

LEV TOLSTOY

RUSSIA'S ECCLESIAST



Ivan Kramskoi: *Portrait of Lev Tolstoy* (1873)

Russian 277

Wellesley College

Spring 2013

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Office hours: TF11:00-1:00, & by appointment;
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RUSSIAN 277

Lev Tolstoy: Russia's Ecclesiast

Wellesley College, Spring 2013, TF 9:50-11:10

Required texts (available at College Bookstore; also on 3-hour reserve at Clapp Library):
Tolstoy, Leo. *Tolstoy's Short Fiction*. Edited and with revised translations by Michael R. Katz. Norton Critical Edition. New York: W. W. Norton & Co., 1991.
———. *War and Peace*. Edited and with a revised translation by George Gibian. Second edition. Norton Critical Edition. New York: W. W. Norton & Co., 1996.
———. *Anna Karenina*. Edited and with a revised translation by George Gibian. Second edition. Norton Critical Edition. New York: W. W. Norton & Co., 1995.

Course requirements:

- 1) Conscientious participation in class discussions and daily reading of e-mail and the Russian 277 Google Group
- 2) Careful reading of two-page handout entitled "Common Mistakes to Avoid in Formal Writing"
- 3) One essay on *War and Peace*, and one essay on *Anna Karenina* (2000-2500 words each; due 15 March and 7 May). These essays are to be written in a mode of your own choosing: analysis, criticism, interpretation, comparative explication, etc., of Tolstoy's two most important novels.
- 4) One film showing (*Anna Karenina*), dinner provided, on 23 April
- 5) Self-scheduled final examination (2½ hours)

Grading:

Course grades will be determined according to the following criteria, weighted as indicated:

35% First essay

40% Second essay

25% Final examination (identification and brief analysis of passages and characters)

(Note: depending on class size, participation in class discussions may become part of your course grade, which would necessitate a slight revision of these criteria. I'll let you know early in the semester!)



SCHEDULE:

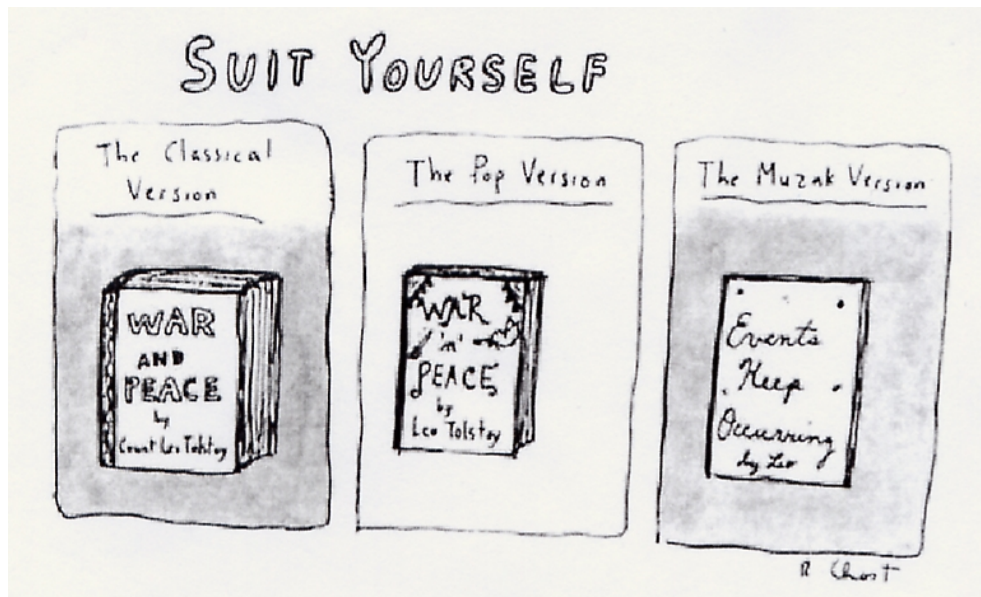
Note that readings in Tolstoy criticism are assigned most weeks. Aim to complete those critical readings by class time on Friday.

WEEK 1

Week 1 criticism: in *Tolstoy's Short Fiction*, read Morson, "Tolstoy's Absolute Language," pp. 337-46; Eikhenbaum, ["Sevastopol Stories"], pp. 370-8; Bakhtin, ["Tolstoy's *Three Deaths*"], pp. 394-8.

T 29 Jan. Introduction: Tolstoy's ecclesiastic vision

F 1 Feb. Read "Sevastopol in December," "Sevastopol in May," and "Three Deaths," in *Tolstoy's Short Fiction*, pp. 3-53.



WEEK 2

Week 2 Criticism: in *War and Peace*, read Berlin, ["Tolstoy's Attitude Toward History in *War and Peace*" and "Tolstoy's Worldview in *War and Peace*"], pp. 1129-36; Feuer, "The Book That Became *War and Peace*," pp. 1142-8.

T 5 Feb. Read *War and Peace*, Book 1, pp. 3-94.

F 8 Feb. Read *War and Peace*, Book 2, pp. 95-173.

WEEK 3

Week 3 Criticism: in *War and Peace*, read Mirsky, “About Tolstoy” and “On Tolstoy...,” pp. 1137-42; Gustafson, “States of Human Awareness,” pp. 1148-56.

T 12 Feb. Read *War and Peace*, Book 3, pp. 175-255.

