



**Russian Writers of the 19th
Century: Literary Giants 2**
RUSS 224, Winter 2024

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L-R: Goncharov, Turgenev, Tolstoy,
Grigorovich, Druzhinin, Ostrovsky

Course Objectives

This course offers an introduction to the Russian literary classics of the second half of the nineteenth century. Through reading the novels of the great “Russian realists” – Turgenev, Khvoshchinskaya, Dostoevsky, Tolstoy – as well as shorter works by Chekhov, we will explore the ways these authors used literature to address the major societal, philosophical, moral, and religious questions of their time. Students should emerge with a basic grounding in who the major authors of the era were, as well as what the major philosophical and social questions were.

The course is also designed to teach skills in literary analysis, with an emphasis on both discussion and persuasive, critical writing. Students will be asked to write argumentative papers, and the course aims to help them improve their persuasive writing skills at an academic level.

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. Turgenev. *Fathers and Children* (Norton Critical Edition, trans. Katz, 2nd edition)
2. Khvoshchinskaya, *The Boarding-School Girl* (Northwestern University Press, trans. Karen Rosneck)

3. Dostoevsky. *Crime and Punishment* (Vintage Classics, trans. Pevear & Volokhonsky)
4. Tolstoy. *Anna Karenina* (Penguin Classics, trans. Pevear & Volokhonsky)

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.** Starting in week 3, we will split the course into two groups, when you will have the opportunity to discuss the texts in smaller groups.
- 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, no questions asked. Please let me know in advance that you will be taking the extension so I can plan my grading accordingly. The automatic extension **cannot** be used on the final exam, the draft, or on quizzes.
- 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.
- 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.
- **GPT Disclosure Agreement:** This class maintains a policy that you may use AI writing tools to assist you in the writing process but that all artificially generated text needs to be explicitly labeled. In handing in your assignment, you agree to disclose the extent to which you used #chatGPT or other AI writing tools in your assignment. All text written by AI must be quoted with the source of the model in parentheses (chatGPT). At the end of your paper please include the following statement. Failure to adequately disclose your AI use will result in a 0 for the assignment. "This paper used (did not use) AI for the following components of the writing process:" Choose none to three of the following: brainstorming, editing, sentence generation.

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

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%

discuss it. You may always use the online discussion boards as a form of discussion. Any *robust* reply to another student will be taken into extra account.

- 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.
- **Writing Assignment 1: Critical response:** We will be looking at several critical interpretations/readings of Turgenev’s *Fathers and Sons*. For this assignment you will choose one to *disagree* with and, using evidence from the text, you will have 1-2 pages double spaced in which to make a counterargument. This assignment will be in 2 parts, a draft and a final copy. We will workshop the drafts in class, for a pass/fail mark, and the second part will be graded.
- **Midterm:** The Midterm will be an online, takehome test that includes multiple choice, identification questions, short answer questions, and passage identifications. A study guide will be distributed before the exam. It should take no more than 45 minutes.
- **Writing Assignment 3: Passage analysis:** For this assignment you will pick two passages from *Anna Karenina* to read “against each other.” How does one influence the way we read the other? What can a close reading of the two passages together tell us about the novel as a whole? (5-6 pages double spaced)
- **Final Exam:** The Final exam will include identification questions, short answer questions, and passage identifications. A study guide will be distributed before the exam. It should take no more than 60 minutes.

Final Grade Breakdown

- Attendance: 5%
- Participation: 10%
- Writing assignment 1 Draft (pass/fail): 10%
- Writing assignment 1 Final: 10%
- Midterm: 20%
- Writing assignment 2: 25%
- Final exam: 20%

McGill policy statements:

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/).

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 Student Accessibility and Achievement office, 514-398-6009.

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. Please note that a minimum number of responses must be received for results to be available to students.

“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). »

McGill University is on land which has long served as a site of meeting and exchange amongst Indigenous peoples, including the Haudenosaunee and Anishinabeg nations. We acknowledge and thank the diverse Indigenous people whose footsteps have marked this territory on which peoples of the world now gather.

L'Université McGill est sur un emplacement qui a longtemps servi de lieu de rencontre et d'échange entre les peuples autochtones, y compris les nations Haudenosaunee et Anishinabeg. Nous reconnaissons et remercions les divers peuples autochtones dont les pas ont marqué ce territoire sur lequel les peuples du monde entier se réunissent maintenant.

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	In Class:	Homework/Reading Due
1	Thursday	4-Jan	Introduction to the Course, Introduction to Russian History	CLASS WILL BE RECORDED AND PLACED ONLINE
2	Tuesday	9-Jan	An Introduction to 19th century Russian Literature and Society, Introduction to Turgenev	Belinsky's Letter to Gogol, Turgenev, Selections from the Huntsman's Sketches
	Thursday	11-Jan	Family Matters	Turgenev, <i>Fathers and Children</i> , 1-64
3	Tuesday	16-Jan	Bazarov and the Rise of the Intelligentsia	<i>Fathers and Sons</i> 64- 133
	Thursday	18-Jan	Generation Gaps	Finish <i>Fathers and Sons</i>
4	Tuesday	23-Jan	Critical Responses & Introduction to good academic writing	Howe, "Politics of <i>Hesitation</i> "; Costlow, "Odintseva's Bath"; Morson, "Two Kinds of Love"; Holquist, "Bazarov and Sečenov"
	Thursday	25-Jan	Introduction to Khvoshchinskaya	<i>The Boarding-School Girl Part 1 (to pp. 72)</i>
	Monday	29-Jan	Writing Assignment 1 Draft Due 11:59 PM	
5	Tuesday	30-Jan	Writing Workshop	Bring in print-out copy of your draft
	Thursday	1-Feb	Gender and the New Woman	<i>The Boarding-School Girl Part 2 (to end)</i>
6	Tuesday	6-Feb	Introduction to Dostoevsky-- Murder	Crime and Punishment Part 1

	Thursday	8-Feb	Svidrigailov	Crime and Punishment part 2 & 3
7	Tuesday	13-Feb	The New Court System	Crime and Punishment Part 4 Final Writing Assignment 1 Due 11:59 PM
	Thursday	15-Feb	Funerals	Crime and Punishment part 5
8	Tuesday	20-Feb	Police and Thieves	Crime and Punishment Part 6
	Thursday	22-Feb	Conversion?	Crime and Punishment Epilogue
9	Tuesday	28-Feb	Introduction to Tolstoy	Midterm 1 Due
	Thursday	2-Mar	Anna & Levin	Anna K Part 1
10	Tuesday	6-Mar	SPRING BREAK!!!!	
	Thursday	8-Mar	SPRING BREAK!!!!	
11	Tuesday	13-Mar	The Steeplechase	Anna K Part 2
	Thursday	15-Mar	Levin and the New Aristocracy	Anna K Part 3
12	Tuesday	20-Mar	Divorce and Society	Anna K Part 4
	Thursday	22-Mar	All Hope Lost?	Anna K Part 5
13	Tuesday	27-Mar	Jealousy	Anna K Part 6
	Thursday	29-Mar	Trains	Anna K Part 7
14	Tuesday	2-Apr	Conversion?	Anna K Part 8
	Thursday	4-Apr	Introduction to Chekhov, Of Yalta and Lapdogs.	Chekhov, "Lady with a Lap Dog"
15	Tuesday	9-Apr	Wrap-Up	Writing Assignment 3 Due 11:59 PM
15	TBA		Final Exam	