The Golden Age of Russian Lit

A century of realism and reflection
When exactly was "The "Golden Age"?

1830's - 1917

Courtesy of Google Images
Most Notable Writers

- Pushkin - National Poet
- Gogol - Satirist/Realist
- Turgenev - Short Story Writer
- Tolstoy - Greatest writer ever (?)
- Dostoevsky - Prolific Author and philosopher
- Chekhov - Short Story Writer
Notable Works

Images Courtesy of Goodreads.com
"We all come out of Gogol's 'Overcoat'"

- Dostoevsky
Notable Works

Images Courtesy of Goodreads.com
“To go wrong in one's own way is better than to go right in someone else's.”

- Dostoevsky (Crime and Punishment)
Thematic Conflicts

- Reason VS individual desires
- State VS Individual
- Fate VS Free Will
- Educated Elite VS Peasantry/Bourgeois
Literary Motifs

Occupation = Classification

Suicide as a heroic means of escape

The "everyman" and the anti-hero

Revenge = Ultimate Reward

Property as Prize ...
Epigraph to Anna Karenina

Vengeance is mine; I shall repay it - Romans 12:19
Key Literary Movements

Naturalism

Often considered a subcategory of realism, it grew in popularity towards the end of the 19th century (a post Darwinian mindset)

It is a literary style that hopes to depict life as honestly as possible, without any sense of idealism

Naturalist authors tend to show characters who have "compulsive instincts toward sexuality, hunger, and/or the accumulation of goods " ("Naturalism")
Populism emerged after the reforms of Alexander II.

University students were hugely influenced by "progressive" European attitudes and formed a socialist group called the Populists (Mooers).

This literary movement "praised the soil and the earth" (Mooers) and addressed the needs/concerns of the peasants.
Works Cited


"Naturalism" Literary Movements: Washington State University. 5 February 2014. Web