

The University of Haifa
Department of Hebrew and Comparative
Literature

Course: Slavic Demonology in Folklore,
Literature and Art

Lecturer: *Prof. Larisa Fialkova*

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

The Domovoi and Other Domestic Spirits.
In: Ivanits Linda. (1987) Russian Folk Narratives about the Supernatural. *Soviet Anthropology and Archeology*. Armonk. N.Y. M.E. Sharp., v. 26. (2), 59-68.

The Ballads of Marko Kraljević — Marko Kraljević and the Vila

https://en.wikisource.org/wiki/The_Ballads_of_Marko_Kraljevi%C4%87/Marko_Kraljevi%C4%87_and_the_Vila

Nature Spirits. Leshii, Volianoi, Polevoi, and Rusalka. In: Ivanits Linda (1987) *Russian Folk Narratives about the Supernatural. Soviet Anthropology and Archeology.* Armonk. N.Y. M.E. Sharp., v. 26. (2), 69-83.

***Moyle N. K.** (1987) Mermaids (Rusalki) and Russian Beliefs about Women. In: *New Studies in Russian Languages and Literature*, 221-238.

Prykhodko, V.B. (2021) “Mythopoetics of Lesia Ukrainka’s *Forest Song*: Reception and Interpretation.” *Studia Litterarum*, 6(2): 304–315.

Šešo, Luka (2020) The Supernatural Beings of Belief Legends – Old Fears in a New Context. *Studia Mythologica Slavica*, 23: 183-202. [Croatian folklore]

***Tolstaia, Svetlana** (2021) Christianity and Slavic Folk Culture: The Mechanisms of Their Interaction. *Religions*, 12: 1-15.

Warner, Elizabeth (2000) Russian Peasant Beliefs and Practices concerning Death and the Supernatural Collected in Novosokol'niki Region, Pskov Province, Russia, 1995. Part I: The Restless Dead, Wizards and Spirit Beings. Part 1 and 2. *Folklore*, 111(1): 67-90.

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

Zimmerman, Zora Devrnja (1979) The Changing Roles of the 'Vila' in Serbian Traditional Literature. *Journal of the Folklore Institute*, 16(3):167–75.

Literary texts:

Pushkin, Alexander (2007) Rusalka (The Water Nymph). In: A. Pushkin. *Boris Godunov and Other Works*. New Translations by James E. Fallen. Oxford: OUP Oxford, 179-201.

Lesya Ukrainka (1950) The Forest Song: Fairy Drama in 3 Acts. In: *Spirit of Flame: A Collection of the Works of Lesya Ukrainka*. Translated from Ukrainian by Percival Cundy. New York: Bookman Associates, 1950, 169-260.

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, Anastasiya (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=uE2YHM2hbZg>

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

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V8dXhHjcgAU&t=0s>

Research on Rusalka in music

Brackovic, Jasna (2014). 'Poor, pale, Rusalka': The Polymorphic Nature of the Heroine of Dvořák's Rusalka. Open Access Te Herenga Waka-Victoria University of Wellington. Thesis.

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

Campo-Bowen, Christopher. "Ježibaba's Ambiguities: Binaries, Power, and Queer Alterity in Antonín Dvořák's Rusalka." *Women in Nineteenth-Century Czech Musical Culture*. Routledge 217-234.

Emerson, Caryl (2019) To What End *Rusalka* ? Pushkin's Folk Tragedy and Dargomyzhskii's Opera. *Slavonic and East European Review*, 97(1): 169-200.

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

***Forrester, Sibelan** (2013) *Baba Yaga: The Wild Witch of the East: Introduction*. In: Sibelan Forrester, , Jack Zipes, , Martin Skoro, , and Jack Zipes. *Baba Yaga : The Wild Witch of the East in Russian Fairy Tales*. University Press of Mississippi, XXI-LI.

***Johns, Andreas** (2000) The Image of Koshchei Bessmertnyi in East Slavic Folktales. *SEEFA Journal*, V(1): 7-24.

Johns, Andreas (2004) *Baba Yaga and Ambiguous Mother and Witch of the Russian Folktale*. New York: Peter Lang.

***Propp, Vladimir** (2012) The Russian Folktale. Detroit: Wayne State University Press, 147-224.

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

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

Kuprin, Alexander. (1956) Olesya. In: A. Kuprin. The Garnet Bracelet and Other Stories. Translated from Russian by Stepan Apresyan. Moscow: Foreign Languages Publishing House.

<https://archive.org/details/AlexanderKuprinOlesya/mode/2up?view=theater>

Research literature

Shkandrij, Myroslav. 2001: Russia and
Ukraine: Literature and Discourse of Empire
from Napoleonic to Postcolonial Times,
McGill-Queens University Press, Montreal,
105-116.

Music

Rimsky-Korsakov, Nikolai. *"Christmas
Eve."* Opera [in English]
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=beqeZC7hKfQ>

Rimsky-Korsakov, Nikolai. *May's Night.*
Opera in Russian.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QXZ8nIVUBEo&list=PLUoO2e9So20fL9gGFWhX8XDEzLNZSWGCM>

Research literature

Abraham, Gerald, E.H. (1931) Rimsky-Korsakov's Gogol Operas. *Music & Letters*, 12(3): 242-252.

<https://www.jstor.org/stable/726362>

Demonic *Other*

***Belova, Olga** (2007) The Stereotype of the "Other" within Folk Culture. *East European Jewish Affairs*, 37(3): 335-351.

Cała, Anita (1995) *The Image of the Jew in Polish Folk Culture*. Jerusalem: The Magnes Press, the Hebrew University.

Šešo, Luka (2021) Dog-headed Creatures as the Other: The Role of Monsters in the Construction of the Croatian Identity. *SIC: A Journal of Literature, Culture and Literary Translation*, 11(2): 11-28.

English-language fantasy in Slavic Settings

Literary text

Arden, Katherine (2017) *The Bear and The Nightingale: a novel*. New York: Del Rey.

Research Literature

Fialkova, Larisa (2021) Rus, Russia and Ukraine in Alternative Slavic Fantasy of English-Language Writers. Part 1. Medieval Rus. *Studia Mythologica Slavica*, 24: 24-32.