

UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH
Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures
RUSS 1203. Tolstoi: The Major Novels

Tuesdays 2.30-5.30
CL 340

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COURSE DESCRIPTION

The course will examine selections from Tolstoi's major writing over nearly sixty years. Secondary material will include work by Isaiah Berlin, Boris Eikhenbaum, Vladimir Nabokov, and more distant texts such as Edward Said's *Culture and Imperialism*. Knowledge of Russian is not required.

ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES

By the end of term, students will have acquired the following knowledge and skills:

- An acquaintance with several of the major novels, as well as with other writings by Tolstoi
- An introduction to major critical studies on Tolstoi's work
- A familiarity with the textual history of key editions (including original serialization) and translations
- An ability to situate Tolstoi's work in its historical context
- A competence to read and situate new secondary literature within a knowledge base of Tolstoi criticism

REQUIRED ORAL AND WRITTEN WORK

In addition to class discussion and the reading assignments below, the student workload will include:

- One fifteen-minute presentation on a key work of secondary literature, chosen from the items listed on each class date. The presentation will include a one-page handout, identifying the work's central questions and summarizing the argument. The student will speak with the instructor and submit the handout *one week in advance* of the presentation.
- One short research paper, with conventional (MLA or Chicago) citational apparatus, on either *War and Peace* or *Anna Karenina*. The paper will include a clearly formulated research questions in the opening paragraph and will demonstrate rigorous knowledge of three bodies of writing: the novel itself; at least two major monographs from the list below; at least two other scholarly articles that contribute to the research question.

ATTENDANCE

Students are expected to attend all classes. More than two unexcused absences will affect the final grade. **More than three** will result in failure, regardless of the student's prior standing. Excused absences, such as illness or death in the immediate family, must be documented. Absent students are responsible for acquiring relevant class notes and handouts from fellow students. Work assigned in a student's absence will not be given a later deadline without prior agreement with the instructor.

EVALUATION

Participants will be graded on the basis of the following items:

Class contribution	30%	Paper	30%
Presentations	30%	Quizzes, independent initiative	10%

DISABILITY POLICY

If a student has a disability that requires special teaching, testing accommodations, or other classroom modifications, he or she must notify the instructor and the Office of Disabled Student Services (DDS) no later than the Add/Drop date (Friday, 16 January). The student may be asked to provide documentation of the disability to determine the appropriateness of accommodations. To notify DDS, call 648-7890 (Voice or TDD) to schedule an appointment. The office is located in 216 William Pitt Union.

REQUIRED TEXTS (all students): for sale and on two-hour and overnight reserve in Hillman Library

Said, Edward. *Culture and Imperialism*. New York: Vintage, 1994 [PN761 S28 1993](#)
 Tolstoi, Leo. *Anna Karenina*. Trans. Richard Pevear, Larissa Volokhonsky. New York: Publisher: Penguin Classics, 2004
[PG3366 .A6 2001](#)
 ---. *Great Short Works of Leo Tolstoy*. New York: Harper Perennial Modern Classics, 2004 [PG3366.A13 M44 1993](#)
 ---. *War and Peace*. Trans. Richard Pevear, Larissa Volokhonsky. New York: Knopf, 2007 [PG3366 .V6 2007](#)

INDIVIDUAL ASSIGNMENTS (items marked * on two-hour and overnight reserve in Hillman Library)

*Berlin, Isaiah. *The Hedgehog and the Fox: An Essay on Tolstoy's View of History*. New York: Dee, 1993. [PG3415.H5 B5 1970](#)
 Bloom, Harold, ed. *Leo Tolstoy's Anna Karenina: Modern Critical Interpretations*. New York: Chelsea House, 1987.
 Bloom, Harold, ed. *Leo Tolstoy's War and Peace: Modern Critical Interpretations*. New York: Chelsea House, 1988.

- . *Leo Tolstoy: Modern Critical Views*. New York: Chelsea House, 1986.
- Christian, R.F. *Tolstoy: A Critical Introduction*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1969.
- Christian, R.F. *Tolstoy's War and Peace: A Study*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1962.
- *Eikhenbaum, Boris. *Tolstoy in the Seventies*. Trans. Albert Kaspin. Ann Arbor: Ardis Press, 1982. [PG3410.E4913.1982](#)
- *Eikhenbaum, Boris. *Tolstoy in the Sixties*. Trans. Duffield White. Ann Arbor: Ardis Press, 1982. [PG3410.E53.1982](#)
- *Eikhenbaum, Boris. *The Young Tolstoy*. Trans. Gary Kern. Ann Arbor: Ardis Press, 1972. [PG3410.E513](#)
- *Gustafson, Richard F. *Leo Tolstoy: Resident and Stranger*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1986. [PG3415.R4.G87.1986](#)
- Knapp, Liza and Amy Mandelker, eds. *Approaches to Teaching Tolstoy's Anna Karenina*. New York: MLA, 2003.
- Knowles, A.V., ed. *Tolstoy: The Critical Heritage*. London: Routledge & Kegan Paul, 1978.
- Lehrman, Edgar H. *A Guide to the Russian Texts of Tolstoy's War and Peace*. Ann Arbor: Ardis Press, 1980. [PG3365.V65.L37](#)
- *Morson, Gary Saul. *Hidden in Plain View: Narrative and Creative Potentials in War and Peace*. Stanford: Stanford University Press, 1987. [PG3365.V65M63.1987](#)
- *Nabokov, Vladimir. "Leo Tolstoy: Anna Karenin." *Lectures on Russian Literature*. New York: Harvest, 2002. [PG3012.N3.1981](#)
- Schultze, Sydney. *The Structure of Anna Karenina*. Ann Arbor: Ardis Press, 1982.
- *Shklovsky, Victor. *Lev Tolstoy*. Trans. Olga Shartse. Moscow: Progress Publishers, 1978. [PG3385.S4913](#)
- Simmons, Ernest J. *Leo Tolstoy: The Years of Development, 1828-1879*. New York: Vintage Books, 1946.
- Simmons, Ernest J. *Leo Tolstoy: The Years of Maturity, 1880-1910*. New York: Vintage Books, 1946.
- *Steiner, George. *Tolstoy or Dostoevsky: An Essay in Contrast*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1959. [PG3410.S822t](#)
Tolstoy Studies Journal.
- Wasiolok, Edward. *Tolstoy's Major Fiction*. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1978.

