

WAR AND PEACE - HONORS

Instructor: Dr. Ingrid Kleespies

Office Hours: M 3-4pm, T 12:30-2:30pm

Email: iakl@ufl.edu

Office: 328 Pugh Hall



Vasilii Vereshchagin, "Return from the Petrov Palace," 1895

Course Description

From the battlefield to the ballroom, Tolstoy's epic novel of life in Russia at the beginning of the nineteenth century is a profound meditation on the causes of war, the nature of social relationships, the poles of human suffering and love, and, perhaps most importantly, the nature and meaning of history itself. In this course we will read *War and Peace* closely in its entirety. We will examine the origins of the novel in Tolstoy's early writing and consider the historical, political, and social contexts, both of the events described (the Napoleonic Wars) and the period fifty years later in which Tolstoy wrote *War and Peace*. We will address some of the following questions: Is *War and Peace* a novel? How does Tolstoy's obsession with the theme of history shape the text on a variety of levels? What do various adaptations of the novel tell us about its reception at different historical moments? Finally, how might *War and Peace* be relevant to our own moment in history?

Required Texts

1. Leo Tolstoy, *War and Peace*, Trans. Pevear & Volokhonsky, Knopf, 2007.
2. Leo Tolstoy, *The Cossacks and Other Stories*, Tran. McDuff, Penguin, 2007.
3. Leo Tolstoy, *Childhood, Boyhood, and Youth*, Tr. Edmonds, Penguin, 1964.
4. Additional readings are available on Canvas.

Course Requirements

Attendance and Participation (10%). Attendance is mandatory and is included in your participation grade. Participation in this class is a significant part of your grade. Please come to class having completed the assigned reading and prepared to take part in discussion. Failure to participate at least once per class meeting will be noted and will affect your grade. Unexcused absence cannot be made up. Acceptable excuses include illness, religious holidays, & military obligation. These need to be documented excuses. Should you miss a class for any reason, you are responsible for informing yourself as to the material covered. Except in the case of certified illness or other UF accepted excuse, there will be no make-up option for missed assignments. Where possible, make-ups should be arranged prior to absence. Alternatively, students should contact me on return to classes. Requirements for class attendance and make-up assignments and other work in this course are consistent with university policies that can be found at <https://catalog.ufl.edu/ugrad/current/regulations/info/attendance.aspx>.

Group Presentation (10%). You will be expected to participate in one 10-15-minute group presentation on a topic relevant to the course. Topics and sign-up sheet will be provided.

Response Papers and Cartoon/Video (30%). Five response papers of 1-2 pages in length are due at scheduled intervals during the course of the semester. Those related to *War and Peace* will require you to trace a particular theme over the course of the book. You will be expected to share response papers in class. You will also be asked to complete a brief cartoon version of *War and Peace* at the end of the semester OR to work with 1-2 classmates to film an enactment of a short scene from the book.

Research Paper of 10-12 pages (**50%**). You will be expected to write an extended essay on a theme of your choice related to *War and Peace*. You are required to obtain prior instructor approval for your topic. A one-paragraph topic proposal is due **March 9 by 11:45am**. Final paper due **April 22** via **Canvas** and **turnitin.com by 11:45am**.

*You are required to complete all writing assignments in **Google Docs** and to **add me as editor**. I will randomly inspect the version history of all written assignments as a check against usage of ChatGPT or other generative AI systems.

Grading Scale

A	A-	B+	B	B-	C+	C	C-	D+	D	D-	E
93-100	90-92	87-89	84-86	80-83	77-79	74-76	70-73	67-69	64-66	60-63	0-59

*A minimum grade of B is required to earn academic points towards Honors Completion Requirements. Once you have earned your final grade in this course, please upload the course information and final grade from your Unofficial Transcript into your Honors Canvas Cohort: Honors Requirements module to earn Honors Milestone / Completion credit.

Course Policies

Class Demeanor: Students are expected to arrive to class on time and behave in a manner that is respectful to the instructor and to fellow students. Please avoid the use of cell phones and restrict eating to outside of the classroom. Opinions held by other students should be respected in discussion, and conversations that do not contribute to the discussion should be held at minimum, if at all.

University Honesty Policy: **Plagiarism will not be tolerated. No use of ChatGPT or other generative AI system will be tolerated. All written work in this course must be your own.** UF students are bound by The Honor Pledge which states “We, the members of the University of Florida community, pledge to hold ourselves and our peers to the highest standards of honor and integrity by abiding by the Honor Code. On all work submitted for credit by students at the University of Florida, the following pledge is either required or implied: “On my honor, I have neither given nor received unauthorized aid in doing this assignment.” The Conduct Code specifies a number of behaviors that are in violation of this code and the possible sanctions. See the [UF Conduct CodeLinks to an external site.](#) website for more information. If you have any questions or concerns, please consult with the instructor in this class.

Plagiarism, whether from other people or through use of ChatGPT or other generative AI systems, will not be tolerated. All work in this course must be your own. Here is why: writing is hard - but it is also essential to learning, and especially to the development of critical and analytical thinking skills. It is precisely these skills, and the ability to articulate them clearly and persuasively, that you will need to succeed in any career you choose to pursue. Use of other people’s or other entities’ work means “short-circuiting” the development of these skills. Presumably that is not why you chose to attend UF.

