

University of Pittsburgh
College of General Studies
Department of Slavic Languages & Literatures
RUSS 0090: Russian Fairy Tales

Syllabus and Course Description

Spring 2010
CRN: 14456
Location: CL208A
Day: Wednesday
Time: 6:00-8:30pm
Instructor: Carrie Marquette
Office hours: M 12:00-12:50pm, W 1:00-1:50pm in 1417CL (1420A)

Course Materials (available in Pitt Book Center):

Ivanits, Linda. *Russian Folk Belief*. NY: M. E. Sharpe, 1982.
Afanas'ev, Aleksandr. *Russian Fairy Tales*. NY: Pantheon, 1973.
Course Pack. *Supplement to Russian 0090*.

Course Goals:

Folk beliefs are a rich and enduring component of Russian culture. This course introduces students to a wide selection of Russian fairy tales, and examines the aesthetic, social, and psychological values that they reflect. Students will also develop or enhance their understanding of the continuing cultural influence of fairy tales and folk beliefs in classical and contemporary Russian literature and poetry. The course also provides a general introduction to the study of folklore and fairy tales, presenting a broad spectrum of approaches to the interpretation of fairy tales, including psychoanalysis, Marxism, sociology, structuralism, and feminism. For both contextual and critical reasons, the course introduces and analyzes Russian fairy tales against a background of and in comparison with the Western fairy tale tradition (the Grimms, Perrault, Disney, etc.).

Upon successful completion of this course, students should be able to discuss several approaches to the study of fairy tales, especially as they apply to the body of texts contained in Afanas'ev's *Russian Fairy Tales*. In particular, students will be able to:

- Classify Russian fairy tale narratives according to thematic cycles;
- Identify the main structural components of Russian fairy tale narratives;
- Explain the function of fairy tales in a child's psychological development and the means by which this function is fulfilled;
- Explain the treatment of traditional gender roles in fairy tale narratives and judge the extent to which these narratives may reflect or influence the acculturation of men and women;
- Explain the role of fairy tale texts in economic, social, and political contexts;
- Recognize similarities and differences between Russian and Western fairy tale texts.

Most students who complete this course agree that by the end of the semester they are able to approach fairy tales very differently from the way they dealt with them previously.

Instructor

Carrie Marquette
Office: 1417 Cathedral of Learning (1420A)
Email: carrie.marquette@gmail.com
Office Hours: M 12:00-12:50pm, W 1:00-1:50pm

While you can find me in my office during these hours, you are welcome to schedule an appointment as well. I encourage you to email me with quick questions and other brief matters of concern, although it may take a day or two to send an adequate response. If some matter is simply too urgent to wait, please contact the main office of the Slavic department and they will contact me.

Course Requirements & Grading

In order to be successful in this class, the first requirement is to read and understand the syllabus and course description. These documents are contracts you agree to by remaining enrolled in this course after add/drop.

- All assignments are to be completed by class time on the day for which they are assigned.
- Attendance is expected at *all* course meetings.
- Two examinations will be given. You must take them both.
- Complete in-class work when applicable (quiz or brief in-class assignment)
- Participate actively in class.
- Complete response papers.

Your course grade will be determined as follows:

| | |
|--------------------------|------------|
| Exam 1 | 50 |
| Exam 2 | 50 |
| In-class work | 25 |
| Response papers (5) | 50 |
| Attendance/participation | 30 |
| Total | 205 |

Letter grades will be determined using a simple calculation of the percentage of points earned out of the total possible points. The typical letter grading scale will be used: A, 90-100%; B, 80-89%; C, 70-79%; D, 60-69%, F, 59% and below. Percentages will then be converted into points for final grading.

Academic Integrity

Please familiarize yourself with the University's academic integrity policies and procedures (<http://www.pitt.edu/HOME/PP/policies/02/02-03-03.html> and <http://www.pitt.edu/HOME/PP/procedures/02/02-03-03.html>). It is your responsibility to do so. Any infraction will be penalized according to these rules.

Disability Services and Accommodations

If you have a disability for which you are or may be requesting an accommodation, you are required to contact your instructor and Disability Resources and Services (DRS), 216 William Pitt Union, 412-648-7890 or 412-383-7355 (TTY). DRS will verify your disability and determine reasonable accommodations for this course. No accommodations can be made without verification by DRS.

