

RUSS51, Fall 2002  
MWF 2:20-3:20 in HUM 212  
Office hours M 3:30-4:30,  
W 11-12 and by appointment

Hilde Hoogenboom  
x6528, 205 HUM  
hoogenboom@  
macalester.edu

## **Nineteenth-Century Russian Literature in Translation**

### **Course Description**

This course traces the development of Russian literature from the end of the eighteenth century, when Russian writers first began to conceptualize a great national literature, to the beginning of the twentieth century, when the golden era of Russian nineteenth-century prose seemed over. The course encompasses three literary movements -- Sentimentalism, Romanticism and Realism -- which, while shared with European literatures, reflected particularly Russian literary concerns. Moreover, Russia's writers linked their work to questions about Russia's national identity and they could claim authority as Russia's moral conscience.

Although Russian literature is associated with the long novels of Tolstoy and Dostoevsky, it is of course much more varied. The readings reflect the development of small, large and mixed genres in nineteenth-century Russian literature -- essays, tales, Pushkin's novel in verse and Gogol's "poema" in prose, the novel, autobiography, and plays. We will be reading poems, a memoir and 3 novels or novellas by women writers. We also read selections by writers, including woman writers, about being Russian writers.

### **Requirements**

This course requires three five-page papers and a final exam. Papers are due on the Monday, at noon in my office, following the week in which the work was discussed. This means that you can schedule papers in this course around your other papers.

I provide paper questions for each work. To prepare your paper and to practice oral presentations, you give a short, five-minute presentation to the class of your ideas for your paper (it's graded, so prepare). After you submit your first paper, which I don't grade, we meet to discuss it and you then rewrite it for a grade to work on your editing skills. You have the option to rewrite the remaining two papers for better grades. Rewrites are due the following week.

The final will consist of some combination of identifications and two essays, one on a substantial quotation and the other a comparison of several works.

Your attendance in class is mandatory. Class participation includes sharing your ideas with the class and listening carefully to your classmates.

### **Grades**

Oral presentations and class participation 20%; papers 20% each; final 20%

### **Required Texts**

*From Karamzin to Bunin*, ed. by Carl Proffer  
*Eugene Onegin*, Alexander Pushkin (Falen translation)  
*The Cavalry Maiden*, Nadezhda Durova

*A Hero of Our Times*, Mikhail Lermontov (Nabokov translation)  
*Dead Souls*, Nikolai Gogol (Pevear & Volokhonsky translation)  
*A Double Life*, Karolina Pavlova  
*Antonina*, Evgeniia Tur  
*The Boarding School Girl*, Nadezhda Khvoshchinskaia  
*Childhood, Boyhood, Youth*, Leo Tolstoy  
*Fathers and Sons*, Ivan Turgenev  
*Crime and Punishment*, Fyodor Dostoevsky (Pevear & Volokhonsky translation)  
*Plays*, Anton Chekhov

### Reserve

Sona Stephan Hoisington, ed. *A Plot of Her Own*. Evanston:Northwestern UP, 1995.  
 PG3096.W6 P57 1995  
 Leskov, Nikolai. "The Sealed Angel," PG3337.L5 A33 1984

### E-Reserve

Karamzin, essays  
 Bunina, "Conversation Between Me and the Women" (1818)  
 Pushkin, poems  
 Hammarberg, Gitta, "Poor Liza, Poor Erast, Lucky Narrator", *SEEJ*, 31.3(1987):305-21.  
 Hofstadter, Douglas, "Four Translators, Four Visions", NYT 1999  
 Burgin, Diana, "Tatiana Larina's *Letter to Onegin*, or *La plume criminelle*", *Essays in Poetics*, 16.2 (1991):12-23.  
 Scotto, Peter, "Prisoners of the Caucasus: Ideologies of Imperialism in Lermontov's 'Bela'", *PMLA* 107.2 (March 1992):246-60.  
 Jakobson, Roman. "On Realism in Art" (1921), *Readings in Russian Poetics: Formalist and Structuralist Views*, ed. by Ladislav Matejka and Krystyna Pomorska (Cambridge: MIT Press, 1971), 38-46.  
 Dostoevsky, essays

### Recommended Reading

*Handbook of Russian Literature*, ed. by Victor Terras  
*Cambridge History of Russian Literature*, ed. by Charles Moser  
*A History of Russian Literature: From its Beginnings to 1900*, Prince D.S. Mirsky. A classic!  
*Cambridge Companion to the Classic Russian Novel*, ed. by Malcolm Jones and Robin Feuer Miller

### Readings

W 4 Sept •Introduction: title, syllabus, approach  
 •From Classicism to Sentimentalism to Romanticism to Realism: aesthetics and genres collide as Russians quickly absorb and rework old and new Western works  
 •The Russian Writer: Prose Writer and Poet, Man and Woman  
 •The Russian Reader  
 •The Russian Narrator  
 •Two approaches to aesthetic issues:  
 •"L'Envoi," by Vladimir Nabokov  
 •Leo Tolstoy, "What is Art" (1896) (excerpt)

