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Russian 255: 19th-Century Russian Literature Rebels, Rabble & Martyrs



This course considers the sudden explosion of Russia's literary culture in the nineteenth century through the celebrated works of Pushkin, Gogol, Lermontov, Tolstoy and Dostoevsky. We explore how, in the early part of the nineteenth century, Russian writers and cultural thinkers were preoccupied with expressing a truly "Russian Russia" fueled by a burgeoning liberalism that was hampered by the monarchy, the conservative Slavophiles, and the legacy of Russian history itself. What resulted from the struggle, however, was a literature, whose richness and complexity surprised Europe as much as Russia's defeat of Napoleon
In English.

Sept 1	THE RUSSIAN 19 TH CENTURY <i>Rebels, Rabble, & Martyrs</i>
Sept 6	PUSHKIN AND THE ROMANTIC TRADITION <i>The Tales of Belkin (1829-1830)</i> "The Stationmaster," 93-103 in <i>Alexander Pushkin: Complete Prose Fiction</i> "The Shot," 65-76 in <i>Alexander Pushkin: Complete Prose Fiction</i>
Sept 8	<u>QUERY #1 DUE VIA E-MAIL BY NOON</u> PUSHKIN <i>Taking a Gamble</i> "The Queen of Spades" (1833), 211-233 in <i>Alexander Pushkin: Complete Prose Fiction</i>
Sept 13	REBEL WITH A CAUSE "I am building a monument to myself..." Pushkin, <i>The Captain's Daughter</i> (1836) , 266-312 in <i>Alexander Pushkin: Complete Prose Fiction</i>
Sept 15	Pushkin, <i>The Captain's Daughter</i> , 312-357 in <i>Alexander Pushkin: Complete Prose Fiction</i>
Sept 20	THE SUPERFLUOUS MAN Lermontov's <i>A Hero of Our Time</i> (1840) "The Author's Introduction," 15-16 "Bela" 17-55 "Maksim Maksimych" 56-66
Sept 22	<u>QUERY #2 DUE VIA E-MAIL BY NOON</u> <i>A Hero of Our Time</i> "Introduction to Pechorin's Journal," 67-68 "Taman," 69-81

	"Princess Mary," 82-122
Sept 27	<i>A Hero of Our Time</i> "Princess Mary," 123-163 "The Fatalist," 164-174"
Sept 29	GOGOL'S "OVERCOAT" <i>The Roots of Russian Prose</i> Nikolai Gogol, "The Overcoat" (1842) (ERES)

Oct 4	HOW TO MAKE AN OVERCOAT <i>Russian Formalism</i> Nikolai Gogol, "The Overcoat" (ERES)
Oct 6	<u>CRITICAL ESSAY #1 DUE AT CLASSTIME</u> Topic: Should Akaky Akakievich be pitied or despised?
Oct 11	Columbus Day Break - No Class
Oct 13	Conference - No Class
Oct 18	THE FAMILY OF MAN Dostoevsky Crime and Punishment (1866), 1-149
Oct 20	CRIMES AGAINST HUMANITY Crime and Punishment, 149-236
Oct 25	ORPHANS AND PRODIGALS Crime and Punishment, 237-319
Oct 27	A MATTER OF LIFE & DEATH Crime and Punishment, 319-399
Nov 1	<u>CRITICAL ESSAY #2 DUE AT CLASSTIME</u> Topic: Student-designed topic.
Nov 3	RETURNING TO THE FOLD Crime and Punishment, 399-465
Nov 8	TOLSTOY AND FAMILY HAPPINESS Anna Karenina, 1-115
Nov 10	LAWS OF NATURE & SOCIETY Anna Karenina, 117-236
Nov 15	<u>QUERY #3 DUE VIA E-MAIL BY NOON</u> SOWING & REAPING Anna Karenina, 237-352
Nov 17	WHAT DREAMS ARE MADE OF Anna Karenina, 353-435
Nov 22	A NEW ORDER Anna Karenina, 437-549
Nov 29	THE EFFECTS OF FREEDOM Anna Karenina, 551-768
Dec 1	"LIFE IS SUNDERING US!" Anna Karenina, 769-817
Dec 6	In-Class Presentations