

University of Pittsburgh
Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures

Russian 1202: Dostoevsky: The Major Novels
Spring 2007 (2074)

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CL 313

<http://www.pitt.edu/gmmst11/1202/>

A close contextual examination of Dostoevsky's major novels, beginning with *Notes from Underground*, *Crime and Punishment*, *The Idiot*, *The Devils*, and *The Brothers Karamazov*. Each text will be analyzed in the context of the cultural and intellectual debates that accompanied its reception in Imperial Russia and the Soviet Union. Secondary readings may include representative essays by the social critics, formalists, Marxists, and semioticians.

Required Texts

Dostoevsky, Fyodor. *The Brothers Karamazov*. Rev. and ed. Ralph E. Matlaw. Tr. Constance Garnett. New York: Norton, 1976

Dostoevsky, Feodor. *Crime and Punishment*. Ed. George Gibian. Tr. Jessie Coulson. 3rd ed. New York: Norton, 1989.

Dostoevsky, Fyodor. *The Devils*. Tr. David Magarshack. New York: Penguin, 1971.

Dostoevsky, Fyodor. *The Idiot*. Tr. David McDuff. New York: Penguin, 2004.

Dostoevsky, Fyodor. *Notes from Underground*. Tr and ed. Michael Katz. 2nd ed. New York: Norton, 2001.

Gibaldi, Joseph. *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers*. 6th ed. New York: MLA, 2003.

Students are required to purchase the specified editions of Dostoevsky's novels and to bring the assigned texts with them to each class meeting.

Class Meetings

Class sessions will consist of some combination of the following: short written quizzes, instructor lectures, short student presentations (discussion starters), general classroom discussions.

Course Requirements

1. Students are required to complete assigned readings before the date indicated in the Schedule of Assignments below. Every student must bring their own copy of the assigned text to class. Active and informed participation in classroom discussions is expected at every class meeting.
2. Attendance is mandatory for all scheduled class meetings. Students will receive weekly grades for the meetings of the course, based on their active participation in and contribution to class discussions. Students absent from any class meeting receive a 0 [zero] for their contribution to that day's discussion. Students absent from **six** class meetings over the course of the semester will receive **a grade of F for the course**.

All excused absences—personal health or death in the family—must be specifically documented.

3. Each student in the class will be responsible for presenting the material for **one** class meeting in the form of a small oral presentation. The goal of the presentation is to review the assigned reading, provide any background information necessary, and initiate discussion. The date for each student's class presentation will be set during the third week of the semester.
4. Each student must submit the three required written papers, described below, on or before the respective due date. Late papers will not be accepted.
5. The course will conclude with a written Final Examination, which will cover all assigned texts as well as the content of instructor lectures and classroom discussions.

Grading

The final grade will be calculated according to the following schema:

Contribution to classroom discussion: 30%
Quizzes: 15%
Written Papers: 30% (5%+10%+15%)
Class Presentation: 10%
Final Examination: 15%

Papers

Students will write three papers during the semester. The due dates for the papers are given in the Schedule of Assignments. Papers must be submitted in **hard copy** at the start of class on the date due. No electronic submissions will be accepted. Papers must be formatted according to the MLA style guidelines, as outlined in the *MLA Handbook*. The approximate length of the papers is as follows:

Paper 1: 1000 words
Paper 2: 1500 words.
Paper 3: 3000 words

Detailed written instructions as to the topics and scope of the three papers will be distributed during the 4th, 7th, and 10th weeks of the course, respectively. Use of secondary literature will be required for the second and third papers. Independent library research will be expected for the writing of the third paper. *Students are strongly discouraged from using the Internet for research in this course!* Inappropriate use of Internet sources can have a devastating effect on the quality of academic work and will most likely result in a grade of "F" on a paper.

It is anticipated that the third paper will be a revision, expansion, and/or continuation of the topic treated in one of the two earlier papers. Students are encouraged to consult with the instructor during the writing of the papers.

Schedule of Assignments

Wednesday, 3 January: no reading assignment

Monday, 8 January: Chernyshevsky, *What Is To Be Done?* (excerpts); *Notes From Underground*, Part I

Wednesday, 10 January: *Notes From Underground*, Part II

Wednesday, 17 January: *Crime and Punishment*, Part I

Monday, 22 January: *Crime and Punishment*, Part II

Wednesday, 24 January: *Crime and Punishment*, Part III

Monday, 29 January: *Crime and Punishment*, Part IV

Wednesday, 31 January: *Crime and Punishment*, Part V

Monday: 5 February: *Crime and Punishment*, Part VI and Epilogue

Wednesday, 7 February: *The Idiot*, I, i–viii

Paper 1 due

Monday, 12 February: *The Idiot*, I, ix–xvi; II, i–ii

Wednesday, 14 February: *The Idiot*, II, iii–xii

Monday, 19 February: *The Idiot*, III, i–vi

Wednesday, 21 February: *The Idiot*, III, vii–x; IV, i–iv

Monday, 26 February: *The Idiot*, IV, v–xii

Wednesday, 28 February:

Paper 2 due

Monday: 12 March: *The Devils*, I

Wednesday, 14 March: *The Devils*, II, i–iv

Monday, 19 March: *The Devils*, II, v–x

Wednesday, 21 March: *The Devils*, III, i–iv

Monday, 26 March: *The Devils*, III, v–x; “Stavrogin’s Confession”

Wednesday, 28 March: *The Brothers Karamazov*, Books 1–2

Monday: 2 April: *The Brothers Karamazov*, Books 3–4

Wednesday, 4 April: *The Brothers Karamazov*, Books 5–6

Monday, 9 April: *The Brothers Karamazov*, Books 7–8

Wednesday, 11 April: *The Brothers Karamazov*, Books 9–10

Monday, 16 April: *The Brothers Karamazov*, Book 11

Wednesday, 18 April: *The Brothers Karamazov*, Book 12 and Epilogue

Paper 3 due

Tuesday, 24 April: Final Examination at 8:00 am.