Please be aware that most of the currently available AI tools are fairly recognizable in their output. This is because machine-generated content tends to produce vague generalities and repeat cliched ideas and unsophisticated (even incorrect) interpretation. This content is *much less interesting* than the ideas and discussion you generate – you are capable of more creativity and insight than the machine.

Staring at the blank page happens to us all – but it’s where our best ideas emerge. **Be a writer, not an editor! Be a creator, not a tweaker!** If you are struggling with an assignment, please come see me in office hours or send me an email.

You are free to use spell check, grammar check, and synonym identification tools (e.g. Grammarly and MS Word).

Email Etiquette: Please keep in mind that email is a formal means of communication. I ask that you address me as Dr. Kleespies, both in class and in writing. I also ask that you please limit email to working hours (M-F 9-5) except

in case of emergency. Please be sure to check the Canvas site for information about assignments and due dates.

Canvas

Assignments, handouts, grades, etc. will be posted on the course website on Canvas. It is your responsibility to check the website regularly and keep up to date with the class.

Missed assignments may be made up with provision of appropriate documentation and/or for partial credit, pending discussion with instructor.

Illness: If you are sick, stay home. Please call your primary care provider if you are ill and need immediate care or the UF Student Health Care Center at 352-392-1161 to be evaluated.

*This course complies with all UF academic policies, including student accommodations, grading policies, evaluations, honesty, and in-class recording. For information on those policies and for resources for students, please see [this link](#).

Honors Program contact information:

Honors Program
Honors Village Complex #4
Tel: 352-392-1519

Quick questions for an Honors advisor? Email advisor@honors.ufl.edu

Need an Honors advising appointment? Schedule via Microsoft Bookings: <https://bit.ly/UFHonorsAdvising>

Honors Program Event Calendar: <https://www.honors.ufl.edu/news--events/calendar-of-events/>

Course Schedule

WEEK 1 JANUARY 12-16

Introduction; what is War and Peace?; starting at the end: the death of Tolstoy; the life and times of a great (?) man; first attempts at chronicling the self.

Monday, January 12

Introduction to course, no assignment due.

Wednesday, January 14

Lev Nikolaevich Tolstoy: a biographical overview, no assignment due.

Friday, January 16

1. "A History of Yesterday" [available on Canvas].

WEEK 2 JANUARY 19-23

Crafting a pseudo-autobiography: Childhood and Boyhood, novels of becoming.

Monday, January 19

NO CLASS – MLK DAY

Wednesday, January 21

1. *Childhood*, pp.13-66 (chapters 1-18).
2. Response Paper #1 due **1/26**.

Friday, January 23 [Presentation #1: The Russian Estate]

1. *Childhood*, pp.66-103 (chapters 19-28);
2. *Boyhood*, pp. 107-120 (chapters 1-4);
3. Response Paper #1 due **1/26**.

WEEK 3 JANUARY 26-30

Crafting a pseudo-autobiography, continued: Boyhood and Youth.

Monday, January 26

1. *Boyhood*, pp.121-176 (chapters 5-27);
2. **Response Paper #1** due.

Wednesday, January 28 [Presentation #2: The Holy Fool in Russian Culture]

1. *Youth*, pp.179-239 (chapters 1-22)

Friday, January 30

1. *Youth*, pp.239-319 (chapters 23-45)

WEEK 4 FEBRUARY 2-6

First attempts at chronicling war: the Sevastopol Sketches; the Crimean War; Tolstoy in combat; war and technology; war and photography; war and narration.

Monday, February 2

1. "Sevastopol in December," pp.185-202.

Wednesday, February 4 [Pres. #3: The Social Legacy of the Crimean War]

1. "Sevastopol in May," pp.203-255.

Friday, February 6

1. "Sevastopol in August, 1855," (256-333).

WEEK 5 FEBRUARY 9-13

The origins of War and Peace and the Napoleonic era; love and the battlefield; Austerlitz 1805.

Monday, February 9

1. *War and Peace*, pp.3-56 (v.l:pt.1:ch.1-v.l:pt.1:ch.13)

Wednesday, February 11 [Presentation #4: The Russian Salon]

1. *War and Peace*, pp.56-104 (v.l:pt.1:ch.14-v.l:pt.1:ch.24)

Friday, February 13

1. *War and Peace*, pp.105-149 (v.l:pt.1:ch.25-v.l:pt.2:ch.8)

WEEK 6 FEBRUARY 16-20

Austerlitz, continued; peacetime and its complexities

Monday, February 16

1. *War and Peace*, pp.149-200 (v.l:pt.2:ch.9-v.l:pt.2:ch.21).
2. Response Paper #2 due **2/20**.

Wednesday, February 18 [Presentation #5: The "Reform Tsar" Alexander I]

1. *War and Peace*, pp.201-244 (v.l:pt.3:ch.1-v.l:pt.3:ch.7);
2. Response Paper #2 due **2/20**.

