This course provides an introduction to major works of nineteenth century Russian fiction, from some of the most prominent figures of Russia's literary “Golden Age” — Pushkin, Gogol, Lermontov, Turgenev, Tolstoy, Dostoevsky, and Chekhov — spanning a century marked by great political and social tension. Our focus on shorter texts will allow us to investigate the major intellectual and moral issues of the century through many different voices. Tracing the evolution of narrative forms and genres, artistic works will be analyzed in the context of the political and intellectual changes Russian society was undergoing throughout the century. We will examine the tension between the individual and collective, modernity and tradition, reform and stagnation, center and periphery, Russia and the West.

T & Th 10 am-1 pm | 3 credits | HU, ULWR | Instructor: Eric Ford, edford@umich.edu