

# WAR AND PEACE

**Instructor:** Prof. Ingrid Kleespies

**Office Hours:** M, T 2:00-3:00pm & by appt.

Join Zoom Meeting: <https://ufl.zoom.us/j/4778777641>

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**Office:** 328 Pugh Hall



Vasilii 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?

## Required Texts

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

## 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 at least once per class meeting will be noted and will 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 (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.

**Response Papers and Cartoon (30%).** 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 March 5** on Canvas 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 21** on Canvas and via **turnitin.com** by 12:50pm.

## Grading Scale

A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D	D-	E
93-100	90-92	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).

## 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. 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. Please avoid the use of cell phones.

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

## Attending a HyFlex class:

HyFlex/in-person students are required to abide by UF guidelines posted at <https://coronavirus.ufl.edu/forward-faculty-staff/forward-faculty-staff-health/>. When in class, students are required to wear a face mask and to practice social distancing at all times. They are also required to follow the indicated classroom seating arrangements. At the end of each class, in-person students are required to sanitize classroom objects they come into physical contact with. In-person students are expected to bring a laptop computer (or comparable device) to class so that they can

join the zoom class session for discussion and group work. Food and drink are not permitted. Use of electronics must be limited to class-related activities.

**Attending a Zoom Class:**

-Be sure to 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.

**You are encouraged to keep your webcam on throughout the class hour. Audio presence is required.**

*The participation portion of your grade for this class will be calculated on the basis of your attendance and your participation in class activities. Since the pedagogical approach of this course depends heavily on student engagement and interaction, you are required, at a minimum, to participate in class activities through the audio function of Zoom. Your video presence is strongly encouraged as well.*

*Our class sessions will **not** be audio visually recorded. As in all courses, unauthorized recording and unauthorized sharing of recorded materials is prohibited.*

-During unrecorded group work sessions students are expected 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.

-Dress appropriately for class. Even though you may be alone at home your professor and classmates can see you.

-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.

-Your professor and classmates can also see what is behind you, so be aware of your surroundings. Make sure the background is not distracting or something you would not want your classmates to see. You may use a virtual background if your device supports

this feature. Be sure to avoid using backgrounds that may contain offensive images and language.

-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.

-Refrain from eating during the class hour, as you would in a face-to-face course.

*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>.*

*\*Please see the Netiquette Guide for Online Courses on Canvas for more information.*

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

## University Policies

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-conducthonor-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/>.

## Resources Available for Students

### Health and Wellness

- U Matter, We Care: [umatter@ufl.edu](mailto: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](mailto: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

### WEEK 1 JANUARY 11-15

*Introduction; what is War and Peace?; starting at the end: the death of Tolstoy; the life and times of a great (?) man; first attempts at chronicling the self.*

Monday, January 11

Introduction to course, no assignment due.

Wednesday, January 13

Lev Nikolaevich Tolstoy: a biographical overview, no assignment due.

Friday, January 15

1. "A History of Yesterday" [available on Canvas].

### WEEK 2 JANUARY 18-22

*Crafting a pseudo-autobiography: Childhood and Boyhood, novels of becoming.*

Monday, January 18

NO CLASS – MLK DAY

Wednesday, January 20

1. *Childhood*, pp.13-66 (chapters 1-18).
2. Response Paper #1 due **1/25**.

Friday, January 22 [Presentation #1: The Russian Estate]

1. *Childhood*, pp.66-103 (chapters 19-28);
2. *Boyhood*, pp. 107-120 (chapters 1-4);
3. Response Paper #1 due **1/25**.

### WEEK 3 JANUARY 25-29

*Crafting a pseudo-autobiography, continued: Boyhood and Youth.*

Monday, January 25

1. *Boyhood*, pp.121-176 (chapters 5-27);
2. **Response Paper #1** due.

Wednesday, January 27 [Presentation #2: The Holy Fool in Russian Culture]

1. *Youth*, pp.179-239 (chapters 1-22)

Friday, January 29

1. *Youth*, pp.239-319 (chapters 23-45)

**WEEK 4 FEBRUARY 1-5**

*First attempts at chronicling war: the Sevastopol Sketches; the Crimean War; Tolstoy in combat; war and technology; war and photography; war and narration.*

Monday, February 1 [Presentation #3: The Social Legacy of the Crimean War]

1. "Sevastopol in December," pp.185-202.

Wednesday, February 3

1. "Sevastopol in May," pp.203-255.

Friday, February 5

1. "Sevastopol in August, 1855," (256-333).

**WEEK 5 FEBRUARY 8-12**

*The origins of War and Peace and the Napoleonic era; love and the battlefield; Austerlitz 1805.*

Monday, February 8

1. *War and Peace*, pp.3-56 (v.l:pt.1:ch.1-v.l:pt.1:ch.13)

Wednesday, February 10 [Presentation #4: The Russian Salon]

1. *War and Peace*, pp.56-104 (v.l:pt.1:ch.14-v.l:pt.1:ch.24)

Friday, February 12

1. *War and Peace*, pp.105-149 (v.l:pt.1:ch.25-v.l:pt.2:ch.8)

**WEEK 6 FEBRUARY 15-19**

*Austerlitz, continued; peacetime and its complexities*

Monday, February 15

1. *War and Peace*, pp.149-200 (v.l:pt.2:ch.9-v.l:pt.2:ch.21).
2. Response Paper #2 due **2/19**.

Wednesday, February 17 [Presentation #5: The "Reform Tsar" Alexander I]

1. *War and Peace*, pp.201-244 (v.l:pt.3:ch.1-v.l:pt.3:ch.7);
2. Response Paper #2 due **2/19**.

