

TTh, 11-12:20 VPD 107 (35345R)
Professor Thomas Seifrid

GESM 120g – Fall 2024

THE RUSSIAN NOVEL



Isaak Levitan, *Quiet Refuge*

This course examines some of the remarkable works of literature produced in Russia during the 19th century—the golden age of the Russian novel. When Tsarist censorship and the Orthodox Church limited discussion of morality, politics, and philosophy in Russia, debate on these issues shifted to the pages of novels. The result was an uncommonly rich body of fiction, in which events in the characters' lives unfold as if in immediate contact with the most profound issues of good and evil, life and death, and as if the destiny of Russia hung in the balance. These literary masterpieces also serve as a record of dissident thought in Russian culture, of resistance to modes of thought imposed by the tsarist regime. Among the authors we will read are Pushkin, Turgenev, Dostoevsky, and Tolstoy.