

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

Syllabus

Fall 2009 (2101)
CRN: 14764
Location: Penn Center Building 4
Day: Thursday
Time: 7:00-9:30pm
Instructor: Carrie Marquette

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*.

Introduction

Thursday, September 3, 2009

- 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

Thursday, September 10, 2009
(Fall add/drop period ends Friday, September 11, 2009)

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

Assignment due Next Week:

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

Saints, Devils & Sorcery

Thursday, September 17, 2009

- 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,"
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

Thursday, September 24, 2009

- 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

reread

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,"

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

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

Psychoanalytic Approaches to Fairy Tales

Thursday, October 1, 2009

- 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

reread

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

Thursday, October 8, 2009

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

Assignment due Next Week:

Nothing! We're watching a movie!

Thursday, October 15, 2009

Pans Labyrinth viewing in-class

Assignment due next week:

Study for mid-term examination

Mid-Term Exam

Thursday, October 22, 2009

- 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,"
reread pp. 44-46, "The Golden Slipper,"
pp. 439-47, "Vasilisa the Beautiful,"
pp. 146-50, "Burenushka, the Little Red Cow,"
Course Pack, von Franz, "Taboos," pp.190-214
reread
Afanas'ev pp. 553-62, "Maria Morevna,"
pp. 229-34, "The Maiden Tsar,"

Psychoanalysis: Jung & Cashdan

Thursday, October 29, 2009

- Cashdan and "Cinderella" tales
- A Jungian perspective on evil in tales

Assignment due Next Week:

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,"
reread pp. 427-37, "The Sea King and Vasilisa the Wise,"
pp. 115-17, "The Princess Who Wanted to Solve Riddles,"

Feminist Critique of Fairy Tales

Thursday, November 5, 2009

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

Structuralist Approach to Fairy Tales

Thursday, November 12, 2009

- Structuralism

Assignment due Next Week:

Hand-out in class: Pushkin, "Rusalka,"
Hand-out in class: Ostrovskii, "The Snow Maiden,"
"Marxism for Russian Fairy Tales,"
http://clover.slavic.pitt.edu/~tales/primers/marxism_primer.html
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

Thursday, November 19, 2009

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

*****NO CLASS THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 26, 2009.**

Assignment due in Two Weeks:

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,"

Classical Russian Literature and folklore

Thursday, December 3, 2009

- 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

Thursday, December 10, 2009

- Tatiana Tolstaya
- Mythical Birds
- Nina Sadur

Assignment due Next Week:

Study for Exam #2

Response paper due next week!!!

Final Exam

Thursday, December 17, 2009

- Final Examination - see Course Description for details
- Response Papers

