Summer 2020 F session, online
Instructors: Alexander Averbuch, Olga Khometa, Amber Aulen
MW 2 hrs, T, Th 1-2
Office hours: Each instructor will have one office hour before the test.

DRAFT SYLLABUS

SLA212H1F LEC9901: The Russian Novel

Course Outline
This course introduces students unfamiliar with the Russian literary tradition to the genre of the novel which rose to prominence in Russia and dominated its cultural and intellectual life in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Using as our case studies Nikolai Gogol’s Dead Souls, Fyodor Dostoevsky’s Crime and Punishment, and Leo Tolstoy’s Anna Karenina, we will explore the aesthetic and philosophic specificity of Russian novelistic practices in contrast to Western approaches to the novelistic genre. The class will examine the historical and artistic contexts shaping the unique development of the Russian novel into a literary form that has enjoyed lasting international resonance and contributed to the evolution of modern art and thought. The class is taught in English. All readings are in English. No prior knowledge of Russian language or culture is required.

Technology Required
This course is taught entirely online. Students will require a stable internet connection, a microphone and a webcam for participation in live on-line tutorials. Lectures will be recorded by instructors and posted on Quercus on Mondays and Wednesdays. BB Collaborate, accessed through Quercus, will be used for live tutorials.

Texts Required
Please note: The following editions are used by the instructors. Students may use any translation of their choice which they already own or can find online.

- Other optional secondary readings will be posted on the class Quercus site.

Instructors
The course will be taught by three instructors, each of which will be responsible for a different novel. Alexander Averbuch will teach Gogol’s Dead Souls, Olga Khometa will teach Dostoevsky’s Crime and Punishment, and Amber Aulen will teach Tolstoy’s Anna Karenina. For questions in the first two weeks, contact Alexander Averbuch, for questions in weeks three and four, contact Olga Khometa, and for questions in the last two weeks, contact Amber Aulen.

Course format and assessment
The course will consist of two weekly two-hour recorded lectures, posted Mondays and Wednesdays, and two weekly live tutorials on BB Collaborate via Quercus Tuesdays and Thursdays. Following the recorded lectures and attending the live sessions is mandatory. Scheduling conflicts are not a valid excuse for missing live sessions. There will also be online discussion questions to respond to following each recorded lecture to check that students have done the reading and to open up questions to discuss in tutorials. Students who fail to listen to lectures or miss live sessions place themselves at a disadvantage, since the take-home tests draw on class lectures and discussion.

Aside from listening to the lectures, answering discussion questions test and attending live online tutorials, students in this course will take three timed take-home tests. The timed take-home tests (120 minutes) are posted and submitted on Quercus. Each test contains three kinds of questions – textual IDs, multiple choice, and a short essay. The first two kinds of questions verify your knowledge of the texts, while the third gives you a chance to conceptually synthesize the knowledge you have acquired from lectures and tutorials, integrating it into your understanding of modern literary and cultural history.

**Take-home test rules**

No late submissions are accepted, unless resulting from officially documented health or family emergencies. Any other accommodations will be arranged solely through Accessibility Services. Note: standard accommodations do not include extra time, so make sure that if you have the right to extra time on tests, that your accessibility advisor gets in touch with the course instructors. You may consult any texts or notes, but you may NOT consult with any other person when writing the test. Any collaborative test writing will be treated as academic misconduct and referred to the Office of Academic Integrity. You may not exceed the set time limit. A point will be taken off for every minute over the limit with five minutes of grace time. Each test is configured for “multiple attempts.” This means you can log off and on at any time (for bathroom breaks). However, the total time from your initial log-on to the moment that you submit your work must not exceed the specified time limit – logging off will not stop the counter.

**Course participation**

Course participation will consist of attendance and participation in online tutorials (15%) and responses to discussion questions. After each online lecture, discussion questions will be posted on Quercus, and students must answer three questions and respond to three other answers posted by other students. This must be done twice each week by the end of day on Friday.

**Grade Breakdown**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Component</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Discussion questions, tutorial attendance and participation</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Take-home test 1 (Gogol)</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Take-home test 2 (Dostoevsky)</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Take-home test 3 (Tolstoy)</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Class Policies**
Accessibility Needs
The University of Toronto is committed to accessibility. If you require accommodations for a
disability, or have any accessibility concerns about the course or course materials, please contact
Accessibility Services as soon as possible: disability.services@utoronto.ca or
http://studentlife.utoronto.ca/accessibility.

Policy on Religious Holidays
Students with religious commitments that interfere with class attendance or the timely
submission of assignments should let me know at the beginning of the semester and I will
make every effort to accommodate them.

