

UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH
Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures

Russian 1202: Dostoevsky: The Major Novels
EngLit 1731: Topics in Ethnic Literature
Russian 2306: Dostoevsky
Spring Semester 2011
Tuesdays and Thursdays, 4:00 — 5:15
204 CL

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Office Hours: Mondays and Wednesdays 10:00—11:00, Tuesdays and Thursdays 12:00—1:00,
and by appointment

I. Required texts:

- Dostoevsky, Fyodor. *The Brothers Karamazov*. Rev. and ed. Ralph E. Matlaw. Tr. Constance Garnett. NY: Norton, 1976.
- Dostoevsky, Feodor. *Crime and Punishment*. Ed. George Gibian. Tr. Jessie Coulson. 3rd ed. NY: Norton, 1989.
- Dostoyevsky, Fyodor. *Demons*. Ed. Ronald Meyer. Tr. Robert Maguire. NY: Penguin Books, 2008.
- Dostoyevsky, Fyodor. *The Idiot*. Tr. David McDuff. NY: Penguin Books, 2004.
- Dostoevsky, Fyodor. *Notes from Underground*. Trans. and ed. Michael R. Katz. 2nd ed. NY: Norton, 2001.

II. Recommended texts for background and research

- Bakhtin, Mikhail. *Problems of Dostoevsky's Poetics*. Tr. and ed. Caryl Emerson. Theory and History of Literature 8. Minneapolis: U of Minnesota P, 1984.
- Belknap, Robert. *The Genesis of The Brothers Karamazov*. Evanston: Northwestern UP, 1990.
- Belknap, Robert. *The Structure of The Brothers Karamazov*. Evanston: Northwestern UP, 1989.
- Bloom, Harold, ed. *Fyodor Dostoevsky*. NY: Chelsea House, 1988.
- , ed. *Fyodor Dostoevsky's Crime and Punishment*. NY: Chelsea House, 1988.
- , ed. *Fyodor Dostoevsky's The Brothers Karamazov*. NY: Chelsea House, 1988.
- Dalton, Elizabeth. *Unconscious Structure in The Idiot*. Princeton: Princeton UP, 1979.
- Dostoevsky, Fyodor. *The Notebooks for Crime and Punishment*. Ed. and tr. Edward Wasiolek. Chicago: The U of Chicago P, 1967.
- , *The Notebooks for The Brothers Karamazov*. Ed. and tr. Edward Wasiolek. Chicago: The U of Chicago P, 1971.
- , *The Notebooks for The Idiot*. Ed. Edward Wasiolek. Tr. Katharine Strelsky. Chicago: The U of Chicago P, 1967.
- , *The Notebooks for The Possessed*. Ed. Edward Wasiolek. Tr. Victor Terras. Chicago: The U of Chicago P, 1968.
- Frank, Joseph. *Dostoevsky: The Mantle of the Prophet, 1871-1881*. Princeton: Princeton UP, 2002.
- , *Dostoevsky: The Miraculous Years, 1865-1871*. Princeton: Princeton UP, 1995.
- , *Dostoevsky: The Seeds of Revolt, 1821-1849*. Princeton: Princeton UP, 1976.
- , *Dostoevsky: The Stir of Liberation, 1860-1865*. Princeton: Princeton UP, 1986.
- , *Dostoevsky: The Years of Ordeal, 1850-1859*. Princeton: Princeton UP, 1983.
- Grossman, Leonid. *Dostoevsky: His Life and Work*. Tr. Mary Mackler. Indianapolis, NY: The Bobbs-Merrill Company, 1975.
- Jackson, Robert Louis. *The Art of Dostoevsky*. Princeton: Princeton UP, 1981.
- Magarshack, David. *Dostoevsky*. NY: Harcourt, Brace and World, 1962.
- Miller, Robin Feuer. *Dostoevsky and The Idiot*. Cambridge: Harvard UP, 1981.
- Mochulsky, Konstantin. *Dostoevsky: His Life and Works*. Tr. Michael A. Minihan. Princeton: Princeton UP, 1967.
- Morson, Gary Saul. *Narrative and Freedom: The Shadows of Time*. New Haven: Yale UP, 1994.
- Perlina, Nina. *Varieties of Poetic Utterance: Quotation in The Brothers Karamazov*. Lanham, MD: UP of America, 1985.

Slattery, Dennis. *The Idiot: Dostoevsky's Fantastic Prince*. NY: Peter Lang, 1983.
Terras, Victor. *The Idiot*. Boston: Twayne Publishers, 1990.
Vladiv, Slobodanka B. *Narrative Principles in Dostoevskij's Besy*. Bern: Peter Lang, 1979.
Wasiolek, Edward. *Dostoevsky: The Major Fiction*. Cambridge: The MIT P, 1964.

