



Russian Writers of the 19th Century: Literary Giants 1

RUSS 223, Fall 2022

T/Th 4:05 -5:25,

T: BURN 306

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Office Hours: T/Th, 2:30-3:30 PM or by
appointment

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Course Objectives

This course offers an introduction to the Russian literary classics of the first half of the nineteenth century. By exploring the works of Pushkin, Lermontov, Gogol, Pavlova, and early Dostoevsky, Tolstoy, and Turgenev, we will trace the evolution of Russian literature and its rise to world renown, with a specific focus on the authors' relationships with the Russian tradition, as well as the influence of European literature. The course is also designed to teach skills in literary analysis, with an emphasis on both discussion and persuasive, critical writing. There is no prerequisite for this class, and no knowledge of Russian, Russian literature, or Russian culture is required.



Lermontov, Pushkin, and Gogol in the
Millennium of Russia (1862), Novgorod.

Required Texts:

All texts will be available at The Word Bookstore (469 Milton St, Montreal, QC, H2X 1W3). I have chosen to have the books for purchase at The Word because it supports an independent, local bookstore. If you need it, they will also deliver the books to you.

1. Dostoevsky, Fyodor, *Poor Folk and Other Stories*, Penguin Classics, Paperback (ISBN: 9780140445053).

- Available for electronic purchase from Amazon and other sellers
2. Gogol, Nikolay, *The Diary of a Madman, The Government Inspector, and Selected Stories*, Penguin Classics, ISBN: 0140449078.
 - Available for electronic purchase from Amazon and other sellers
 3. Lermontov, Michael, *A Hero of Our Time*, Penguin Classics, ISBN: 0140447954
 4. Pavlova, Karolina, *A Double Life*, Columbia University Press, Paperback (ISBN: 9780231190794), e-copy (ISBN: 9780231549110).
 - Electronic version available directly from Columbia University Press (<http://cup.columbia.edu/book/a-double-life/9780231190794>)
 5. Pushkin, Alexander, *Eugene Onegin: A Novel in Verse*, Paperback, Oxford University Press, (ISBN: 9780199538645).
 - Available for electronic purchase from Amazon and other sellers
 6. Tolstoy, Leo, *Childhood, Boyhood, Youth*, Penguin Classics, (ISBN: 0140449922).

Structure of the Course and Course Policies

- Class time will be a mixture of lecture, discussion, film/media, and other activities designed to hone our skills in literary analysis. **During lectures, I do not consent to being recorded.** If recordings will become necessary during this semester, I will ensure that they are posted online for you.
- I am available and always happy to see you in my scheduled office hours, or by appointment if you have a conflict that does not allow you to come at those times. I can be reached by email as well. However, I have a 48-hour email rule, meaning that I may not respond to any given email before 48 hours. If I do not respond before that point, you may email me with the title 48-Hour Rule, and I will respond as quickly as possible.
- No late assignments will be accepted without prior written consent. If you feel you may need an extension, please speak to me well in advance of the deadline. You will have **one (1)** automatic extension of 48 hours to be taken during the semester. Please let me know in advance that you will be taking the extension so I can plan my grading accordingly.
- In this class we will be discussing political, cultural, and national issues. While robust debate is good, you are expected to respect your classmates' rights to their opinions and beliefs. This includes not interrupting people, dominating the floor, raising your voice, insulting, threatening, etc. Because university is a learning environment, everyone has the right to be wrong.
- Under no circumstances should you be texting, playing games, checking social media, checking your email, surfing the web, talking on the phone, or otherwise engaging in activities that are unrelated to what is happening in class. Please turn off your phone when you enter the classroom. You may bring a laptop to class,

but please restrict use to class-related activities and sit towards the back of the classroom so as not to distract other students.

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Assignments (more details will be provided on myCourses closer to the date each is due)

- **Attendance and Class Participation:** This course is based on the premise that Russian literature cannot be passively absorbed but must be actively engaged with. To that end, attendance and class participation are essential components of the class. You are expected to have completed the assigned reading before coming to class and to arrive each day prepared to discuss it.
 - There may be occasional “spot-check” quizzes based on the assigned reading as an extra motivator for keeping up. These will count toward the attendance and participation portion of your grade.
 - There will be discussion sections, and it is your responsibility to take active participation in them.
 - Should you be unable to be in class or to participate due to illness, absence, or any other reason including just being shy, there will be a discussion board for additional participation. Please make use of this as a way to develop your ideas and bounce them off of your peers and your instructor. The goal is to additionally foster discussion on the current topics, so using the board must be done in a timely manner. Responding (respectfully) to other students will be understood as creating more robust discussion.
- **Writing Assignment 1:** The first writing assignment will be a short response to one of the readings. You will be expected to write 2-pages (500-word limit), developing an argumentative claim. This assignment will occur in two parts: a draft graded pass/fail, and a full version, graded as normally. More details on what this means will be given in class during our writing workshop and in the prompts for the assignment.
- **Writing Assignment 2:** The second paper will be a more robust version of the first writing assignment (750-1000-word limit)
- **Writing Assignment 3:** The final paper will be 4-5 pages double-spaced (1500-word limit). This is your chance to formulate a comparative argument about two or three of the texts we read.
- **Final Exam:** There will be a take-home, open-note final exam to be submitted online. The exam will cover the major characters, authors, and storylines of the texts we have read. You will also have the chance to synthesize the material from the entire course in a few longer essay questions. The exam should take no more than 2 hours, but you will be given 4 hours over 3 days to complete it to accommodate any technical issues or other barriers to learning. The purpose of the exam is to aid students who may not benefit from a more writing-heavy course.