Quercus
This course will use Quercus for everything. In addition, the live All students must have
an active U of T email address. All course information will be posted on Quercus. It is
your responsibility to log into Quercus and obtain the information posted. To log in, please
visit: https://q.utoronto.ca

Office hours
TBA

Grading Policy
If you wish to dispute an individual assessment mark, you should return a copy of your
paper to me along with a detailed argument explaining why you think you deserved a higher
grade attached to the paper. It will then be at my discretion to decide whether to take the
matter further. The final course grades are final, so if you are concerned about your
performance, please make sure you come and talk to me in my office hours well before the
end of the semester.

Percentage Grade GPA Grade Definition
90-100 A+ 4.0 Outstanding
85-89 A 4.0 Exceptional
80-84 A- 3.7
77-79 B+ 3.3 Good
73-76 B 3.0
70-72 B- 2.7
67-69 C+ 2.3 Adequate
63-66 C 2.0
60-62 C- 1.7
57-59 D+ 1.3 Marginal
53-56 D 1.0
50-52 D- 0.7
0-49 F 0.0 Inadequate

Performance Description
A+ Outstanding performance, exceeding even the A described below.

A Exceptional performance: strong evidence of original thinking; good organization, capacity to analyze and synthesize; superior grasp of subject matter with sound critical evaluations; evidence of extensive knowledge base.

B Good performance: evidence of grasp of subject matter; some evidence of critical capacity and analytic ability; reasonable understanding of relevant issues; evidence of familiarity with the literature.

C Intellectually adequate performance: student who is profiting from her or his university experience; understanding of the subject matter and ability to develop solutions to simple problems in the material.

D Minimally acceptable performance: some evidence of familiarity with subject matter and some evidence that critical and analytic skills have been developed.

F Inadequate performance: little evidence of even superficial understanding of the subject matter; weakness in critical and analytic skills; with limited or irrelevant use of literature.

Schedule


May 5: No tutorial. Office hour with course questions instead.

May 6: Recorded lecture: Nikolai Gogol, *Dead Souls*, Part I, Chapters 1-6

May 7: First tutorial: *Dead Souls*, Part I, Chapters 1-6

May 11: Recorded lecture: Nikolai Gogol, *Dead Souls*, Part I, Chapters 7-11

May 12: Tutorial: Nikolai Gogol, *Dead Souls*, Part I, Chapters 7-11

May 13: Concluding lecture: Nikolai Gogol, *Dead Souls*

May 14: Concluding tutorial: Nikolai Gogol, *Dead Souls*

Start reading Fyodor Dostoevsky’s *Crime and Punishment*

May 18: Victoria Day, no class.

May 19: No tutorial. Office hour with course questions instead.
May 20: **Recorded lecture:** Fyodor Dostoevsky, *Crime and Punishment*, Parts I and II

May 21: **Tutorial:** Fyodor Dostoevsky, *Crime and Punishment*, Parts I and II

May 21-24: **Take-home test on Dead Souls**
Take-Home Test 1 is available on Quercus on Thursday, May 21 at 9am. The link to the test will disappear on Monday, May 24 at 11:59 pm and the test must be completed by then.

May 25: **Recorded lecture:** Fyodor Dostoevsky, *Crime and Punishment*, Parts III and IV

May 26: **Tutorial:** Fyodor Dostoevsky, *Crime and Punishment*, Parts III and IV

May 27: **Recorded lecture:** Fyodor Dostoevsky, *Crime and Punishment*, Parts V, VI and conclusion

May 28: **Tutorial:** Fyodor Dostoevsky, *Crime and Punishment*, Parts V, VI and conclusion

Start reading Leo Tolstoy’s *Anna Karenina*

**Jun 1:** **Recorded lecture:** Leo Tolstoy, *Anna Karenina*, Parts I and II

**June 2:** **Tutorial:** Leo Tolstoy, *Anna Karenina*, Parts I and II

**June 3:** **Recorded lecture:** Leo Tolstoy, *Anna Karenina*, Parts III and IV

**June 4:** **Tutorial:** Leo Tolstoy, *Anna Karenina*, Parts III and IV

**Take-home test on Crime and Punishment**
Take-Home Test 2 is available on Quercus on Thursday, June 4 at 9am. The link to the test will disappear on Monday, June 8 at 11:59 pm.

