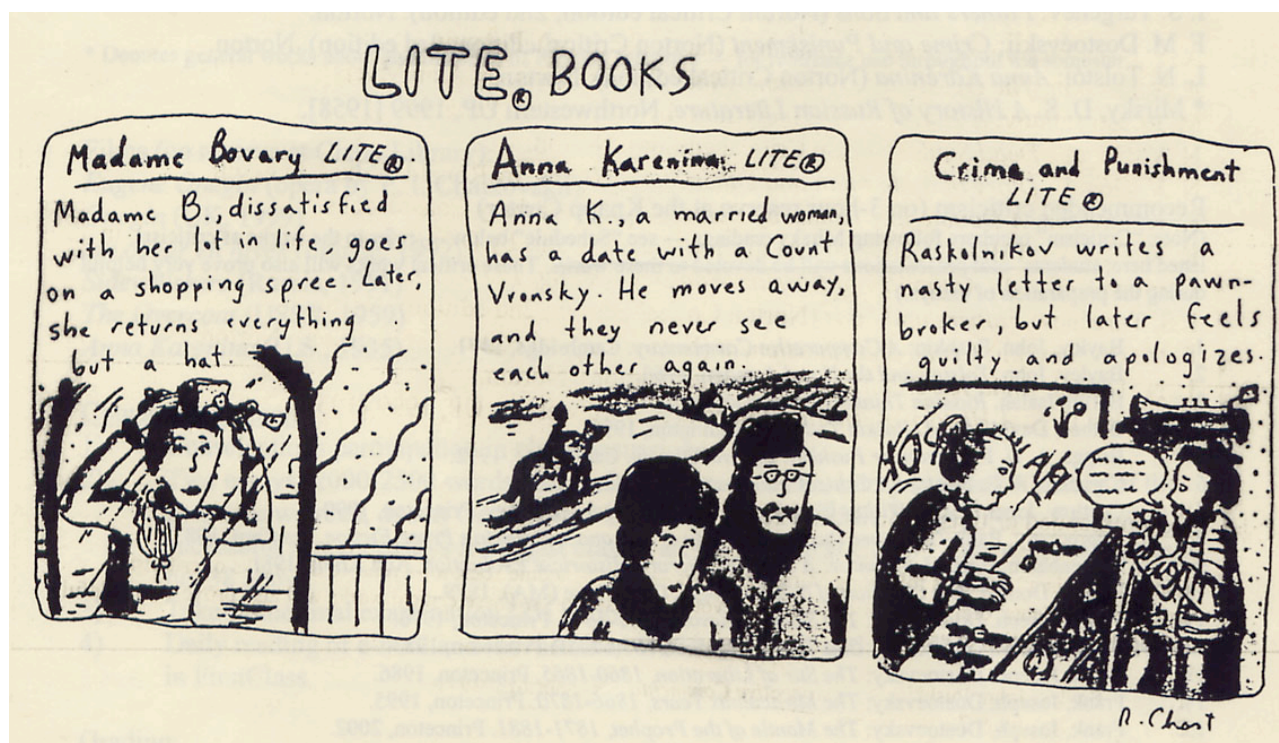


PASSION, PAIN,  
PERFECTION:  
THE NINETEENTH-CENTURY  
RUSSIAN CLASSICS  
IN ENGLISH TRANSLATION



**Russian 251**  
**Wellesley College**  
**Fall 2010**

TF 9:50-11:00 a.m., Founders Hall, Room 317

T. P. Hodge, Professor

Russian Department, Founders Hall 416

Office hours: T11:00-noon, Th10:00-noon, F11:00-1:00 & by appointment

E-mail: [thodge@wellesley.edu](mailto:thodge@wellesley.edu); office: 781-283-3563; home: 781-239-1584 (*before 8:00 p.m.!*)

В *Анне Карениной* и в *Онегине* не решен ни один вопрос, но они Вас вполне удовлетворяют, потому только, что все вопросы поставлены в них правильно. Суд обязан ставить правильно вопросы, а решают пусть присяжные, каждый на свой вкус.