- F 6 Sept. Nikolai Mikhailovich Karamzin (1766-1826),**  
 "Poor Liza" (1792) (in Proffer, 53-67)  
 Hammarberg, Gitta, "Poor Liza, Poor Erast, Lucky Narrator"
- "What does an author need?" (1793)
  - "On the Book Trade and Love of Reading in Russia" (1802)
  - "Why is There So Little Writing Talent in Russia?" (1802)
- Anna Bunina (1774-1829)**
- "Conversation Between Me and the Women" (1818)
- Aleksandr Sergeevich Pushkin (1799-1837)**
- "History of a Versifier" (1818)
  - "Conversation of Bookseller with Poet" (1824)
  - "Prose-Writer and Poet" (1825)
  - "The Poet" (1827)
  - "To the Poet" (1830)
  - "Unto Myself I Reared a Monument" (1836)
- M 9 Sept Aleksandr Sergeevich Pushkin (1799-1837)**  
Eugene Onegin (1823-31, complete 1833)
- W 11 Sept** Hofstadter, Douglas, "Four Translators, Four Visions";  
 Burgin, Diana, "Tatiana Larina's *Letter to Onegin*, or *La plume criminelle*"
- F 13 Sept** Film: opera *Eugene Onegin*
- M 16 Sept. Nadezhda Durova (1783-1866)**  
**W 18 Sept.** The Cavalry Maiden (1836)  
**F 20 Sept**
- M 23 Sept. Mikhail Yurievich Lermontov (1814-41)**  
A Hero of Our Time (1840); "The Death of a Poet" (1837)
- W 25 Sept.** Scotto, Peter, "Prisoners of the Caucasus: Ideologies of Imperialism in  
 Lermontov's 'Bela'"
- F 27 Sept**
- M 30 Sept. Nikolai Vasilievich Gogol (1809-52)**  
Dead Souls (1842)
- W 2 Oct.**  
**F 4 Oct**
- M 7 Oct.** Dead Souls  
**W 9 Oct.**  
**F 11 Oct**
- First paper due no later than Monday, 14 October.
- M 14 Oct. Karolina Pavlova (1807-93)**  
A Double Life (1848)

•Olga Peters Hasty, "Karolina Pavlova's *A Twofold Life*, in *Essays on Karolina Pavlova*, ed. by Susanne Fusso and Alexander Lehrman, Evanston: Northwestern UP, 2001, 53-65.

W 16 Oct. **Evgeniia Tur (1815-92)**  
Antonina (1851)

F 18 Oct Antonina

•Jane Costlow, "Speaking the Sorrow of Women: Turgenev's *Neschastnaia* and Evgeniia Tur's *Antonina*," *Russian Review* 50.2 (1991): 328-35. Available on JSOR at: <http://links.jstor.org/sici?sici=0037-6779%28199122%2950%3A2%3C328%3ASTSOWT%3E2.0.CO%3B2-F>

M 21 Oct. **Nadezhda Khvoshchinskaia (1822-89)**  
The Boarding-School Girl (1861)

W 23 Oct. The Boarding-School Girl

F 25 Oct Fall Break

M 28 Oct. **Lev Nikolaevich Tolstoy (1828-1910)**  
Childhood, Boyhood, Youth (1852-7)

W 30 Oct. Childhood, Boyhood, Youth

F 1 Nov Childhood, Boyhood, Youth

Second paper due no later than Monday, 4 November.

**M 4 Nov Ivan Sergeevich Turgenev (1818-83)**  
Fathers and Sons (1862)

W 6 Nov. •Roman Jakobson, "On Realism in Art"

F 8 Nov

M 11 Nov. **Fyodor Mikhailovich Dostoevsky (1821-81)**  
Crime and Punishment (1866)

W 13 Nov.

F 15 Nov

M 18 Nov. Crime and Punishment

**W 20 Nov.** •Harriet Murav, "Reading Women in Dostoevsky," in *A Plot of Her Own*, 44-57.

F 22 Nov Film: *Crime and Punishment* (no class). There are three versions at Macalester and we'll decide on one together and see clips from the others: 1) dir. Pierre Chenal (b/w, in French, 1935, 110 m), 2) dir. Joseph von Sternberg, with Peter Lorrie as Raskolnikov (1935, 88 m), 3) dir. Lev Kulidzhanov, with the fabulous Innokentii Smoktunovskii as Porfiry Petrovich (1969, 112 +109 m)

**M 25 Nov.** Crime and Punishment

W 27 Nov •"Explanatory Word Concerning the Address on Pushkin Printed Below,"

•"Pushkin (A Sketch)", in Diary of a Writer (1881)

F 29 Nov Thanksgiving Break

M	2 Dec	<b>Nikolai Semyonovich Leskov (1831-95)</b> “Lady MacBeth of Mtsensk” (in Proffer); “The Sealed Angel”
W	4 Dec	<b>Anton Pavlovich Chekhov (1860-1904)</b> “Anna on the Neck” (1895), “Heartache” (1886) & “Gooseberries” (1898) (in Proffer)
F	6 Dec	Plays: <u>The Seagull</u> (1896)
M	9 Dec	<u>Uncle Vanya</u> (1899) •film <u>Vanya on 42<sup>nd</sup> Street</u> (1994, 119 min., Louis Malle) •Gary Saul Morson, “Sonya’s Wisdom,” in <i>A Plot of Her Own</i> , 58-71.
W	11 Dec	<u>Three Sisters</u> (1901)
F	13 Dec	<u>The Cherry Orchard</u> (1903)

Third paper due no later than Monday, 16 December.

Next semester we will have the opportunity to see Three Sisters at the Guthrie Theater, April 25-May 4.

Final exam: Tuesday, December 17, 10:30-12:30 pm