**June 8:** **Recorded lecture:** Leo Tolstoy, *Anna Karenina*, Parts V and VI

**June 9:** **Tutorial:** Leo Tolstoy, *Anna Karenina*, Parts V and VI

**June 10:** **Recorded lecture:** Leo Tolstoy, *Anna Karenina*, Parts VII and VIII

**June 11:** **Tutorial:** Leo Tolstoy, *Anna Karenina*, Parts VII and VIII

**June 15:** Concluding recorded lecture: The Russian Novel

**Take-home test on Anna Karenina**
Take-Home Test 3 is available on Quercus on, Tuesday June 15 at 9am. The link to the test will disappear on Sunday June 21 at 11:59 pm.
Recommended Critical Sources

- General
  Wellek, Rene, “The Concept of Realism in Literary Scholarship,” in *Concepts of Criticism*, 222-256.

- Nikolai Gogol
  Nabokov, Vladimir “Lecture on *Dead Souls;*” in *Lectures on Russian Literature*, 15-54.

- Fëdor Dostoevskii

- Lev Tolstoi

- **The Russian Novel’s Impact on English Literature**
  - Roberta Rubenstein, *Virginia Woolf and the Russian Point of View* (NY, 2009).
Important dates in the history of the Russian novel (texts read in class are in bold)

1825-1832 Alexander Pushkin (1799-1837) writes a novel in verse *Eugene Onegin* (1833)
1838-1840 Mikhail Lermontov (1814-1841) writes a series of stories that will form his novel *A Hero of our Time* (1840)

**1842** Nikolai Gogol’ (1809-1852) publishes the first volume of *Dead Souls*

1847 Ivan Goncharov (1812-1891) publishes *A Common Story*
1856 Ivan Turgenev (1818-1883), *Rudin*
1859 Ivan Goncharov, *Oblomov*
1862 Ivan Turgenev, *Fathers and Sons*
1866 Fëdor Dostoevskii (1821-1881), *Crime and Punishment*

**1868** Fëdor Dostoevskii, *The Idiot*

1865-1869 Lev Tolstoi (1828-1910), *War and Peace*
1871-1872 Fëdor Dostoevskii, *Demons*
1873 Nikolai Leskov (1831-1895), *The Enchanted Wanderer, The Sealed Angel*
1875 Fëdor Dostoevskii, *The Adolescent*

**1875-1877** Lev Tolstoi, *Anna Karenina*

1875-1880 Mikhail Saltykov-Shchedrin (1826-1889), *The Golovlëv Family*
1879-1880 Fëdor Dostoevskii, *The Brothers Karamazov*
1907 Fëdor Sologub (1863-1927), *The Petty Demon*
1913-1914 Andrei Belyi, *Petersburg*
1920-1921 Evgenii Zamianin (1884-1937), *We* (full Russian version remains unpublished until 1988)

1926 Isaak Babel’ (1894-1941), *The Red Cavalry*
1927 Iurii Olesha (1899-1960), *Envy*
1928 Andrei Platonov (1899-1951), *Chevengur*. Konstantin Vaginov (1899-1934), *The Goat Song*


1933-1938 Vladimir Nabokov, *The Gift* (his last Russian novel)
1940 Mikhail Bulgakov finishes *The Master and Margarita* (remains unpublished until 1966-67)
1957  Boris Pasternak (1890-1960), Doctor Zhivago
1964-1971  Andrei Bitov (b.1937), The Pushkin House
1970  Venedikt Erofeev (1938-1990), Moscow Stations. Iuz Aleshkovskii (b.1929), Nikolai Nikolaevich
1978  Varlam Shalamov (1907-1982), Kolyma Tales
1980  Leonid Tsypkin (1926-1982), Summer in Baden Baden

Avoiding Plagiarism

Please familiarize yourself with rules and expectations of academic integrity as described in University of Toronto’s Code of Behaviour on Academic Matters (http://www.governingcouncil.utoronto.ca/policies/behaveac.htm).

Potential offences include, but are not limited to:

In papers and assignments:
- Using someone else’s ideas or words without appropriate acknowledgement.
- Copying material word-for-word from a source (including lecture and study group notes) and not placing the words within quotation marks.
- Submitting your own work in more than one course without the permission of the instructor.
- Making up sources or facts.
- Including references to sources that you did not use.
- Obtaining or providing unauthorized assistance on any assignment including:
  - working in groups on assignments that are supposed to be individual work,
  - having someone rewrite or add material to your work while “editing”.
- Lending your work to a classmate who submits it as his/her own without your permission.

On tests and exams:
- Using or possessing any unauthorized aid, including a cell phone.
- Looking at someone else’s answers
- Letting someone else look at your answers.
- Misrepresenting your identity.
- Submitting an altered test for re-grading.

Misrepresentation:
- Falsifying or altering any documentation required by the University, including doctor’s notes.
- Falsifying institutional documents or grades.