SCHEDULE (assignments due on the date indicated)

1. **Tuesday, 6 January**
Introductory remarks on Lev Tolstoy (1828-1910)
Syllabus; course rationale

2. **Tuesday, 13 January**
Tolstoy, *Family Happiness* (novella, 1859) 82 pp

NOTE: beginning on Tuesday 20 January, the monographs below (accompanying each assignment) are assigned to individual students, who will do fifteen-minute presentations on each volume as described above. The presentation must be accompanied by a one-page handout and should demonstrate knowledge of two additional questions a.) who is the scholar? b.) what are the major ways that the text ties in to other scholarly texts we have examined so far?

3. **Tuesday, 20 January**
Tolstoy, *Cossacks* (unfinished novel, 1862) 162 pp
Said, *Culture and Imperialism* 3-18; 31-61. 45 pp
Eikhenbaum, Boris. *The Young Tolstoy*. Trans. Gary Kern. Ann Arbor: Ardis Press, 1972.

4. **Tuesday, 27 January**
Said, *Culture and Imperialism* 62-161 (99 pp)
Steiner, George. *Tolstoy or Dostoevsky: An Essay in the Old Criticism*. New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1959.

5. **Tuesday, 3 February**
Tolstoy, *War and Peace* (1869). Volume 1 (Parts 1-3): 3-296. 293 pp
Eikhenbaum, Boris. *Tolstoy in the Sixties*. Trans. Duffield White. Ann Arbor: Ardis Press, 1982.

6. **Tuesday, 10 February**
Tolstoy, *War and Peace*. Volume 2 (Parts 1-5): 297-602. 305 pp
Gustafson, Richard F. *Leo Tolstoy: Resident and Stranger*. Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1986.

7. **Tuesday, 17 February**
Tolstoi, *War and Peace*. Volume 3 (Parts 1-3): 603-934. 331 pp
Morson, Gary Saul. *Hidden in Plain View: Narrative and Creative Potentials in War and Peace*. Stanford: Stanford University Press, 1987.
8. **Tuesday, 24 February**
Tolstoi, *War and Peace*. Volume 4 (Parts 1-4), Epilogue: 935-1224. 289 pp
Berlin, Isaiah. *The Hedgehog and the Fox: An Essay on Tolstoy's View of History*. New York: Dee, 1993.
9. **Tuesday, 3 March**
Tolstoi, *Anna Karenina* (1877). Parts 1-2 (pp. 1-236) 235 pp
Nabokov, Vladimir. "Leo Tolstoy: *Anna Karenin*." *Lectures on Russian Literature*. New York: Harvest, 2002.
10. **Tuesday, 10 March** SPRING BREAK
11. **Tuesday, 17 March**
Tolstoi, *Anna Karenina*. Parts 3-5 (pp. 237-550) 313 pp
Eikhnenbaum, Boris. *Tolstoi in the Seventies*. Trans. Albert Kaspin. Ann Arbor: Ardis Press, 1982.
12. **Tuesday, 24 March** Research session; consultations
13. **Tuesday, 31 March**
Tolstoi, *Anna Karenina*. Parts 6-8 (pp. 551-818) 267 pp
[Anna Karenina](#). 1935. USA: Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer (MGM). Dir. [Clarence Brown](#). Screenplay:
S.N. Behrman, Clemence Dane. Cast: Greta Garbo (Anna Karenina), Fredric March (Vronsky),
Maureen O'Sullivan (Kitty), Basil Rathbone (Karenin). [DVD-3379](#) and [DVD-6133](#). 95 min.
[Анна Каренина](#). 1968. СССР: "Мосфильм". Сцен. В. Катанян и А. Зархи. Реж. [А. Зархи](#). Т. Самойлова
(Анна), В. Лановой (Вронский), Н. Грищенко (Каренин), Ю. Яковлев (Стива), И. Саввина (Долли),
А. Вертинская (Кити). DVD-0950; V-4119. 103 min
<http://www.utoronto.ca/tolstoy/filmography/filmography.htm#War#War>
14. **Tuesday, 7 April**
Tolstoi, *Kreutzer Sonata* (novella, 1889) 98 pp
Shklovsky, Victor. *Lev Tolstoy*. Trans. Olga Shartse. Moscow: Progress Publishers, 1978.
15. **Tuesday, 14 April**
Tolstoi, *Hadji Murad* (novella, 1912) 122 pp
PAPERS DUE IN CLASS (no extensions or exceptions)