In *Anna Karenina* and *Eugene Onegin* not a single problem is solved, but they satisfy completely because all the problems are posed correctly. The court is obliged to submit the case fairly, but let the members of the jury do the deciding, each according to his own taste.

— Anton Chekhov to Aleksei Suvorin, 27 October 1888



Required texts (available at College Bookstore; also on 3-hour reserve at the Knapp Center):

Aleksandr Pushkin: *Eugene Onegin* (trans. by Charles Johnston; revised edition). Penguin.

ISBN: 0140448039

Aleksandr Pushkin: *The Queen of Spades and Other Stories* (trans. by Alan Myers). Oxford

UP. ISBN: 0192832131

Mikhail Lermontov: *A Hero of Our Time* (trans. by I. P. Foote; revised edition). Penguin.

ISBN: 0140447954

Nikolai Gogol: *Dead Souls* (Norton Critical edition). Norton. ISBN: 0393952924

Karolina Pavlova: *A Double Life* (trans. by Barbara Heldt; revised edn.). Barbary Coast

Books. ISBN: 0936041099

Ivan Turgenev: *Fathers and Sons* (Norton Critical edition; trans. by Michael Katz). Norton.

ISBN: 0393967522

Fëdor Dostoevsky: *Crime and Punishment* (Norton Critical edition; 3<sup>rd</sup> edition). Norton.

ISBN: 0393956237

Lev Tolstoy: *Anna Karenina* (Norton Critical edition; 2<sup>nd</sup> edition). Norton. ISBN:

0393966429

\* Mirsky, D. S. *A History of Russian Literature*. Northwestern UP, 1999 [1958]. ISBN:

0810116790

Recommended optional criticism (on 3-hour reserve at the Knapp Center; these works may prove especially helpful as you prepare your essays.)

General:

Berlin, Isaiah. *Russian Thinkers*. Harmondsworth, 1978.

Frank, Joseph. *Through the Russian Prism*. Princeton, 1991.

Hoisington, Sona Stephan, ed. *A Plot of Her Own: The Female Protagonist in Russian Literature*. Evanston, 1995.

Heldt, Barbara. *A Terrible Perfection*. Bloomington, 1987.

Kelly, Catriona. *History of Russian Women's Writing, 1820-1992*. Oxford, 1994.

Mirsky, D. S. *A History of Russian Literature*. Evanston, 1999 [1958].

Moser, Charles A., ed. *Cambridge History of Russian Literature*. Cambridge, 1992.

Nabokov, Vladimir. *Lectures on Russian Literature*. New York, 1980.

Riha, Thomas, ed. *Readings in Russian Civilization* (rev. edn.), vol. 2. Chicago, 1969.

Terras, Victor. *A History of Russian Literature*. New Haven, 1991.

Todd III, William Mills. *Fiction and Society in the Age of Pushkin*. Cambridge, MA, 1986.

**SUCCESSFUL ESSAYS BY PAST STUDENTS** in various Russian literature courses with Prof. Hodge (various authors); filed for Russian 251 at Knapp Reserve under "Student Essays"

Pushkin:

Bayley, John. *Pushkin: A Comparative Commentary*. Cambridge, 1971.

Bethea, David M., ed. *Puškin Today*. Bloomington, 1993.  
Briggs, A. D. P. *Alexander Pushkin: Eugene Onegin*. Cambridge, 1992.  
Debreczeny, Paul. *The Other Pushkin: A Study of Alexander Pushkin's Prose Fiction*. Stanford, 1983.  
Hasty, Olga Peters. *Pushkin's Tatiana*. Madison, 1999.  
Hoisington, Sona Stephan, ed. & trans. *Russian Views of Pushkin's Eugene Onegin*. Bloomington, 1988.  
Leighton, Lauren. *The Esoteric Tradition in Russian Romantic Literature: Decembrism and Freemasonry*. University Park, PA, 1994.  
Nabokov, Vladimir. *Eugene Onegin* (rev. edn., 2 vols.). Princeton, 1975.  
Seth, Vikram. *The Golden Gate*. New York, 1986.  
Wigzell, Faith. *Reading Russian Fortunes: Print Culture, Gender, and Divination in Russia from 1765*. Cambridge, 1998.

