Dr. Irina M. Erman  
Department of German & Russian Studies

**COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This class offers a survey of key 19th Century Russian literary movements and authors, including Alexander Pushkin, Nikolai Gogol, Fyodor Dostoevsky, Ivan Turgenev, and Anton Chekhov. We will consider their place in the history of European literature and their interaction with their literary forbears and less known contemporaries. While our class will remain rooted in the 19th century, the novels we will read - such as *Crime and Punishment* - have transcended their specific historical context to become timeless international classics. They achieved their status by their brilliant explorations of universal themes, such as the conflict between generations, and the role of the individual in society. In our class, we will analyze their nuanced interrogation of dichotomies, which shows how easily rationality shades into madness, history into fiction, and how uncomfortably indistinct the natural can be from the supernatural. And finally, we will follow our authors as they explore the countryside filled with *Dead Souls* and the fantastical city, where all of these themes come to a clash and “the devil himself lights the street lamps.”

This class is open to all students, and no previous knowledge of Russian culture is required. What is required, however, is an excitement for literature and an interest in learning about some of the greatest literary works of all time.
REQUIRED WORK

- Regular attendance and participation
- 3 Tests consisting of short answers and essay questions
- 5 pg Midterm Paper
- 7 pg Final Paper

EVALUATION

- 3 Tests 25%
- Midterm Essay 20%
- Final Paper 35%
- Participation 20%

GRADING SCALE

- 100-94(A) 93.9-90(A-)
- 89.9-88(B+) 87.9-84(B) 83.9-80(B-)
- 79.9-78(C+) 77.9-74 (C) 73.9-70(C-)
- 69.9-68(D+) 67.9-60.1(D)
- 60-0(F)

LEARNING GOALS

- We will examine major 19th century works and contextualize them in terms of literary movements and historical developments.
- As thinking about literature also involves writing about literature, this course will help to develop your analytical and writing skills. You will have the option to turn in a draft for the midterm and the final essay, and to work on developing your argument and organizing your essay.

General Education Student Learning Outcomes for Humanities:

1. Students analyze how ideas are represented, interpreted, or valued in various expressions of human culture.

2. Students examine relevant primary source materials as understood by the discipline and interpret the material in writing assignments.

3. Both of these outcomes will be assessed by a final paper.
REQUIRED TEXTS

PURCHASE THESE EDITIONS AT THE COLLEGE BOOKSTORE OR ONLINE


"Boyarinya Morozova"

"Portrait of an Unknown Woman"
COURSE POLICIES

Absences
More than 3 unexcused absences will result in a reduction of your participation grade by 10% per additional absence. If you miss 6 or more classes without an acceptable excuse from the Absence Memo Office, you will be dropped from the course. If you miss a class due to a legitimate, documented reason, you may bring documentation to the Absence Memo Office located at 67 George Street.

Electronics in the Classroom
Please make sure your cell phones are turned off or silenced during class. You may use computers and iPads to access the course readings during class, but I strongly encourage you to take notes on paper. If you are at any point caught using your laptop or other device to access anything other than the course materials (such as your email, Facebook, etc), you lose computer privileges for the duration of the semester.

Religious Accommodation
CofC supports the concept of reasonable accommodation for religious observance in regard to class attendance, but students are responsible for satisfying all academic requirements and prerequisites as defined by the instructor and by the College.

Equal Access
I am happy to work with all students to ensure that they have equal access to the educational experience of this class. CofC provides for reasonable accommodations for persons who have documented disabilities. Students should apply at the Center for Disability Services / SNAP, located on the first floor of the Lightsey Center, Suite 104. If you are approved for accommodations, please let me know as soon as possible. All such discussions will be held in confidence unless you stipulate otherwise.

