This course will discuss Slavic (Russian, Ukrainian, Polish, Serbian) mythological beings – demon, house spirit, rusalka, mavka, vila etc. and their representation in folktales, in novels, plays, operas and pictures. We will also address English-language fantasy in Slavic settings, which I call Alternative Slavic Fantastika. The course will include an introduction to Folk Literature, differences between folktale and literary tale, between Science fiction (SF) and Fantasy, approaches to research, and specific case studies.
Exigencies

Regular attending, reading literary texts and research publications and watching video recordings. Written assignment (15%) and a final essay (85 % of the mark). Participation in discussions – bonus (till 10%).

Bibliography.

The asterisk * before the item means compulsory reading.

1. Demonic and mythical characters in Slavic Folklore. Walking Dead and Vengeful Spirits

Stories and songs


Warner, Elizabeth (2011) Russian Peasant Beliefs Concerning the Unclean Dead and Drought, Within the Context of the Agricultural Year. Folklore, 122(2): 155-175.

**Literary texts:**


**Movies**

Lesnaya pesnya, Mavka (Director: Yuri Ilyenko, 1981) [Lesya Ukrainka's The
Forest Song with English subtitles]
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A_pBrHupM2I

*Mavka: The Forest Song.* English-language Ukrainian computer animated fantasy comedy-drama film directed by Oleh Malamuzh and Oleksandra Ruban.

Research on adaptation in movies
**Andrianova, Anastassiya (2021)**
Ecofeminism in Film Adaptations of Lesia Ukrainka’s *Forest Song. Kyiv-Mohyla Humanities Journal*, 8: 46–67

**Music:**

**Opera:**

**Dargomizhsky, Alexander:** *Rusalka opera* in 4 acts after Pushkin.
Act 1.
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uE2YH M2hbZg

Act. 2 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-QALU76Nrso
Act 3 and 4 III e IV
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T4e7oS_Q8Pw&t=1161s

Dvořák, Antonin. Anna Netrebko/ Rusalka/ Dvořák/ Song to the Moon- Chant à la lune (Cz/En/Fr Lyrics)
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oGcCTOMotIw

Dvořák, Antonin. Rusalka (Petr Weigl, 1977) with English and Czech subtitles
Research on Rusalka in music

https://doi.org/10.26686/wgtn.17007892.v1


Ballet
Skorulsky, M.  Ballet "Forest song"
DNIPRO OPERA – 2021
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CzqtxdJYU44

Baba Yaga and Koshchei the Deathless in Folktales

Zheleznova, Irina (Ed.) Vasilisa the Beautiful, Fenist the Falcon, Little Girl and the Swan-Geese, Marya Morevna, The Frog Tsarevna. In. Irina Zheleznova (Ed.)

Vasilisa the Beautiful. Russian Fairy Tales.
Translated by Irina Zheleznova Moscow:
Progress publishers, 1966.
Research on Baba Yaga and Koshchei in Folktales


Baba Yaga and Koshchei the Deathless in Illustrations

Sipp, Tabitha (2020) *The Works of Ivan Bilibin and the Creation of a Russian “Third Space”: The Exploration of Cultural Identity through Illustration*. The University of Texas at Austin.

Baba Yaga in Movies

Father Frost/Jack Frost/Morozko (1964). Directed by Alexander Rou. English dub. [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e1C_obka9Gw&t=277s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e1C_obka9Gw&t=277s)

Baba Yaga in Music
Musorgskii, Modest - Pictures at an Exhibition - The Hut on the Fowl's Legs. Baba Yaga

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sxTLk8gWJHg

Witch

Gogol, Nikolai (1860) The Night of Christmas Eve. Translated by George Tolstoy or any other edition
https://en.wikisource.org/wiki/The_Night_of_Christmas_Eve

https://archive.org/details/AlexanderKuprinOlesyaemode/2up?view=theater

Research literature

Music


Rimsky-Korsakov, Nikolai. May's Night. Opera in Russian. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QXZ8nlVUBEo&list=PLUoO2e9So20fL9gGFWhX8XDEzLNZSWGCM
Research literature
https://www.jstor.org/stable/726362

**Demonic Other**


English-language fantasy in Slavic Settings

Literary text


Research Literature