Introduction

Wednesday, January 6

- Introduction to the Course, Syllabus and Course Description
- What is a Fairy Tale?
- Basic terminology for the study of folklore and fairy tales

Assignment due Next Week

Ivanits pp. 3-18, 51-63, 64-82, 169-89

Culture, Religion & Folklore

Wednesday, January 13

- Paganism, Christianity and Double Belief
- Feasts and Holidays
- Domestic and Nature Spirits

Assignment due Next Week:

Ivanits pp. 19-50, 83-124, 190-205

RP1 due next week

Saints, Devils & Sorcery

Wednesday, January 20

*****RP 1 due*****

- Saints & Devils
- Sorcery & Healing
- Shrieking

Assignment due Next Week:

Afanas'ev pp. 262-68, "Ivan the Peasant's Son and the Thumb-sized Man,"

pp. 40-44, "Salt,"

pp. 49-53, "The Three Kingdoms,"

pp. 62-66, "Ivanusko, the Little Fool,"

pp. 115-17, "The Princess Who Wanted to Solve Riddles,"

pp. 356-60, "The Wicked Sisters,"

pp. 612-24, "Prince Ivan, the Firebird, and the Gray Wolf,"

Afanas'ev pp. 427-37, "The Sea King and Vasilisa the Wise,"

pp. 439-47, "Vasilisa the Beautiful,"

pp. 76-79, "Baba Yaga and the Brave Youth,"

pp. 194-95, "Baba Yaga,"

pp. 485-93, "Koshchey the Deathless," (cont. on next page)

pp. 553-62, "Maria Morevna,"
pp. 463-75, "Two Ivans, Soldier's Sons,"
pp. 40-44, "Salt" (reread)
pp. 119-23, "The Frog Princess,"
pp. 200-02, "The Snotty Goat,"
pp. 44-46, "The Golden Slipper,"
pp. 146-50, "Burenushka, the Little Red Cow,"

Course Pack, Bogatyrev and Jakobson, "Folklore as a Special Form of Creativity," pp. 32-46

Fairy Tales: Creation & Style & Typical Tales: Heroes, Villains & Storytelling

Wednesday, January 27

- Stylistic characteristics of folktales
- The authorship of folklore
- Introduction to Russian Tales
- Heroes: Ivan Durak (Ivan "the Fool"), Vasilisa
- Villains: Baba Yaga, Koshchey the Deathless
- Typologies of Tales

Assignment due Next Week:

Course Pack, Bettelheim, pp. 102-111

Review

Afanas'ev pp. 40-44, "Salt,"

pp. 49-53, "The Three Kingdoms,"

pp. 62-66, "Ivanusko, the Little Fool,"

pp. 612-24, "Prince Ivan, the Firebird, and the Gray Wolf,"

Course Pack, Bettelheim, pp. 78-83, 90-96

Afanas'ev pp. 20-24, "Misery,"

pp. 294-99, "The Armless Maiden"

pp. 349-51, "The Magic Swan Geese,"

Review pp. 463-75, "Two Ivans, Soldier's Sons,"

pp. 625-27, "Shemiaka the Judge,"

Psychoanalytic Approaches to Fairy Tales

Wednesday, February 3

- Introduction to Psychoanalytic Approaches: Freudian, Jungian & Self Theory
- Bettelheim looks at "Youngest Child" tales and "Two Sibling" tales

Assignment due Next Week:

Course Pack, Bettelheim, pp. 282-291, 295-310

Review

Afanas'ev pp. 119-23, "The Frog Princess,"

pp. 200-02, "The Snotty Goat,"

Course Pack, Bettelheim, pp. 66-73

Afanas'ev pp. 229-34, "The Maiden Tsar,"

pp. 278-79, "Daughter and Stepdaughter,"

pp. 340-41, "The Grumbling Old Woman,"

Course Pack, Bettelheim, pp. 199-215

Psychoanalysis and Bettelheim, Continued

Wednesday, February 10

- Bettelheim looks at Animal Spouses, Wicked Stepmothers & "Snow White" tales

Assignment due Next Week:

