult of Personality) (2/6)		
February 8	Peacetime and its Complexities	<i>War and Peace</i> , pp.201-244 (I:3:1-I:3:7); <b>Response Paper #2</b> due 2/10
February 10	Peacetime and its Complexities <b>Response Paper #2</b>	<i>War and Peace</i> , pp.244-290 (I:3:8-I:3:18)
<hr/>		
February 13	Peacetime and its Complexities	<i>War and Peace</i> , pp.290-336 (I:3:19-II:1:12); <b>Mid-Term Essay due 2/17</b>
<b>Presentation #3:</b> Dueling as 19 <sup>th</sup> Century Russian Social Institution (2/13)		
February 15	Peacetime and its Complexities	<i>War and Peace</i> , pp.336-381 (II:1:13-II:2:10);
February 17	Locating the Heart of the Nation <b>Mid-Term Essay due</b>	<i>War and Peace</i> , pp.381-424 (II:2:11-II:3:3)
<hr/>		
February 20	Locating the Heart of the Nation, continued	<i>War and Peace</i> , pp.424-470 (II:3:4-II:3:20)
February 22	Locating the Heart of the Nation, continued	<i>War and Peace</i> , pp.470-529 (II:3:21-II:4:11)

February 24	Locating the Heart of the Nation, continued	<i>War and Peace</i> , pp.529-554 (II:4:12-II:5:6)
<b>Presentation #4:</b> Russian Fortune-Telling and Other Folk Practices (2/24)		

---

February 27	Omens of Disaster	<i>War and Peace</i> , pp.554-592 (II:5:7-II:5:19)
-------------	-------------------	--

March 1	Omens of Disaster, Cont'd	<i>War and Peace</i> , pp.592-640 (II:5:20-III:1:10)
---------	---------------------------	--

March 3	Omens of Disaster, Cont'd	<i>War and Peace</i> , pp.640-686 (III:1:11-III:2:1)
---------	---------------------------	--

---

March 6 -10	<b>SPRING BREAK</b>	<i>War and Peace</i> , pp.640-686 (III:1:11-III:2:1)
-------------	---------------------	--

---

March 13	Foreign Invasion: the Battle of Borodino and Napoleon in the Russian Countryside	<i>War and Peace</i> , pp.686-730 (III:2:2-III:2:12); <b>Response Paper #3</b> due 3/15
<b>Presentation #5:</b> Images of Napoleon in Russian Culture (3/13)		

March 15	The Battle of Borodino, cont'd <b>Response Paper #3</b>	<i>War and Peace</i> , pp.730-777 (III:2:13-III:2:25)
----------	--	---

March 17	The Battle of Borodino, cont'd	<i>War and Peace</i> , pp.777-820 (III:2:26-III:2:39)
----------	--------------------------------	---

---

March 20	Moscow Burning: The Great Fire of 1812	<i>War and Peace</i> , pp.821-867 (III:3:1-III:3:17)
----------	---	--

March 22	Moscow Burning: The Great Fire of 1812	<i>War and Peace</i> , pp.868-913 (III:3:18-III:3:29)
----------	---	---

March 24	Moscow in 1812	<i>War and Peace</i> , pp.913-956 (III:3:30-IV:1:7)
----------	----------------	---

---

March 27	Moscow in 1812	<i>War and Peace</i> , pp.956-1001 (IV:1:8-IV:2:7); <b>Response Paper #4</b> due 3/29
----------	----------------	---

March 29	The Aftermath of War <b>Response Paper #4</b>	<i>War and Peace</i> , pp.1001-1047 (IV:2:8-IV:3:7)
March 31	The Aftermath of War, continued  <b>Presentation #6:</b> The “Cavalry Maiden” Nadezhda Durova (3/31)	<i>War and Peace</i> , pp.1048-1087 (IV:3:8-IV:4:5)
April 3	The Aftermath of War, cont’d	<i>War and Peace</i> , pp.1087-1125 (IV:4:6-IV:4:19); <b>Response Paper #5</b> due 4/6
April 5	The Aftermath of War, cont’d <b>Response Paper #5</b>	<i>War and Peace</i> , pp.1129-1178 (Epilogue, Part I)
April 7	Tolstoy’s Infamous Epilogue, Part I <b>Presentation #7:</b> 1812 and After: Napoleon’s Defeat (4/7)	<i>War and Peace</i> , pp.1179-1215 (Epilogue, Part II)
April 10	Tolstoy’s Infamous Epilogue, Part II	“The Hedgehog and the Fox”*; prepare for in-class Debate; <b>Cartoon version</b> due 4/14
April 12	Tolstoy’s Theory of History; <b>In-Class Debate:</b> Is <i>War and Peace</i> an Anti-War Book?	Prepare for paper workshop <b>Final Paper</b> due 4/19 <b>Cartoon Version</b> due 4/14
April 14	<b>Paper Workshop</b> <b>Cartoon</b> due	<b>Final Paper</b> due 4/19
April 17	Writing Day/Paper Consultations	<b>Final Paper</b> due 4/19
April 19	The Cultural Legacy of <i>War and Peace</i> ; Cartoon Slideshow; <b>Final Paper</b> due	