

Russian 345 010920

Revised schedule of readings for Tolstoy

R 20 Sep	<i>Anna</i> II, III, IV
T 25	<i>Anna</i> (suite)
R 27	Yom Kippur holiday. No class today.
T 2 Oct	Oral presentations: <i>Anna Karenina</i> . (See notes on topics.)
R 4	<i>What is Art?</i> (We won't be discussing <i>Resurrection</i> , but you may write on it.)
T 9	Conclusion of Tolstoy. Final reports, discussions.
R 11	Begin Dostoevsky.
T 16	Tolstoy paper due.

Topics for oral reports, *Anna* and *What is Art?*

- the nature of sin; meaning of the dream of the peasant
- dreams, omens, portents, and dark clouds; the death of a horse; the tragic cast of the novel; "vengeance is mine"
- metonymic vs. metaphoric portraiture: cracking joints, tossing ringlets of hair, delicate hands, eyes, glances; trains, iron clanking
- Levin's search for meaning in life : boredom or beauty? – the peasants, agriculture, the zemstvos; mystique of the farm
- art and life: Mihailov's paintings, Wagners's opera (see also *What is Art?*)
- communication and miscommunication, or missed chances to understand one another; wordless communication, verbal tricks; French; intellectuality
- art and life in *What is Art?*
- the highest art and the lowest art in *What is Art?*
- understanding as polemic: the aesthetic
- the meaning of love in *Anna*
- religion in *Anna*
- the architecture of *Anna*; confrontations and contrasts