RUTR 335: 19th Century Russian Literature

MWF 1:00-1:50 Prof. Eliot Borenstein

Cabell Hall 119 103 Cabell Hall

924-6687/982-4934

Office Hours: MWF 2-3

T 10-11

Or by appointment

In this course,. we will read a broad selection of the major works of nineteenth-century Russian literature (excluding poetry). Issues of style, theme, narrative technique, and literary movements and genres will be central to our examination of these texts, but we will also take special care to read the works in their historical and cultural contexts. This involves more than just lectures on the background of the various writers and movements; we will repeatedly turn to the philosophical debates that lie at the heart of so many Russian novels and stories: the polemic between Slavophiles and Westernizers, the problem of the "superfluous man" (and his foil, the strong Russian woman), the decline of the aristocracy, the generation gap between "fathers and sons," and, of course, the "Russian soul." Though the treatment of these themes is certainly linked to the particular historical moment of nineteenth-century Russia, many of the issues themselves are universal.

Course requirements: No knowledge of the Russian language is expected, as all works will be read and discussed in English. Since the classes will be a mixture of lecture and discussion, it is essential that you keep up with the reading assignments and come to class prepared either to make observations or ask questions. Attendance is, of course, mandatory.

In order to facilitate discussion, the class will be divided into two groups once a week. I will moderate one group, while Jann Lacoss, a teaching assistant, will lead the other. She and I will switch groups throughout the semester; that is, if Ms. Lacoss facilitates your group one week, I will moderate the next time. The room number for the second group will be announced shortly.

In addition to class participation, you will be expected to write two short (5-7 page) papers during the course of the semester. Suggested topics will be distributed approximately two weeks before the papers are due. You should feel free to come up with your own paper topic, but you must clear this topic with me before you write the paper.

There will also be an hour-long midterm exam, and a three-hour takehome final exam. The final exam is due at 5:00 pm on the day the exam would be scheduled if it were not a take-home assignment. The final exam must (and all papers) must be typed.

Grading: Your final grad will be determined as follows:

Class participation: 20%

Exams: 40%

Papers: 40%

Texts: The following works are required:

Proffer, Carl R., ed. From Karamzin to Bunin: An Anthology of Russian

Short Stories

Pushkin, Aleksandr. Eugene Onegin

Lermontov, Mikhail. A Hero of Our Time

Pavlova, Karolina. A Double Life

Goncharov, Ivan. Oblomov

Turgenev, Ivan. Fathers and Sons

Dostoevsky, Fyodor. Crime and Punishment

Tolstoy, Leo. The Kreutzer Sonata

Chekhov, Anton. Chekhov for the Stage (The Three Sisters)

The following book is recommended:

Seth, Vikram. The Golden Gate

You will also have to purchase handouts containing the stories that are not included in the Proffer anthology.

Class Schedule

September 3 (F) Introduction

September 6 (M) Karamzin: "Poor Liza" [Proffer]

September 8 (W) Pushkin: "The Station Master" [Proffer]

September 10 (F) Pushkin: "The Queen of Spades" [Handout]

September 13 (M) Pushkin: Eugene Onegin Chapters 1-3

September 15 (W) \*Pushkin: Eugene Onegin Chapters 4-6

September 17 (F) Pushkin: Eugene Onegin (end)

September 20 (M) Lermontov: Hero of Our Time Part One

September 22 (W) \*Lermontov: Hero of Our Time Part Two

September 24 (F) Gogol: "The Overcoat" [Proffer]

September 27 (M) Gogol: "The Nose" [handout]

September 29 (W) \*Gogol: "Viy" [handout]

October 1 (F) Pavlova: A Double Life

October 4 (M) Turgenev: Fathers and Sons

FIRST PAPER DUE

October 6 (W) Turgenev: Fathers and Sons

October 8 (F) \*Turgenev: Fathers and Sons

October 11 (M) READING HOLIDAY

October 13 (W) HOUR EXAM

October 15 (F) Goncharov: Oblomov Part One, Chapters 1-7

October 18 (M) Goncharov: Oblomov Part One (end)

October 20 (W) Goncharov: Oblomov Part Two, Chapters 1-7

October 22 (F) \*Goncharov: Oblomov Part Two (end)

October 25 (M) Goncharov: Oblomov Part Three

October 27 (W) \*Goncharov: Oblomov Part Four, Chapters 1-5

October 29 (F) Goncharov: Oblomov (end)

November 1 (M) Leskov: "Lady Macbeth of the Mtsensk District" [Proffer]

November 3 (W) Dostoevsky: Crime and Punishment

November 5 (F) \*Dostoevsky: Crime and Punishment

November 8 (M) Dostoevsky: Crime and Punishment

November 10 (W) Dostoevsky: Crime and Punishment

November 12 (F) \*Dostoevsky: Crime and Punishment

November 15 (M) Dostoevsky: Crime and Punishment

November 17 (W) Tolstoy: "The Death of Ivan Ilich" [Proffer]

November 19 (F) Tolstoy: "The Kreutzer Sonata"

November 22 (M) Chekhov: Stories

SECOND PAPER DUE

November 24 (W) \*Chekhov: Stories

November 26 (F) THANKSGIVING

November 29 (M) \*Chekhov: Stories

December 1 (W) Chekhov: The Three Sisters Acts One and Two

December 3 (F) Chekhov: The Three Sisters Acts Three and Four

December 6 (M) \*Gorky: "Chelkash" [Proffer]

December 8 (W) Bunin: "The Man From San Francisco"

December 18 (Saturday), 9:00 am FINAL EXAM DUE