III. Reading assignments:

All reading assignments must be completed prior to the date indicated in the section Schedule of Assignments. Students are responsible not only for the physical act of reading the words contained in the assigned texts, but they are obligated to reflect on them and be able to discuss the ideas (and events) these words signify.

IV. Absence and attendance:

Attendance is mandatory for all scheduled meetings of the course and all absences will be noted in the roster. Students will receive daily grades for each meeting of the course. Grades will be assigned on the basis of each student's participation in the discussion and the contributions made to the discussion. All **unexcused** absences will receive an automatic grade of "UA" (unexcused absence) for that session. Four such "UA" grades (that is, two weeks of class) will result in an "F" for the course. All **excused** absences—personal health and deaths in the family—must be documented and will receive a grade of "EA." Students are encouraged to review their session grades periodically with the instructor.

V. Course methodology:

The course will consist principally of lectures and dialogue between students and the instructor. Students are encouraged to meet with the instructor during scheduled office hours (or by appointment) to discuss their work in the course (reading, participation, daily grades, examination, quizzes, and paper).

VI. Quizzes:

There will be several unannounced quizzes during the semester. Each quiz will last a maximum of 15 minutes. Quizzes will consist of some of the following: identification, narrative developments, and historical or critical commentary. Students who are absent (excused or unexcused) on the day of the quiz do not receive a grade for the quiz. No quiz will be re-scheduled and no make-up quizzes are permitted. The instructor is especially likely to announce an immediate quiz should it become apparent the students are not keeping up with the reading. A grade of "F" on a quiz also means a daily grade of "F" for that session.

VII. Examination:

The course includes an in-class midterm for all **undergraduate** students, the date for which is indicated in the Schedule of Assignments at the end of this syllabus. No make-up examinations will be administered unless students can provide proof of medical incapacitation. The midterm examination will consist of two essay-answers (out of four assigned topic-questions). Essay-answers must be written in the booklets provided by the instructor. Answers must be written on alternate lines and must be legible; the instructor will not spend time deciphering anything written. Students wishing to use a laptop to write their midterm examination in class will have to get prior approval from the instructor.

VIII. Presentation:

In lieu of the midterm examination, each **graduate** student in the course will make one (maximum) 20-minute presentation at the start of one of the sessions. The presentation must be organized around one of the books listed in the Recommended Texts section of the syllabus and include the following: a thumbnail bio of the author, the analytical methodology used in the author's study, a quick overview of the major argument. Most importantly, the presentation must be made directly relevant to readings assigned for that day of the course. Each presentation must include two handouts. The grade for the presentation will be the average of three separate grades: quality and relevance of the handouts, organization and delivery of pertinent information, and ability to integrate the Recommended Text with the assigned reading. All **graduate** students must meet with the instructor during the first two weeks of the course to select the Recommended Text on which they will be presenting and to choose a specific date for the presentation.

IX. Essay:

There is a final term paper due at the end of the semester: 2,000 words (approximately eight typed double-spaced pages using a 12-point font) for **undergraduate** students; and a final research paper for **graduate** students of 5,000 words. Students agree that by taking this course the required essay is subject to submission for textual similarity review at Turnitin.com for the detection of plagiarism. All submitted papers will be included as source documents in the Turnitin.com reference database solely for the purpose of detecting plagiarism of such papers. Use of Turnitin.com page service is subject to the Usage Policy and Privacy Pledge posted on the Turnitin.com site. At the end of the Add/Drop period (Tuesday, 18 January), the instructor will provide all students with information on uploading the essays to Turnitin (class number, class ID, and password). All essays must be uploaded to Turnitin.com no later than 4:00pm on Thursday, 21 April. Any essay uploaded after the beginning of class on the date due will be penalized one grade (from a B+ to a B; from a C to a C-); any essay delivered after the date due will be penalized one full grade per day (from A to B to C, etc.).

All students must submit to the instructor in writing the specific topic for their essay no later than Tuesday, 15 March. Students are encouraged to discuss their choice of topics with the instructor during office hours or by appointment before submitting the proposal. The instructor will not provide topics for students.

Plot summary is neither part of a discussion nor of an analysis. Plot summaries are both boring to read and an insult to your reader. Always credit your reader with a minimum of intelligence and assume s/he has also read-seen-examined the work you are discussing. Plot summaries will not be accepted as part of the essay.

