I. COURSE DESCRIPTION

Our first priority will be a careful reading of Tolstoy’s massive novel (if it is in fact a “novel”: this is one of the questions we will address), with the goal of understanding how the text works. We will also consider the book’s historical context and sources, its place in Tolstoy’s oeuvre, in the Russian tradition and in “world” literature, and the various uses that have been made of it since its initial publication.

II. REQUIREMENTS:

The most important requirements in this course are diligent reading and active participation, since our meetings will be structured around discussions. You must check your NYU email account regularly. Paper #1 will be on an assigned topic; for Papers 2 and 3, a list of suggested topics will be distributed, but you may also devise a topic of your own in consultation with me. Course grades will be calculated as follows:

- Paper #1 (5-7 pp.): 20%
- Paper #2 (7-9 pp.): 30%
- Paper #3 (7-9 pp.): 30%
- In-class quizzes and assignments: 10%
- Participation: 10%

III. TEXTS

Books listed below will be for sale at the NYU Bookstore; other readings will be made available in a coursepack (marked CP on syllabus) or by email.

- Knapp (ed.), Cambridge Companion to Tolstoy (Cambridge UP)
- Lieven, Russia Against Napoleon (Penguin)
- Tolstoy, Childhood, Boyhood, Youth (Penguin)
III. SCHEDULE OF READINGS

Week 1: Introduction

Handout on Russian names (quiz next week)
Begin reading Lieven, *Russia Against Napoleon*; finish by Thanksgiving

Week 2: *W&P* Book I (pp. 3-94): Novel vs. epic; stepping into *War & Peace*

**Quiz:** Russian names
**Required:**
Fusillo, “Epic, Novel” (you can focus on pp. 55-63 and skim the rest) in *The Novel*, vol. 2, ed. Franco Moretti (2006), CP.

Week 3: *W&P* Book II (pp. 95-173): What happens where?

**Quiz:** map of Russia and Europe
**Required:** read through ch. 4 of Lieven, *Russia Against Napoleon*

Week 4: *W&P* Book III (pp. 175-255): Love and War

**Required:**
Clay, *Tolstoy’s Phoenix* ch. 1 and 2, CP
Lt. General Miloradovich’s Report to General Kutuzov on the Battle of Austerlitz, 5 Dec.
Lt. General Bagration’s Report to General Kutuzov on the Battle of Austerlitz, 10 Dec.


**Required:** excerpt from Reyfman, *Ritualized Violence, Russian Style: The Duel in Russian Culture and Literature*, CP
**Recommended:**
Monas, “St. Petersburg and Moscow as Cultural Symbols,” CP
Gritsai and van der Wusten, “Moscow and St. Petersburg, a sequence of capitals, a tale of two cities,” CP
For background on Freemasonry: [http://freemasonry.bcy.ca/texts/russia/FRP.pdf](http://freemasonry.bcy.ca/texts/russia/FRP.pdf) pp. 5-25

Lounsbery, *War & Peace* syllabus, p. 2
Week 6: W&P Book VI (pp. 367-429): Law vs. “Real Life”

**Required:** excerpt from Cohn, “Pierre and Napoleon at Borodino,” CP
Discuss paper #1 (due next week in class)

Week 7: W&P Book VII-VIII (pp. 431-534): Magic Russianness?

**Required:**
Excerpt from Shklovsky, “Art as Device,” CP
Excerpt from Gellner, “Nationalism and High Cultures” (in Nations and Nationalism, 1983), CP

**Paper #1 due in class:** After carefully summarizing Gellner’s argument about the nature and origins of nationalism, lay out your own understanding of how Gellner’s argument relates (or does not relate) to W&P.
Topics for Paper #2 to be distributed in class (paper must address Prokofiev opera or Bondarchuk film, due week 10)

Week 8: spring break

**Required viewing/listening on your own this week:** EITHER Prokofiev’s opera OR Bondarchuk’s film of War and Peace.
Opera: Gergiev/Kirov production is recommended, but any is OK. DVDs are on reserve at Avery Fisher in Bobst Library are available on Netflix. Also available as streaming to NYU students from Bobst website, but quality is bad. Netflix has DVDs only, not streaming. Libretto to be distributed via email.
Film: available at Bobst and on Netflix in DVD only (5 discs!).

**Recommended sources:**
http://www.operatoday.com/content/2007/12/prokofievs_war_.php
Paintings in 1812 gallery at http://www.hermitagemuseum.org/html_En/05/hm5_8.html

Week 9: W&P Book IX (pp. 535-606): Are rulers “history’s slaves”?

**Required:**
Morson, ch. 1 (“War and Peace”) in Cambridge Companion to Tolstoy
Love, Overcoming History in W&P, pp. 47-57, CP
Lieven, ch. 5

**Paper #2 due on Monday of week 10**

Week 10: W&P Book X (pp. 607-730): Col. Rick McPeak from U.S. Military Academy at West Point will speak on the nature of warfare in W&P.

**Required:** Lieven, ch. 6

Lounsbury, War & Peace syllabus, p. 3
Week 11: *W&P* Book XI (pp. 731-826): Moscow as a “Queenless Hive”

**Recommended:**
- Excerpt from Berlin, “The Hedgehog and the Fox,” CP
- Love, *Overcoming History in W&P*, pp. 58-95, CP
- Roosevelt, *Life on the Russian Country Estate*, pp. 214-17, CP
- Review Lieven, ch. 6

Week 12: *W&P* Books XII-XIII (pp. 827-910): Subjectivity, Coincidence, and Free Will

Topics for Paper #3 to be distributed and discussed in class

Week 13: *W&P* Books XIV-XV (pp. 911-996): The People’s War?

**Required:**
- Lieven, ch. 7 (and ch. 8 is recommended)
- Martin, “Russia and the Legacy of 1812,” CP
- View the Minard Graph (1869) depicting the course of the French campaign:
  http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/6/63/Minards_chart_Napoleons_Russian_campaign_of_1812_made_in_1869.jpg
- In-class assignment: each student will give a 2-minute account of his/her final paper (paper #3) to the class.

Week 14: *W&P* Epilogues (pp. 997-1074): Wrapping up, or moving on?

**Required:**
- Donald Barthelme, “At the Tolstoy Museum” (1969), CP

**Paper #3 due during reading period**