F 15 Feb. Read *War and Peace*, Books 4 and 5, pp. 257-365.



WEEK 4

Week 4 criticism: in *War and Peace*, read Morson, [“Narrative and Creative Potentials...”], pp. 1156-66.

T 19 Feb. NO CLASS — MONDAY SCHEDULE

F 22 Feb. Read *War and Peace*, Books 6 and 7, pp. 367-474.

WEEK 5

Week 5 criticism: in *War and Peace*, read Shklovsky, [“Details in *War and Peace*”], pp. 1114-26; Eikhenbaum, pp. 1126-9.

T 26 Feb. Read *War and Peace*, Books 8 and 9, pp. 475-606.

F 1 Mar. Read *War and Peace*, Book 10, pp. 607-730.

WEEK 6

- T 5 Mar. Read *War and Peace*, Book 11, pp. 731-826.
- F 8 Mar. Read *War and Peace*, Books 12 and 13, pp. 827-910.

WEEK 7

- T 12 Mar. Read *War and Peace*, Books 14 and 15, pp. 911-96.
OPTIONAL FIRST DRAFT OF FIRST ESSAY DUE
- F 15 Mar. Read *War and Peace*, Epilogues 1 and 2, pp. 997-1074.
FIRST ESSAY DUE BY CLASS TIME
- 18-22 Mar. ☺ **SPRING BREAK — NO CLASSES** ☺
Read *Anna Karenina*!



WEEK 8

- T 26 Mar. Wrap up *War and Peace*; view and discuss screen adaptations.
- F 29 Mar. Read *Anna Karenina*, Part 1, pp. 1-106.



WEEK 9

Week 9 criticism: in *Anna Karenina*, read Eikhenbaum, pp. 778-88; Steiner, [“The Beginning of *Anna Karenina*], pp. 801-10.

T 2 Apr. Read *Anna Karenina*, Part 2, pp. 106-216.

F 5 Apr. Read *Anna Karenina*, Part 3, pp. 216-321.

WEEK 10

Week 10 criticism: in *Anna Karenina*, read Gibian, “Two Kinds of Human Understanding...,” pp. 813-22.

T 9 Apr. Read *Anna Karenina*, Part 4, pp. 321-96.

T 9 Apr. Russian folk music concert with the acclaimed Zolotoj plyos folk ensemble. Time and location TBA.

F 12 Apr. Read *Anna Karenina*, Part 5, pp. 397-499.



WEEK 11

Week 11 criticism: in *Anna Karenina*, Morson, “Anna Karenina’s Omens,” pp. 831-43.

T 16 Apr. Read *Anna Karenina*, Part 6, pp. 500-606.

F 19 Apr. Read *Anna Karenina*, Part 7, pp. 606-95.

WEEK 12

Week 12 criticism: in *Anna Karenina*, read Steiner, [“The Ending of *Anna Karenina*”], pp. 810-12; Orwin, pp. 845-56.

T 23 Apr. Read *Anna Karenina*, Part 8, pp. 695-740.

T 23 Apr. 5:30 p.m.: Dinner screening of Joe Wright’s 2012 film version of *Anna Karenina* (130 min.), starring Keira Knightley and Aaron Taylor-Johnson

F 26 Apr. Wrap up novel; discuss Wright’s *Anna Karenina* film adaptation
OPTIONAL FIRST DRAFT OF SECOND ESSAY DUE BY CLASS TIME

WEEK 13

Week 13 criticism: in *Tolstoy's Short Fiction*, read Bayley, ["*Ivan Ilyich*"], pp. 420-3; Dayananda, "*The Death of Ivan Ilych...*," pp. 423-34; Nabokov, ["*Ivan Ilych's Life*"], pp. 434-5.

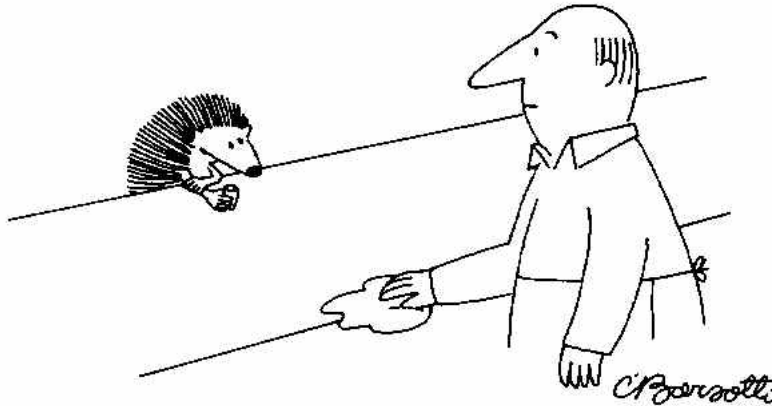
T 30 Apr. Read *A Confession*, pp. 666-731 (Photocopied handout)

F 3 May Read "The Death of Ivan Ilych," in *Tolstoy's Short Fiction*, pp. 123-67.

WEEK 14

T 7 May The Death of Lev Nikolaevich: Epilogue for the Ecclesiast
SECOND ESSAY DUE BY CLASS TIME

13-17 May Self-scheduled **RUSSIAN 277 FINAL EXAMINATION** (2½ hours).
Identify passages from the novels and stories, explaining the excerpts' significance within the work in question and within Tolstoy's *oeuvre*.



"They say, 'The fox knows many things, but the hedgehog knows one great thing.' Want to hear it?"