

Tolstoy's *Anna Karenina* (Russ 2506)
Spring 2007

CRN: 19360
W 2:30-5:25: CL 1221

Helena Goscilo
Office hours: T 3-4; W 1-2

Course description:

This seminar entails a close reading of Lev Tolstoy's *Anna Karenina*, with two goals in mind: (1) to ensure students' intimate (and critically nuanced) familiarity with formal aspects of the novel; and (2) to address a series of issues arising from an attentive reading of it: e.g., evolution of genre, novel theory, narratology, intertextuality, etc.

Primary texts include a society tale ("svetskaia povest")—the genre on which *Anna Karenina* expands—Tolstoy's *Semeinoi schast'e* (1859), and *Anna Karenina*. A knowledge of *Evgenii Onegin*, the conclusion of which serves as the polemical starting point for Tolstoy's novel, is assumed.

Secondary texts encompass the whole gamut of scholarship on *Anna Karenina*: modified Formalism (Eikhenbaum, Schultze), Freudian and Lacanian analyses (Wasiolek, Armstrong), feminism (Evans, Mandelker), and a moral-philosophical (what skeptics and deconstructionists might call "ideological") approach that draws, above all, on extensions of Bakhtin (Morson).

Course requirements:

(1) reading and regular in-class discussion of the assigned texts; (2) regular class presentations; (3) one long paper of approx. 20 pages.

Required Reading:

If possible, we should all use the same edition of *Anna Karenina* (Kharkov/Moscow: FOLIO, 1998). The only other book you need to purchase is *Approaches to Teaching Tolstoy's Anna Karenina*, ed. Liza Knapp & Amy Mandelker ((New York: MLA: 2003)—referenced in the syllabus as *MLAAK*. To the extent that my schedule permits, I shall try to send you PDF versions of articles listed on the syllabus. For all other required readings you will need to check items out of Hillman Library.

SYLLABUS:

* = mandatory reading

TSJ = *Tolstoy Studies Journal* (Vol. VIII, 1995-96 is a special issue devoted wholly to *AK*)

Jan 3 Criticism. Sources for themes, structure, and genre of *AK*:

**MLAAK* 2-7; 47-50

Evgenii Onegin

- *David Sloane, "Pushkin's Legacy in *Anna Karenina*," *TSJ* IV: 1-24
- *Vladimir Odoevskii, "Kniazhna Mimi"
- *Helena Goscilo, "The First Pechorin en Route to *A Hero*: Lermontov's *Princess Ligovskaja*," *Russian Literature* XI (1982): 129-62
- *Lev Tolstoi, *Semeinoe schast'e* (1859)

Jan. 10 Background and sources (cont.):

- *Boris Eikhenbaum, *Tolstoi v semidesiatye gody*—on Tolstoi and the women's issue during the 1870s
- N. Strakhov on women's rights (following John Mill): A. Schopenhauer, "On Women," Alexandre Dumas fils, *L'Homme-femme* (1872)

Epigraph :

- *Dragan Kujundzič, « Pardoning Woman in *Anna Karenina*, » *TSJ* VI: 65-86

Opening section of novel and omniscient point of view:

- *Kate Holland, "The Opening of *Anna Karenina*," *MLAAK* 144-49
- *Ian Saylor, "*Anna Karenina* and *Don Giovanni*," *TSJ* VIII: 112-17
- **Anna Karenina* [5-118 in the 1998 edition]: Chast' pervaiia

Jan. 17 Point of view, moral hierarchies, and revision of cultural typologies:

- *David Herman, "Allowable Passions in *Anna Karenina*," *TSJ* VIII: 5-32
- *Liza Knapp, "The Estates of Pokrovskoe and Vozdvizhenskoe," *TSJ* VIII: 81-98
- *Helena Goscilo, "Tolstoy, Laclos, and the Libertine," *The Modern Language Review* VI 2 (April 1986): 398-414
- *Helena Goscilo-Kostin, "Tolstoyan Fare: Credo à la Carte," *SEER* 62 4 (October 1984) » 481-95

- **Anna Karenina* [119-238]: Chast' vtoraia

Jan. 24 Prosaics versus Predestination :

- *Gary Saul Morson, "Prosaics in *Anna Karenina*," *TSJ* I: 1-12
- *Caryl Emerson, "Prosaics in *Anna Karenina*: Pro and Contra," *TSJ* VIII: 150-76
- *Morson, "Poetic Justice, False Listening. . .," *TSJ* VIII: 177-97
- *Morson, "Anna Karenina's Omens," *Freedom and Responsibility in Russian Literature*, ed. E.C. Allen and G.S. Morson (Evanston: Northwestern UP, 1995): 134-52

**Anna Karenina* [239-353]: Chast' tret'ia

Jan. 31 Women's issues: sexuality, marriage, maternity, divorce, etc.

