

Department of Russian and Slavonic Studies

2015-16

Module Name	Tolstoy
Module Id (as timetabled)	RUS420
Course Year	JS TSM,SH SS TSM, SH
Optional/Mandatory	Optional
Semester(s)	MT
Contact hour per week	2 contact hours/week; total 22 hours
Private study (hours per week)	100 hours
Lecturer(s)	Justin Doherty
ECTs	10 ECTs

Aims

This module surveys major fictional works by Lev Tolstoy, ranging from his early period, to the great novels of Tolstoy's middle years (*War and Peace*, *Anna Karenina*), to works from Tolstoy's late or post-conversion period. As well as analysing major themes and stylistic features of Tolstoy's fictional works, the course will engage with aspects of Tolstoy's philosophical and religious reflections, and assess Tolstoy's role and significance in Russian intellectual and cultural life in his lifetime and beyond.

Set texts

Childhood

War and Peace

Anna Karenina

The Death of Ivan Ilyich

Khadzhi Murat

Secondary reading

1. Critical studies of Tolstoy's writing:

R. F. Christian, *Tolstoy: A Critical Introduction* (London: Cambridge UP, 1969)

E. B. Greenwood, *Tolstoy: The Comprehensive Vision* (London: Dent, 1975)

Ruth Crego Benson, *Women in Tolstoy: The Ideal and the Erotic* (Urbana, London: University of Illinois Press, 1973)

A. V. Knowles (ed.), *Tolstoy: The Critical Heritage* (London: Routledge and Kegan Paul, 1978)
 Malcolm Jones (ed.) *New Essays on Tolstoy* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1978)
 Anthony Tholby, *Leo Tolstoy: Anna Karenina* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1987)
 Gary Saul Morson, *Hidden in Plain View: Narrative and Creative Potentials in War and Peace* (Stanford: Stanford University Press, 1988)
 Kathryn B. Feuer, *Tolstoy and the Genesis of War and Peace* (Ithaca, London: Cornell University Press, 1996)
 Judith Armstrong, *The Unsaid Anna Karenina* (Basingstoke: Macmillan, 1988)
 Donna Tussing Orwin, *The Cambridge Companion to Tolstoy* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2002)
 Jeff Love, *The Overcoming of History in War and Peace* (Amsterdam: Rodopi, 2004)
 Gary Saul Morson, *Anna Karenina in Our Time: Seeing More Wisely* (New Haven, Conn.: Yale University Press, 2008)
 Donna Tussing Orwin (ed.), *Anniversary Essays on Tolstoy* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2010)
 Justin Weir, *Leo Tolstoy and the Alibi of Narrative* (New Haven, Conn.; London: Yale University Press, 2011)

2. Background/general reading

Rosamund Bartlett, *Tolstoy: A Russian Life* (London: Profile, 2010)
 Isaiah Berlin, *Russian Thinkers* (London and Toronto: Hogarth Press, 1978)
 James Billington *The Icon and the Axe* (Random House, 1970)
 Orlando Figes *Natasha's Dance* (Metropolitan Books, 2002)
 Geoffrey Hosking, *Russia. People and Empire* (Fontana, 1998)
 Geoffrey Hosking *Russia and the Russians* (Penguin, 2002)
 Catriona Kelly, *Russian Literature: A Very Short Introduction* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1981)
 Malcolm V Jones and Robin Feuer Miller (eds.) *The Cambridge Companion to the Russian Novel* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1998)
 Victor Terras (ed.) *A Handbook of Russian Literature* (London: Yale University Press, 1985)

Module structure

1. Introduction to Tolstoy's fiction
2. *Childhood* (1): contexts and antecedents
3. *Childhood* (2): Tolstoy and (auto)biography
4. *War and Peace* (1): background and textual history; techniques and goals
5. *War and Peace* (2): plot, character, their interaction and meanings
6. *War and Peace* (3): literature and history

7. STUDY WEEK

8. *Anna Karenina* (1): textual history and design
9. *Anna Karenina* (2): Tolstoy and sexual morality – misogyny or feminism?
10. *The Death of Ivan Ilyich*: death and resurrection?
11. *Khadzhi Murat* as a summation of Tolstoy's searching
12. Review week

Learning outcomes

On successful completion of this module the students should be able:

- * to approach the works studied with enhanced critical and analytical awareness;
- * to relate knowledge of this period and subject-matter to other aspects of Russian and European literature and culture.
- * to demonstrate an enhanced ability to read and engage critically with works of Russian literature;

On successful completion of this module the students should be able:

- * to develop and present a detailed and analytical argument, in both written and oral forms;
- * to examine and utilise textual evidence from literary texts in order to support their arguments;
- * to demonstrate an awareness and understanding of literary-critical terms and approaches specific to the study of prose fiction;
- * to use available library and electronic resources in order to investigate topics related to the texts in an independent fashion, and to reference such material thoroughly and accurately.

On successful completion of this module the students should be able:

- * to present competent and sustained argument, in both spoken and written forms
- * to organise personal and work commitments in order to meet specified deadlines;
- * to make productive contributions to group work;
- * to demonstrate a general competence in word-processing and use of the Internet.

Assessment

(a) One commentary of an extract and one presentation on a text of your choice of between 1,000-1,500 words each, the second being a written-up version of work presented in class, which should include a brief summary of class discussion. The presentation should be submitted by the end of the teaching week following the presentation; the deadline for submission of the commentary is 12.00, Friday of Week 12, Michaelmas Term 2015. Each submission is worth 20% of the global assessment. A schedule of seminar presentations and list of seminar presentation topics will be agreed during the first week of MT.

(b) One course essay (normally 2,500-3,000 words), on a topic agreed with the course lecturer (worth 60% of the global assessment; submission date: 12.00, Friday of Week 1, Hilary Term 2016) There is no examination for this module.

Weighting of assessment components: commentary 20%, presentation 20%, essay 60%.