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
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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):

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

General:

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:

Lermontov:

Gogol:

Pavlova:

Turgenev:

Dostoevsky:

Tolstoy:

Films (on reserve at Clapp Library):
Eugene Ōnegin (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


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


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  ☀
         *Optional first draft of first essay due today by class time*

WEEK 7

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 100th 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.