

Russian Literature 860-1880

*Fall 2021*

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Extension: 223

### ***Course Description and Objectives***

This course explores the intricacies and struggles of the human spirit as expressed in the literature and depictions of the Russian people, from the formation of Kievan Rus' to the waning years of Tsarist Russia. The core of the class is a companionship of Dostoevsky's *Brothers Karamazov* and Tarkovsky's epic film *Andrei Rublev*, an imaginative depiction of the life of the exemplar of Russian iconography. Supplemental and highlighting materials in the form of images, short stories, and music will illuminate particular themes or events.

### ***Topics Covered***

- The Russian cultural mindset
- Narrative styles of Dostoevsky and Tarkovsky
- Kievan Rus' and Tsarist Russia
- The intertwinings and clashes of Russian religion and politics
- Russian art, music, and storytelling

### ***Textbooks***

- *Brothers Karamazov*, novel, by Fyodor Dostoevsky
- *Andrei Rublev*, film, by Andrei Tarkovsky
- Selections from *The Lay of Igor*, *The Primary Chronicle*, Gogol, Mussorgsky, Tolstoy, et. al.

### ***Course Requirements***

- Completion of all readings and assignments by the given due date.
- Active class participation.
- Evidence of care in preparation for written and performance assignments
- Above all, written assignments turned in early and often.

### *Assignments*

- Assignments vary from quarter to quarter, but will include miniquizzes, poetry recitations, character voices, and 4-page critical essays employing multiple sources.
- The final assignment for the second quarter will be a 10-page essay including a full bibliography of cited works. Please see FAQ handout for detailed descriptions of these kinds of assignments.

### *Successful Students*

- Successful students will be on time, with books and notes in hand, and be prepared to engage the material. They will display attentiveness to detail and foster habits of creative initiative and a collaborative spirit. Above all, they will turn in writing assignments early and often.

### *Exam*

- The exam for this class will cover all quarter material. Detailed explanation will be given in review classes before the exam.