RP2 due next week

Wednesday, February 17

*****RP2 due*****

Pans Labyrinth viewing in-class

Assignment due Next Week:

Study for mid-term examination

Mid-term Exam

Wednesday, February 24

- First Examination - see Course Description for details

Assignment due Next Week:

Course Pack, Cashdan, "Envy," pp. 85-105

Afanas'ev pp. 366-69, "Jack Frost,"

Review pp. 44-46, "The Golden Slipper,"

pp. 439-47, "Vasilisa the Beautiful," (cont. on next page)

pp. 146-50, "Burenushka, the Little Red Cow,"

Course Pack, von Franz, "Taboos," pp.190-214

Review Afanas'ev pp. 553-62, "Maria Morevna,"

pp. 229-34, "The Maiden Tsar,"

Psychoanalysis: Jung & Cashdan

Wednesday, March 3

- Cashdan and “Cinderella” tales
- A Jungian perspective on evil in tales

Assignment due in two weeks (no classes March 7-14 Spring Break):

Course Pack, Bottigheimer, “Silenced Women in Grimms’ Tales,” pp. 115-31

Course Pack, Lieberman, “Some Day My Prince Will Come,” pp. 185-200

Afanas’ev pp.13-15, “The Wondrous Wonder, the Marvelous Marvel,”

pp. 252-55, “The Wise Little Girl,”

pp. 56-57, “The Bad Wife,”

pp. 134-40, “The Wise Maiden and the Seven Robbers,”

pp. 161-62, “The Taming of the Shrew,”

pp. 226-27, “The Indiscreet Wife,”

pp. 528-32, “The Goldfish,”

Review pp. 427-37, “The Sea King and Vasilisa the Wise,”

pp. 115-17, “The Princess Who Wanted to Solve Riddles,”

RP3 due in two weeks

NO CLASS WEDNESDAY, MARCH 10!! SPRING BREAK!!

Feminist Critique of Fairy Tales

Wednesday, March 17

*****RP3 due*****

- Feminism and Fairy Tales
- Wise Maiden Tales
- Bad Wife Tales

Assignment due Next Week:

Course Pack, Propp, pp. 19-24, 149-55

Afanas’ev pp. 482-84, “The Crystal Mountain,”

Review pp. 349-51, “The Magic Swan Geese,”

Structuralist Approach to Fairy Tales

Wednesday, March 24

- Structuralism

Assignment due Next Week:

Hand-out in class: Pushkin, "Rusalka,"

Hand-out in class: Ostrovskii, "The Snow Maiden,"

Course Pack, Zipes, "Breaking the Disney Spell," pp. 72-95

Course Pack, Gaidar, "Tale of the Military Secret"

Marxism and Introduction to Literary Fairy Tales

Wednesday, March 31

- Literary forms with familiar elements
- Literary Fairy Tales
- Marxism Overview and Zipes

Assignment due Next Week:

Course Pack, Pushkin, "The Tale of Tsar Saltan..."

Gogol', "Viy," pp. 338-74

Afanas'ev pp. 567-68, "The Sorceress,"

pp. 593-98, "The Vampire,"

Ivanits pp. 194-95, "The Colonel and the Witch,"

RP4 due next week

Classical Russian Literature and folklore

Wednesday, April 7

*****RP4 due*****

- Aleksandr Pushkin
- Fairy Tales in Verse
- Nikolai Gogol'

Assignment due Next Week:

Afanas'ev pp. 580-88, "The Feather of Finist, the Bright Falcon,"

Course Pack, Tolstaya, "Date with a Bird," pp. 116-30

Tolstaya, "The Poet and the Muse," pp. 117-31

Sadur, "Rings,"

Sadur, "The Cute Little Redhead,"

Sadur, "The Witch's Tears,"

Sadur, "Silky Hair" **Contemporary Russian Literature and Folklore**

Wednesday, April 14

- Tatiana Tolstaya
- Mythical Birds
- Nina Sadur

Assignment due Next Week:

Study for Exam #2

RP5 due next week

Final Exam

*****RP5 due*****

Wednesday, April 21

- Final Examination - see Course Description for details