Friday, February 19

1. *War and Peace*, pp.244-290 (v.l:pt.3:ch.8-v.l:pt.3:ch.18)
2. **Response Paper #2** due.



**WEEK 7 FEBRUARY 22-26***Locating the heart of the nation.*

Monday, February 22 [Pres. #6: Dueling as a 19thC Russian Social Institution]

1. *War and Peace*, pp.290-336 (v.I:pt.3:ch.19-v.II:pt.1:ch.12);
2. Mid-Term Essay due **3/5**.

Wednesday, February 24

1. *War and Peace*, pp.336-381 (v.II:pt.1:ch.13-v.II:pt.2:ch.10)
2. Mid-Term Essay due **3/5**.

Friday, February 26

1. *War and Peace*, pp.381-424 (v.II:pt.2:ch.11-v.II:pt.3:ch.3)
2. Mid-Term Essay due **3/5**.

**WEEK 8 MARCH 1-5***Locating the heart of the nation, continued.*

Monday, March 1

1. *War and Peace*, pp.424-470 (v.II:pt.3:ch.4-v.II:pt.3:ch.20)
2. Mid-Term Essay due **3/5**.

Wednesday, March 3 [Pres.#7: Russian Fortune-Telling and Other Folk Practices]

1. *War and Peace*, pp.470-529 (v.II:pt.3:ch.21-v.II:pt.4:ch.11)
2. Mid-Term Essay due **3/5**.

Friday, March 5

1. *War and Peace*, pp.529-554 (v.II:pt.4:ch.12-v.II:pt.5:ch.6)
2. **Mid-Term Essay** due.

**WEEK 9 MARCH 8-12***Locating the heart of the nation, continued.*

Monday, March 8

1. *War and Peace*, pp.554-592 (v.II:pt.5:ch.7-v.II:pt.5:ch.19)

Wednesday, March 10

1. *War and Peace*, pp.592-640 (v.II:pt.5:ch.20-v.III:pt.1:ch.10)
2. Response Paper #3 due **3/15**.

Friday, March 12 [Pres. #8: Images of Napoleon in Russian Culture]

1. *War and Peace*, pp.640-686 (v.III:pt.1:ch.11-v.III:pt.2:ch.1)
2. Response Paper #3 due **3/15**.

**WEEK 10 MARCH 15-19**

*Omens of disaster; foreign invasion; the Battle of Borodino and Napoleon in the Russian countryside; Moscow Burning and the Great Fire of 1812.*

Monday, March 15

1. *War and Peace*, pp.686-730 (v.III:pt.2:ch.2-v.III:pt.2:ch.12)
2. **Response Paper #3** due.

Wednesday, March 17

1. *War and Peace*, pp.730-777 (v.III:pt.2:ch.13-v.III:pt.2:ch.25)

Friday, March 19 [Presentation #9: The Fire of Moscow]

1. *War and Peace*, pp.777-820 (v.III:pt.2:ch.26-v.III:pt.2:ch.39)

**WEEK 11 MARCH 22-26**

*Moscow burning, continued.*

Monday, March 22

1. *War and Peace*, pp.821-867 (v.III:pt.3:ch.1-v.III:pt.3:ch.17)
1. Response Paper #4 due **3/29**.

Wednesday, March 24

NO CLASS – Recharge day

Friday, March 26

1. *War and Peace*, pp.868-913 (v.III:pt.3:ch.18-v.III:pt.3:ch.29)
2. Response Paper #4 due **3/29**.

**WEEK 12 MARCH 29-APRIL 2**

*Moscow in 1812; rebuilding the nation; the aftermath of war.*

Monday, March 29

1. *War and Peace*, pp.913-956 (v.III:pt.3:ch.30-v.IV:pt.1:ch.7)
2. **Response Paper #4** due.

Wednesday, March 31

1. *War and Peace*, pp.956-1001 (v.IV:pt.1:ch.8-v.IV:pt.2:ch.7)

Friday, April 2 [Presentation #10: The "Cavalry Maiden" Nadezhda Durova]

1. *War and Peace*, pp.1001-1047 (v.IV:pt.2:ch.8-v.IV:pt.3:ch.7)
2. Response Paper #5 due **4/7**.



**WEEK 13 APRIL 5-9***The aftermath of war, continued; Epilogue Part I.*Monday, April 5

1. *War and Peace*, pp.1048-1087 (v.IV:pt.3:ch.8-v.IV:pt.4:ch.5)
2. Response Paper #5 due **4/7**.

Wednesday, April 7

1. *War and Peace*, pp.1087-1125 (v.IV:pt.4:ch.6-v.IV:pt.4:ch.19)
2. **Response Paper #5** due.

Friday, April 9

1. *War and Peace*, pp.1129-1178 (Epilogue, Part I)
2. Cartoon due **4/14**.

**WEEK 14 APRIL 12-16***Tolstoy's infamous epilogues; historical fatalism in a nutshell.*Monday, April 12 [Presentation #11: 1812 and After: Napoleon's Defeat]

1. *War and Peace*, pp.1179-1215 (Epilogue, Part II)
2. Cartoon due **4/14**.
3. Final Paper due **4/21**.

Wednesday, April 14In-Class Debate: Is *War and Peace* an Anti-War Book?

1. **Cartoon** due.
2. Final Paper due **4/21**.

Friday, April 16

In-Class Paper Workshop

1. Final Paper due **4/21**.

**WEEK 15 APRIL 19-21***Conclusion; the cultural legacy of War and Peace; cartoon slideshow.*Monday, April 19

NO CLASS – Writing day/consultations

1. Final Paper due **4/21**.

Wednesday, April 21

1. **Final Paper** due.