

University of Pittsburgh  
College of General Studies  
Department of Slavic Languages & Literatures

## **RUSS 0090: Russian Fairy Tales**

### Course Description

Spring 2008 (2084)  
CRN: 12559  
Location: CL 337  
Day: Thursday  
Time: 6:00-8:30pm  
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*.

### Course Goals

This course seeks to introduce students to the study of Fairy Tales as a form of folklore, both in a general sense and in terms of Russian culture. We will study the Fairy Tale as a genre, as part of Russian culture, and as an object of different modes of theory and analysis.

### Instructor

Carrie Marquette  
Office: 1417 Cathedral of Learning  
Email: carrie.marquette@gmail.com  
Office Hours: Wednesday, 2:30-4:30pm, and by appointment

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.
- Take at least three of the unannounced quizzes.
- Participate actively in class.
- Complete the 1 page response paper.

Your course grade will be determined as follows:

Exam 1	100 possible points
Exam 2	100 possible points
Quizzes and paper	50
A&P	50
Total	200

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.

### **Weekly Assignments**

Reading assignments due each week must be completed before the start of class. Quizzes (see below) will be given frequently at the start of class to test completion of the reading assignments. Often, reading assignments will include specific review of old material, in addition to the reading of new material. While it may be tempting to skip the “rereading” assignments, remember that review of certain tales is assigned for good reason.

Rereading a tale or passage is necessary to see it in a new context or from a new perspective. I don’t expect rereading of tales to take as much time or concentration as the first read, but be advised that “rereading” assignments are fair game for quizzes, just as any new readings would be.

### **Absences**

All students will be permitted one (1) absence in this course, no questions asked. I encourage you to save this free absence for a time when you really need it, when you are too ill to come to class or experience an unexpected emergency. This course does not distinguish between excused and unexcused absences. Every absence, regardless of reason, represents a portion of this course that has not been completed. This includes absences during the add/drop period. Every absence after the first "free absence" will incur a five (5) point penalty against your grade.

Students who miss a number of classes for reasons beyond their control should speak with the instructor as soon as possible about grade options, such as a W grade or a G grade.

### **Exams**

Two exams (a mid-term and a final) will be administered over the course of the semester. Each exam will be worth 100 possible points. Both exams will consist of a total of 50 multiple choice questions. The mid-term will test all information from the beginning of the term. The final will test all information since the mid-term, as well as concepts that reoccur throughout the course.

In the case of a documented emergency, makeup exams can be given. However, out of necessity, they will consist entirely of essays without a choice of questions. Please contact the instructor if you find that you need to take a makeup exam.

### **Quizzes**

Each student will be expected to take at least three of the unannounced quizzes given during the course of the term. Each student's three best scores will be counted toward the final grade. There will be no make-up quizzes. Students arriving to class after the quiz is administered will not be given the chance to retake the quiz.

### **Participation**

Participation is a crucial component of this course. Class discussion of materials and concepts will be the central focus of each course meeting. Accordingly, participation, along with attendance counts for 50 possible points of the total grade. Students will be given a participation grade for each meeting. Those grades, along with absences, will be taken into consideration by the instructor in determining the overall participation grade. A number of absences over the course of the semester will, naturally, affect the participation grade, in addition to incurring the five point absence penalty.

### **Arriving late, leaving early**

It is in every student's best interest to arrive on time and to stay until class ends. Quizzes will be given frequently at the beginning of class, and those arriving late will miss the opportunity to take them. Students leaving early will miss valuable information given in lectures alone, information not contained in the readings. If for whatever reason you must leave early, please leave during the break, or arrive to the classroom early so that you can get a seat in the back of the room next to the door.

Students who arrive late or leave early will not go unnoticed. Leaving at the break, or slipping in after the break, will incur half of the regular absence penalty. Participation points may be reduced, at the instructor's discretion, for frequent tardiness or slipping out.

### **Curving**

Grades on individual exams or quizzes will **not** be curved in this course. However, upon assessment of final grades for the entire class, the final letter grades may be curved upward if they fall below an expected natural curve. Grades will never be curved down.

### **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

## Syllabus

### **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, January 10, 2008

- Introduction to the Course, Syllabus and Course Description
- What is a Fairy Tale? Where do fairy tales come from? How do fairy tales impact popular culture?
- 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, January 17, 2008

(Fall add/drop period ends Friday, January 11, 2008)

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

**Assignment due in next week:**

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

**Saints, Devils & Sorcery**

Thursday, January 25, 2008

- 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, February 1, 2008

- 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, February 8, 2008

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

### **Assignment for Next Week:**

Nothing! We will be viewing *Pans Labyrinth* in class

Thursday, February 14, 2008

HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY! Did you know that Valentine's Day was originally celebrated to commemorate the hanging of St. Valentine?

### **Assignment for 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, February 21, 2008

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

**Assignment due Next Week:**

Study for Exam #1

**Mid-Term Exam**

Thursday, February 28, 2008

- First Examination - see Course Description for details

**Assignment due in 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,"*

Course Pack, Bottigheimer, "Silenced Women in Grimms' Tales," pp. 115-31

**Psychoanalysis: Jung & Cashdan/Feminism Part 1**

Thursday, March 6, 2008

- Cashdan and "Cinderella" tales
- A Jungian perspective on evil in tales
- \*Feminism introduction and Bottigheimer article

**Assignment Due in Two Weeks:**

**Spring break—No classes between March 9-16**

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,"*

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

Afanas'ev pp. 482-84, "The Crystal Mountain,"  
*reread pp. 349-51, "The Magic Swan Geese,"*

### **Feminism Part 2/Structuralism**

Thursday, March 20, 2008

- Feminism and Fairy Tales
- Wise Maiden Tales
- Bad Wife Tales
- \*Structuralism

### **Assignment due Next Week:**

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

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

Please Print "Marxism for Russian Fairy Tales,"

[http://clover.slavic.pitt.edu/~tales/primers/marxism\\_primer.html](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, March 27, 2008

- 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,"

### **Classical Russian Literature and folklore**

Thursday, April 3, 2008

- 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, April 10, 2008

- Tatiana Tolstaya
- Mythical Birds
- Nina Sadur

### **Assignment due Next Week:**

Study for Exam #2

**Response paper due next week!!!**

### **Final Exam**

Thursday, April 17, 2008

(Classes end Friday, April 18, 2008)

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