- *Amy Mandelker, "Feminist criticism and *Anna Karenina*," *TSJ* III, 82-103
_____. *Framing Anna Karenina* (Columbus: Ohio State UP, 1993)
- Ruth Crego Benson, *Women in Tolstoy: The Ideal and the Erotic* (Urbana: U of Illinois P, 1973)
- *Judith Amstrong, "*Anna Karenina* and the Novel of Adultery," *MLAAK* 117-23
- Mary Evans, *Reflecting on Anna Karenina* (London/New York: Routledge, 1989)
- *Helena Goscilo, "Motif-Mesh as Matrix..." *MLAAK* 83-89
- *Harriet Murav, "Law as Limit..." *MLAAK* 74-82
- *C.J.G. Turner, "Divorce and *Anna Karenina*," *Forum for Modern Language Studies* 23 2 (1987): 97-116

**Anna Karenina* [354-435]: Chast' chetvertaia

Feb. 7 Representation, art, aesthetics in *AK*:

- *Svetlana Evdokimova, "The Drawing and the Grease Spot..." *TSJ* VIII, 33-45
- *Amy Mandelker, "Illustrate and Condemn..." *TSJ* VIII, 46-60
- *Gina Kovarsky, "Mimesis and Moral Education in *Anna Karenina*," *TSJ* VIII: 61-80
- Donna Orwin, *Tolstoy's Art and Thought, 1847-1880* (Princeton: Princeton UP, 1993)
- [Holistic readings for continuity vs reading for "historical development," rupture, or "crisis" (Richard Gustafson, Donna Orwin, et al.)]

**Anna Karenina* [436-545]: Chast' piataia

Feb. 14 Psychology and dreams in *AK*:

- *Thomas Barran, "Anna's Dreams," *MLAAK* 161-65
- *James Rice, "Some Observations on Stiva's Dream," *TSJ* VIII: 117-24
- *Edward Wasiolek, *Tolstoy's Major Fiction* (Chicago: Chicago UP, 1978): 129-64
- *C.J.G. Turner, "Psychology, Rhetoric and Morality in *Anna Karenina*," *SEEJ* 39 2 (1995): 261-68

**Anna Karenina* [546-658]: Chast' shestaia

Feb. 21 Time, communication, and discourse in *AK*:

- *Vladimir E. Alexandrov, "Relative Time in *Anna Karenina*," *Russian Review* 41

2 (1982): 159-68

*Justin Weir, "Anna Incommunicada: Language and Consciousness in *Anna Karenina*," *TSJ* VIII: 99-111

**Anna Karenina* [659-753]: Chast' sed'maia

Feb. 28 Structure:

*Gary Jahn, "The Unity of *Anna Karenina*," *Russian Review* 41 2 (1982): 144-58

*Sydney Schultze, *The Structure of Anna Karenina* (Ann Arbor: Ardis, 1982)

**Anna Karenina* [754-98]: Chast' vos'maia

March 4-11 SPRING RECESS

March 14 Conclusion; return to the epigraph and its implications in retrospect

*Zinaida Vanganova, "Pushkin, Tolstoy, and the Potlatch...," *TSJ* VIII: 16-31

*Curt Whitcomb, "Resisting the Effortless in *Anna Karenina*," *TSJ* VII: 32-43

*Gary Jahn, "The Image of the Railroad in *Anna Karenina*," *SEEJ* 25 2 (1981): 1-10

*Vladimir Alexandrov, *Limits to Interpretation: The Meanings of Anna Karenina* (Madison: U of Wisconsin P, 2004)

March 21-April 19: *Anna Karenina* on Screen, Stage, and Other Pages

March 21 *Andrea Lanoux, *Anna Karenina* through Film, *MLAAK*: 180-86

*Irina Makoveeva, "Cinema Adaptations of *Anna Karenina*," *SISC* II:111-34

*Greta Garbo's *Annas*: Edmund Golding, *Love* (1927)—silent
Clarence Brown, *AK* (1945)

March 28 *Julien Duvivier, *AK* (1948)

*Aleksandr Zarkhi, *AK* (1967)

April 4 *Simon Langton, *AK* (1985)—made for television

*Bernard Rose, *AK* (1997)

April 11 *David Blair, *AK* (2000)—television miniseries in four parts

April 18 *Margarita Pilikhina, *AK* (1974)—ballet

**AK* as comics (Mir Novykh Russkikh)

*Irina Makoveeva, "Revisualizing *Anna Karenina*," *TSJ* XVI: 2004

April 25 Summary, general discussion, etc.