#### Lermontov:

Eikhenbaum, Boris. *Lermontov: A Study in Literary-Historical Evaluation*. Ann Arbor, 1981.  
Powelstock, David. *Becoming Mikhail Lermontov: The Ironies of Romantic Individualism in Nicholas I's Russia*. Evanston, 2005.  
Allen, Elizabeth Cheresch. *A Fallen Idol Is Still a God: Lermontov and the Quandaries of Cultural Transition*. Stanford, 2006.

#### Gogol:

Fanger, Donald. *The Creation of Nikolai Gogol*. Cambridge (MA), 1979.  
Maguire, Robert A. *Exploring Gogol*. Stanford, 1994.  
Maguire, Robert A., ed. *Gogol from the Twentieth Century*. Princeton, 1974.  
Nabokov, Vladimir. *Nikolai Gogol*. Norfolk, 1944.

#### Pavlova:

Fusso, Susanne, ed.. *Essays on Karolina Pavlova*. Evanston, 2001.  
Greene, Diana. "Gender and Genre in Pavlova's A Double Life," *Slavic Review*, Fall 1995 (vol. 54, no. 3), pp. 563-77.

#### Turgenev:

Costlow, Jane. *Worlds Within Worlds: The Novels of Ivan Turgenev*. Princeton, 1990.  
Ripp, Victor. *Turgenev's Russia: From Notes of a Hunter to Fathers and Sons*. Ithaca, 1980.

#### Dostoevsky:

Frank, Joseph. *Dostoevsky: The Seeds of Revolt, 1821-1849*. Princeton, 1976.  
Frank, Joseph. *Dostoevsky: The Years of Ordeal, 1850-1859*. Princeton, 1983.  
Frank, Joseph. *Dostoevsky: The Stir of Liberation, 1860-1865*. Princeton, 1986.  
Frank, Joseph. *Dostoevsky: The Miraculous Years, 1866-1870*. Princeton, 1995.  
Frank, Joseph. *Dostoevsky: The Mantle of the Prophet, 1871-1881*. Princeton, 2002.

#### Tolstoy:

Bayley, John. *Tolstoy and the Novel*. London, 1966.  
Christian, R. F. *Tolstoy: A Critical Introduction*. London, 1969.  
Gustafson, Richard. *Leo Tolstoy: Resident and Stranger*. Princeton, 1986.

#### Films (on reserve at Clapp Library):

*Eugene Onegin* (opera by P. I. Chaikovskii); *Onegin* (UK, 1999); *Un coeur en hiver* (France, 1992); *Sidewhiskers* (Russia, 1991); *Anna Karenina* (U.S., 1935)

#### Course requirements:

1) Conscientious participation in class discussions; no use of laptop computers and no texting in class, please.

- 2) Two essays (2000-2500 words each) of analysis, criticism, interpretation or history of the literature we read, due in October and December (see Schedule below). Note: Particularly successful student essays from past classes are on reserve at Clapp Library; see “Recommended Criticism” list above. The second essay must be devoted to works we read *after* the deadline for the first essay, though studies that compare works from both the first and second halves of the semester are welcome.
- 3) Take-home final examination (two timed essays; 2½ hours)
- 4) Daily reading of e-mail and the “Russian Bulletin Board” and “RUSS251-01-F10” conferences in FirstClass; careful perusal of “Common Mistakes to Avoid in Formal Writing” handout

Grading:

Course grades will be determined according to the following criteria, weighted as indicated: 30% First essay; 35% Second essay; 30% Final examination; 5% Class participation

**SCHEDULE:**

**WEEK 1**

- 7 Sep. Introduction
- 10 Sep. A. S. Pushkin: *Eugene Onegin*, Chapters 1-2 (pp. 1-56) [Mirsky, pp. 83-92]

**WEEK 2**

- 14 Sep. Pushkin: *Eugene Onegin*, Chapters 3-4 (pp. 57-102)
- 17 Sep. Pushkin: *Eugene Onegin*, Chapters 5-6 (pp. 103-46)