Secondary sources—at least four secondary sources (only two of which can be online sources)—must be used in the essay and must be credited in footnotes or endnotes. . All citations and notes must conform with the standard scholarly format as listed in Joseph Gibaldi, *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers*, 7th edition (NY: MLA, 2009). Failure to use secondary sources will result in an automatic "F" grade on any paper; failure to credit sources—partially or totally—constitutes plagiarism and will result in an automatic "F" grade in the course and in administrative action against the student. Plagiarism is described in the *MLA Handbook*, section I.8. Students are encouraged to question the instructor about plagiarism both during the lecture/discussion meetings and during office hours.

X. Evaluations and grades:

In addition to the grades for each session, students will receive grades for their quizzes, midterm examination or presentation, and final essay. The final grade will be determined by calculating all grades received in the course: classroom participation (15%); quizzes (15%); midterm examination or presentation (30%); final essay (40%).

XI. Disability:

If you have a disability for which you are or may be requesting an accommodation, you are encouraged to contact both your instructor and the Office of Disability Resources and Services, 216 William Pitt Union, 412-648-7890 or 412-383-7355 (TTY) as early as possible in the term. DRS will verify your disability and determine reasonable accommodations for this course.

X.II Academic Integrity Policy:

Cheating/plagiarism will not be tolerated. Students suspected of violating the University of Pittsburgh policy on Academic Integrity will be required to participate in the procedural process initiated by the instructor. A minimum sanction of a zero score for the quiz, exam, or paper will be imposed.

XIII. E-mail Communication Policy:

Each student is issued a University e-mail address (username@pitt.edu) upon admittance. This e-mail address may be used by the University for official communication with students. Students are expected to read e-mail sent to this account on a regular basis. Failure to read and react to University communications in a timely manner does not absolve the student from knowing and complying with the content of the communications. The University provides an e-mail forwarding service that allows students to read their e-mail via other service providers (e.g., Gmail, Hotmail, AOL, Yahoo). Students that choose to forward their e-mail from the pitt.edu address to another address do so at their own risk. If e-mail is lost as a result of forwarding, it does not absolve the student from responding to official communications sent to their University e-mail address. To forward e-mail sent to your University account, go to <http://accounts.pitt.edu>, log into your account, click on Edit Forwarding Address, and follow the instructions on the page. Be sure to log out of your account when you have finished. For full E-mail Communication Policy, go to www.bc.pitt.edu/policies/09/09-10-1.html.

XIV. Schedule of assignments:

week 1: Thursday, 6 January: Introduction. Syllabus.

week 2: Tuesday, 11 January: Nikolai Chernyshevsky, excerpts from *What is to be Done?* (104-122)

Thursday, 13 January: *Notes from Underground* (part I)

week 3: Tuesday, 18 September: *Notes from Underground* (part II)

Thursday, 20 January: *Crime and Punishment* (part I)

week 4: Tuesday, 25 January: *Crime and Punishment* (parts II and III)

Thursday, 27 January: *Crime and Punishment* (part IV)

week 5: Tuesday, 1 February: *Crime and Punishment* (parts V and VI, i-iv)

Thursday, 3 February: *Crime and Punishment* (part VI, v-viii and Epilogue)

week 6: Tuesday, 8 February: *The Idiot* (I, i-viii)

Thursday, 10 February: *The Idiot* (I, ix-xvi)

week 7: Tuesday, 15 February: *The Idiot* (II, i-viii)

Thursday, 17 February: *The Idiot* (II, ix-xii; III, i-ii)

week 8: Tuesday, 22 February: *The Idiot* (III, iii-x)

Thursday, 24 February: *The Idiot* (IV, i-vii)

week 9: Tuesday, 1 March: *The Idiot* (IV, viii-xi)

Thursday, 3 March

**MIDTERM QUESTIONS DISTRIBUTED
IN-CLASS MIDTERM**

SPRING BREAK

week 10: Tuesday, 15 March: *Demons* (I)

Thursday, 17 March: *Demons* (II, i-iii)

ESSAY TOPICS DUE

week 11: Tuesday, 22 March: *Demons* (II, iv-vii)

Thursday, 24 March: *Demons* (II, viii-x and III, i-ii)

week 12: Tuesday, 29 March: *Demons* (III, iii-vi)

Thursday, 31 March: *Demons* (III, vii-viii and “At Tikhon’s”)

week 13: Tuesday, 5 April: *The Brothers Karamazov* (Part I, Books 1—3)

Thursday, 7 April: *The Brothers Karamazov* (Part II, Books 4—5)

week 14: Tuesday, 12 April: *The Brothers Karamazov* (Part II, Book 6 and Part III, Books 7—8)

Thursday, 14 April: (Part III, Book 9 and Part IV, Book 10)

week 15: Tuesday, 19 April: *The Brothers Karamazov* (Part IV, Book 11)

Thursday, 21 April: *The Brothers Karamazov* (Part IV, Book 12 and Epilogue)

ESSAY DUE