

**Russian Writers of the 19th
Century: Literary Giants 1****Fall 2023 T/R. 1:05-2:25 ART 150****Prof. Lyudmila Parts, 688 SH #332**
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Office Hours: **Thursday 11:30-12:30**
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Lermontov, Pushkin, and Gogol in
the *Millennium of Russia* (1862), Novgorod.

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, Goncharov, and early Dostoevsky and Tolstoy, 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 and European literary tradition. 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.

Required Texts (available from the McGill bookstore):

Course Pack (includes: Bethea, Karamzin, Pushkin, Dostoevsky, Gogol)

Aleksandr Pushkin, *Eugene Onegin*Mikhail Lermontov, *A Hero of our Time*Nikolai Gogol, *Dead Souls*Ivan Goncharov, *Oblomov*Fedor Dostoevsky, *Poor Folk and Other Stories*Leo Tolstoy, *Childhood, Boyhood, Youth***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.

- Given the type of participation that is expected, and out of respect for your fellow students, **laptops**, iPads, and other mobile computing and communication devices **will not be permitted**. You must have paper versions of all texts with you. If you have special circumstances requiring you to use one of these devices, you must speak to me about it in my office hours.
- 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.
- I am available and always happy to see you in my scheduled office hours (no appointment needed), or by appointment if you have a conflict that does not allow you to come at those times. I can also be reached by email.
- 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.
 - Remember that an email informing me that you can't make it to class does not qualify as an excuse.

Class Participation:

- This course is based on the premise that 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.

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 assignments

(more details will be provided on MyCourses closer to each due date)

- **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. It should be fairly easy for those who have done all the readings and attended the lectures.

Final Grade Breakdown

- Attendance & participation (incl. on discussion board): 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%

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)

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.

Language:

In accord with McGill University’s Charter of Students’ Rights, students in this course have the right to submit in English or in French 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.”