**WEEK 3**

- 20 Sep. **8:00 p.m.: “Russia Now: The Current State of the Former Soviet Union” (Library Lecture Room, Clapp Library)**
- 21 Sep. Pushkin: *Eugene Onegin*, Chapters 7-8 (pp. 147-201)
- 24 Sep. Pushkin: “The Queen of Spades” (*The Queen of Spades and Other Stories*, pp. 71-100) [Mirsky, pp. 120-124]

**WEEK 4**

- 28 Sep. M. Iu. Lermontov: *A Hero of Our Time* (pp. 3-53) [Mirsky, pp. 136-44, 162-5]
- 29 Sep. Michael Drumheller, baritone, performs nineteenth-century Russian songs, including Musorgsky’s *Songs and Dances of Death*, Jewett Auditorium**
- 1 Oct. Lermontov: *A Hero of Our Time* (pp. 55-157)

## WEEK 5

- 5 Oct. N. V. Gogol: *Dead Souls* (pp. 1-90) [Mirsky, pp. 149-62]  
8 Oct. Gogol: *Dead Souls* (pp. 90-190)

## WEEK 6

- 12 Oct. ☺ **NO CLASS — MONDAY SCHEDULE** ☺
- 14 Oct. **Elif Batuman reads from her bestseller, *The Possessed: Adventures with Russian Books and the People Who Read Them*, 4:15 p.m., venue TBA**
- 15 Oct. Gogol: *Dead Souls* (pp. 190-270) [optional criticism: V. G. Belinsky, excerpt in Norton edn., pp. 453-7]  
**Optional first draft of first essay due today by class time**

## WEEK 7

- 19 Oct. Pavlova: *A Double Life* (Introduction, pp. 9-32, and text, pp. 33-132)
- 22 Oct. Turgenev: *Fathers and Sons* (pp. 3-58) [Mirsky, pp. 200-8]  
**FIRST ESSAY DUE in Russian Dept. by class time today**
- 23 Oct. **Russian Area Studies field trip to the Metropolitan Opera House, New York City, to see Musorgsky's *Boris Godunov*, based on Pushkin's play; watch for details...**

## WEEK 8

- 26 Oct. Turgenev: *Fathers and Sons* (pp. 58-115)
- 29 Oct. Turgenev: *Fathers and Sons* (pp. 115-57; 290-300)



"Hey, it's *Crime and Punishment*. You had to know the second half was going to suck."

### WEEK 9

2 Nov. Dostoevsky: *Crime and Punishment* (pp. 1-74) [Mirsky, 181-5, 275-91]

5 Nov. Dostoevsky: *Crime and Punishment* (pp. 75-236)

### WEEK 10

9 Nov. Dostoevsky: *Crime and Punishment* (pp. 237-369)

12 Nov. Dostoevsky: *Crime and Punishment* (pp. 370-465)

### WEEK 11

16 Nov. Dostoevskii: *Crime and Punishment* (conclusion)

19 Nov. Tolstoy, *Anna Karenina* (pp. 1-106) [Mirsky, pp. 256-75]; tomorrow is the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Tolstoy's death

### WEEK 12

23 Nov. Tolstoy, *Anna Karenina* (pp. 107-216)

25-28 Nov. ☺ **THANKSGIVING BREAK — NO CLASS** ☺

### WEEK 13

30 Nov. Tolstoy, *Anna Karenina* (pp. 216-321)

3 Dec. Tolstoy, *Anna Karenina* (pp. 321-499)  
**Optional first draft of second essay due today by class time**

### WEEK 14

7 Dec. Tolstoy, *Anna Karenina* (pp. 500-740)

10 Dec. Tolstoy, *Anna Karenina* (conclusion); students receive take-home final examination  
**SECOND ESSAY DUE in Russian Dept. by class time today**



20 Dec. **RUSSIAN 251 TAKE-HOME FINAL EXAMINATION DUE** in Hodge's box in the Russian Department (above the fridge, Founders 416) by 8:30 p.m.