Friday, February 20

1. *War and Peace*, pp.244-290 (v.l:pt.3:ch.8-v.l:pt.3:ch.18)
2. **Response Paper #2** due.

WEEK 7 FEBRUARY 23-27

Locating the heart of the nation.

Monday, February 23 [Pres.#6: Dueling: 19thC Russian Social Institution]

1. *War and Peace*, pp.290-336 (v.l:pt.3:ch.19-v.l:pt.1:ch.12);

Wednesday, February 25

1. *War and Peace*, pp.336-381 (v.II:pt.1:ch.13-v.II:pt.2:ch.10)

Friday, February 27

1. *War and Peace*, pp.381-424 (v.II:pt.2:ch.11-v.II:pt.3:ch.3)

WEEK 8 MARCH 2-6

Locating the heart of the nation, continued.

Monday, March 2

1. *War and Peace*, pp.424-470 (v.II:pt.3:ch.4-v.II:pt.3:ch.20)
2. Mid-Term Exam **3/9**.

Wednesday, March 4 [Pres.#7: Russian Fortune-Telling + Other Folk Practices]

1. *War and Peace*, pp.470-529 (v.II:pt.3:ch.21-v.II:pt.4:ch.11)
2. Mid-Term Exam **3/9**.

Friday, March 6

1. *War and Peace*, pp.529-554 (v.II:pt.4:ch.12-v.II:pt.5:ch.6)
2. Mid-Term Exam **3/9**.

WEEK 9 MARCH 9-13

Locating the heart of the nation, continued.

Monday, March 9

[NO CLASS HNRS: Regular Section Mid-Term Exam]

1. **Research paper proposal due.**

Wednesday, March 11

1. *War and Peace*, pp.554-592 (v.II:pt.5:ch.7-v.II:pt.5:ch.19)
2. Response Paper #3 due **3/25**.

Friday, March 13

1. *War and Peace*, pp.592-640 (v.II:pt.5:ch.20-v.III:pt.1:ch.10)
2. Response Paper #3 due **3/23**.

[WEEK 10 MARCH 16-20 SPRING BREAK]**WEEK 11 MARCH 23-27**

Omens of disaster; foreign invasion; the Battle of Borodino and Napoleon in the Russian countryside; Moscow Burning and the Great Fire of 1812.

Monday, March 23

1. *War and Peace*, pp.640-686 (v.III:pt.1:ch.11-v.III:pt.2:ch.1)
2. **Response Paper #3 due.**

Wednesday, March 25 [Pres. #8: Images of Napoleon in Russian Culture]

1. *War and Peace*, pp.686-730 (v.III:pt.2:ch.2-v.III:pt.2:ch.12)

Friday, March 27

1. *War and Peace*, pp.730-777 (v.III:pt.2:ch.13-v.III:pt.2:ch.25)

WEEK 12 MARCH 30 – APRIL 3

Moscow burning, continued.

Monday, March 30

1. *War and Peace*, pp.777-820 (v.III:pt.2:ch.26-v.III:pt.2:ch.39)
2. Response Paper #4 due **4/3**.

Wednesday, April 1

1. *War and Peace*, pp.821-867 (v.III:pt.3:ch.1-v.III:pt.3:ch.17)
2. Response Paper #4 due **4/3**.

Friday, April 3

1. *War and Peace*, pp.868-913 (v.III:pt.3:ch.18-v.III:pt.3:ch.29)
2. **Response Paper #4 due.**

WEEK 13 APRIL 6-10

Moscow in 1812; rebuilding the nation; the aftermath of war.

Monday, April 6 [Pres. #9: The "Cavalry Maiden" Nadezhda Durova]

1. *War and Peace*, pp.913-956 (v.III:pt.3:ch.30-v.IV:pt.1:ch.7)

Wednesday, April 8

1. *War and Peace*, pp.956-1001 (v.IV:pt.1:ch.8-v.IV:pt.2:ch.7)
2. Response Paper #5 due **4/13**.

Friday, April 10

1. *War and Peace*, pp.1001-1047 (v.IV:pt.2:ch.8-v.IV:pt.3:ch.7)
2. Response Paper #5 due **4/13**.
3. Cartoon/video due **4/17**.

WEEK 14 APRIL 13-17

The aftermath of war, continued; Epilogue Part I.

Monday, April 13

1. *War and Peace*, pp.1048-1087 (v.IV:pt.3:ch.8-v.IV:pt.4:ch.5)
2. **Response Paper #5 due.**
3. Cartoon/video due **4/17**

Wednesday, April 15

1. *War and Peace*, pp.1087-1125 (v.IV:pt.4:ch.6-v.IV:pt.4:ch.20)
2. Cartoon/video due **4/17**.

Friday, April 17

1. *War and Peace*, pp.1129-1178 (Epilogue, Part I)
2. **Cartoon/video due**.
3. Final Paper due **4/22**.

WEEK 15 APRIL 20-22

Tolstoy's infamous epilogues; historical fatalism in a nutshell.

Monday, April 20

1. *War and Peace*, pp.1179-1215 (Epilogue, Part II)
2. Final Paper due **4/22**.

Wednesday, April 22

Conclusion

1. **Research Paper due**.