Final Grade Breakdown

- Attendance & participation: 20%
- Writing assignment 1 (Draft): 10%
- Writing Assignment 1: 10%
- Writing assignment 2: 15%
- Writing assignment 3: 20%
- Final Exam: 25%

Grade	Percentages
A	100%-85%
A-	84%-80%
B+	79%-75%
B	74%-70%
B-	69%-65%
C+	64%/-60%
C	59%-55%
D	54%-50%
F	49%-0%

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I remind everyone of their responsibility in ensuring that videos and associated material are not reproduced or placed in the public domain. This means that each of you can use it for your educational (and research) purposes, but you cannot allow others to use it, by putting it up on the Internet or by giving it or selling it to others who may also copy it and make it available. Please refer to McGill's [Guidelines for Instructors and Students on Remote Teaching and Learning](#) for further information. Thank you very much for your help with this.

Academic Integrity:

McGill University values academic integrity. Therefore, all students must understand the meaning and consequences of cheating, plagiarism and other academic offences under the Code of Student Conduct and Disciplinary Procedures (see www.mcgill.ca/students/srr/honest/ for more information). (approved by Senate on 29 January 2003)

L'université McGill attache une haute importance à l'honnêteté académique. Il incombe par conséquent à tous les étudiants de comprendre ce que l'on entend par tricherie, plagiat et autres infractions académiques, ainsi que les conséquences que peuvent avoir de telles actions, selon le Code de conduite de l'étudiant et des procédures disciplinaires (pour de plus amples renseignements, veuillez consulter le site www.mcgill.ca/students/srr/honest/).

Inclusive Learning Environment :

As the instructor of this course I endeavor to provide an inclusive learning environment. However, if you experience barriers to learning in this course, do not

hesitate to discuss them with me and the Office for Students with Disabilities, 514-398-6009.

Evaluations:

End-of-course evaluations are one of the ways that McGill works towards maintaining and improving the quality of courses and the student’s learning experience. You will be notified by e-mail when the evaluations are available on Mercury, the online course evaluation system. I take the evaluations seriously, and I have used them over my career to improve the courses. I particularly appreciate feedback from students who think the class is so-so, since the more extreme feedback is more common.

Student Rights:

“In accord with McGill University’s Charter of Students’ Rights, students in this course have the right to submit in English or in French any written work that is to be graded. This does not apply to courses in which acquiring proficiency in a language is one of the objectives.” (Approved by Senate on 21 January 2009 - see also the section in this document on Assignments and Evaluation.)

« Conformément à la Charte des droits de l’étudiant de l’Université McGill, chaque étudiant a le droit de soumettre en français ou en anglais tout travail écrit devant être noté (sauf dans le cas des cours dont l’un des objets est la maîtrise d’une langue). »

Know Your Rights!

Additional policies governing academic issues which affect students can be found in the McGill Charter of Students' Rights" (The Handbook on Student Rights and Responsibilities is available here <https://www.mcgill.ca/deanofstudents/rights>)

In the event of extraordinary circumstances beyond the University’s control, the content and/or evaluation scheme in this course is subject to change.

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Week	Day of Week	Date	Class Schedule
1	T	8/29/22	No Class
	Th	9/1/22	Introduction to the Course—Lecture on Russian (Cultural) History
2	T	9/6/22	Excerpts from introductions to Russian literature and Karamzin, “Poor Liza” (1792)
	Th	9/8/22	Griboedov—Woe from Wit (1823), selections
3	T	9/13/22	Pushkin, “Gypsies” (1824), selections of lyric poetry.

	Th	9/15/22	Pushkin, Little Tragedies: “Mozart and Salieri” and “The Stone Guest” (both written 1830, pub. 1832, 1839); Jackson, “Moral-Philosophical Subtext in The Stone Guest”
4	T	9/20/22	Pushkin, Tales of the Late Ivan Petrovich Belkin (1831): “From the Editor,” “The Stationmaster” Writing Workshop —Bring a PRINTED version to class and submit it online.
	Th	9/22/22	Pushkin, Eugene Onegin (1825-32) — Chapters 1-4
5	T	9/27/22	Eugene Onegin — Chapters 5-8
	Th	9/29/22	Onegin on stage and screen—AZ Lecture
	F	9/31/22	Writing Assignment 1 Due
6	T	10/4/22	Pushkin, “Bronze Horseman” (1833), “Queen of Spades” (1834)
	Th	10/6/22	Dostoevsky, “Pushkin Speech” (1881)
7	T	10/11/22	Fall Break—No Class
	FRIDAY	10/14/22	Lermontov— <i>A Hero of Our Time</i> —Part 1 (1840)
8	T	10/18/22	Lermontov— <i>A Hero of Our Time</i> —Part 2 (1840)
	Th	10/20/22	Gogol, “Nevsky Prospekt” (1835), “The Overcoat” (1842)
9	T	10/25/22	Gogol, “The Nose” (1836), “Diary of a Madman” (1835)
	Th	10/27/22	Gogol, The Government Inspector
10	T	11/1/22	Writing Assignment 2 Due Gogol’s Afterlife
	Th	11/3/22	Karolina Pavlova, A Double Life (1848)—first half
11	T	11/8/22	Pavlova, A Double Life—finish
	Th	11/10/22	No Class in Person—Please Watch Lecture on: Belinsky, “Thoughts and Notes on Russian Literature” (1847)
12	T	11/15/22	Dostoevsky, Poor Folk (1846)—first half
	Th	11/17/22	Dostoevsky, Poor Folk, finished
13	T	11/22/22	Tolstoy, <i>Childhood</i>
	Th	11/24/22	Turgenev, <i>Rudin</i> —First 5 chapters
14	T	11/29/22	Turgenev, <i>Rudin</i> —to End
	Th	12/1/22	Wrap-Up
	M	12/5/22	Final Paper Due
15		TBA	Final Exam Due