HONOR CODE
I enforce without exception the College’s Honor System and Classroom Code of Conduct. By choosing to enroll in this course, you indicate that you understand the Honor Code and are going to abide by it. The academic honor code forbids lying, cheating, and plagiarism. Plagiarism is defined as presenting the work of others as your own and copying sources without citation. Plagiarism or cheating will result in an XF grade for the course.
Schedule

(Subject to change due to special circumstances)

WEEK 1

Thur 1.7
Introduction

WEEK 2

Tue 1.12
Nikolay Karamzin, “Poor Liza” (pdf posted on OAKS)

Thur 1.14
Alexander Pushkin, “The Stationmaster” (pdf posted on OAKS)

WEEK 3

Tue 1.19
Alexander Pushkin, “The Shot” (pdf posted on OAKS)

Thur 1.21
Mikhail Lermontov, A Hero of Our Time (Introduction and Part I, pp. 1-72)

WEEK 4

Tue 1.26
Mikhail Lermontov, A Hero of Our Time (Part II, pp. 75-169)

Thur 1.28
Finish discussing Mikhail Lermontov, A Hero of Our Time

Fri 1.29
Test 1 on Pushkin and Lermontov due by 5pm on OAKS

Note:
Test 1 is due at 5pm on Friday, January 29th
WEEK 5

Tue 2.2
Nikolay Gogol, “Viy” (in *Collected Tales of Nikolai Gogol*)

Thur 2.4
Nikolay Gogol, “A Terrible Vengeance” (in *Collected Tales*)

WEEK 6

Tue 2.9
Nikolay Gogol, *Dead Souls* (“Introduction” and Chapters 1-3, pp. 1-55)

Thur 2.11
Nikolay Gogol, *Dead Souls* (Chapters 4-6, pp. 56-127)

WEEK 7

Tue 2.16
Nikolay Gogol, *Dead Souls* (Chapters 7-9, pp. 128-194)

Thur 2.18
Nikolay Gogol, *Dead Souls* (Chapters 10-11, pp. 195-248)

WEEK 8

Tue 2.23
Finish discussing Nikolay Gogol, *Dead Souls*

Thur 2.25
Alexander Pushkin, “The Queen of Spades” (pdf on OAKS)

Fri 2.26
**Test 2 on Gogol due at 5pm on OAKS**

Note:
Test 2 is due at 5pm on Friday, February 26th
WEEK 9

Tue 3.1
Nikolay Gogol, “The Overcoat” (in *Collected Tales of N. Gogol*)

Thur 3.3
Nikolay Gogol, “The Nose” (in *Collected Tales of N. Gogol*)

Fri 3.4
**Midterm Essays due at 5pm via Dropbox on OAKS**

WEEK 10: NO CLASSES - SPRING BREAK

WEEK 11

Mon 3.14
**Midterm Grades available online**

Tue 3.15
“The Petersburg Organ-Grinders” and “Petersburg Corners” from *Petersburg: The Physiology of a City* (pdf on OAKS)

Thur 3.17
Fyodor Dostoevsky, *Poor Folk* (Introduction and pp. 15-73)

Fri 3.18
**Last day to withdraw with a grade of “W”**

WEEK 12

Tue 3.22
Fyodor Dostoevsky, *Poor Folk* (pp. 74-144)

Thur 3.24
Fyodor Dostoevsky, *Crime and Punishment*, Part I (pp. 1-86)

Note: Midterm Essays are due on Frida, March 3rd by 5pm via email
WEEK 13

Tue 3.29
Fyodor Dostoevsky, *Crime and Punishment*, Part II (pp. 87-194)

Thur 3.31
Fyodor Dostoevsky, *Crime and Punishment*, Part III (pp. 195-278)

WEEK 14

Tue 4.5
Fyodor Dostoevsky, *Crime and Punishment*, Part IV (pp. 279-358)

Thur 4.7
Fyodor Dostoevsky, *Crime and Punishment*, Part V (pp. 359-436)

WEEK 15

Tue 4.12
Fyodor Dostoevsky, *Crime and Punishment*, Part VI and Epilogue (pp. 437-552)

Thur 4.14
Anton Chekhov, selections

Fri 4.15
**Test 3 on Dostoevsky and Petersburg lit due at 5pm via OAKS**

WEEK 16

Tue 4.19
Final class. Evaluations

Note:
Test 3 is due at 5pm on Friday, April 15th

Final Essays are due Thursday April 28th by 5pm via email.