

**Slavic and Eastern Languages 207 (S: 3)**  
**English 303 (S: 3)**  
Boston College/ Spring Semester 2008  
Classes: M W F 2-2<sup>50</sup> Lyons 207

Professor Maxim D. Shrayer  
Office: Lyons Hall 210  
Office hours: M 1-2; F 3-4\*

## **TOLSTOY AND DOSTOEVSKY (SL 205/EN 303)**

### **COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

A comparative study of two giants of world literature, with their opposing perceptions of reality, art and civilization. A reading of their principal novels and short prose, with a focus on psychological, moral, and religious questions and in light of twentieth-century literary theory.

*All classes and readings are in English. Students and speakers of Russian contribute their knowledge of Russian language and culture to the discussion.*

### **REQUIRED TEXTS** (books for sale at the BC Bookstore and on 2-hr reserve at O'Neill Library):

Dostoevsky, Fyodor. *The Idiot*. Tr. Richard Pevear and Larissa Volokhonsky. New York: Vintage Classics, 2001.

Dostoevsky, Fyodor. *The Brothers Karamazov*. Tr. Richard Pevear and Larissa Volokhonsky. New York: FSG, 1990.

Dostoevsky, Fyodor. *The Best Short Stories of Dostoevsky*. Tr. David Magarshak. New York: The Modern Library, 1992. (hereafter: Best/Dost.)

Tolstoy, Leo [Lev]. *Great Short Stories of Leo Tolstoy*. Tr. Louise and Aylmer Maude. New York: Harper & Row, 1967. (hereafter: Great/Tolstoy)

Tolstoy, Leo [Lev]. *Anna Karenina*. Tr. Richard Pevear and Larissa Volokhonsky. New York: Penguin, 2000.

*Tolstoy and Dostoevsky: A Selection of Reading Materials*. BC Press, 2008. (hereafter: Selection)

---

\* To schedule an appointment, please contact Ms. Demetra Parasirakis at (617) 552-3910 or demetra.parasirakis@bc.edu.

**REQUIREMENTS:**

- active participation in class discussions
- two short papers (5-6 pp., 1000-1200 words), due in class, respectively,  
February 6 and April 23
- written midterm, February 22
- final written examination, May 7

**The FINAL GRADE** will be calculated as follows:

- 30% daily attendance and class participation
- 30% two short papers
- 15% midterm exam
- 25% final exam

**A** = excellent **B** = good **C** = satisfactory **D** = unsatisfactory but passing **F** = failure  
plus and minus are discretionary qualifiers

**CLASS ATTENDANCE AND ACADEMIC INTEGRITY:**

Class attendance is mandatory.

Boston College values the academic integrity of its students and faculty. It is your responsibility to familiarize yourself with the university's policy on academic integrity (pp. 35-37 of the 2007-08 BC Catalog; online [www.bc.edu/integrity](http://www.bc.edu/integrity)). If you have any questions, always consult your professor.

Violations of academic integrity will be reported to your class dean and judged by the academic integrity committee in your school. If you are found responsible for violating the policy, penalties may include a failing grade as well as possible probation, suspension, or expulsion, depending on the seriousness and circumstances of the violation.

**REFERENCE WORKS:**

Numerous reference works on literary history, terminology, and theory are in print. The library will have many different titles in the stacks and in the reference area. The following titles have been popular among students:

- Cuddon, J. A. A Dictionary of Literary Terms and Literary Theory. Cambridge, MA: Blackwell, 1991.
- Drabble, Margaret, ed. The Oxford Companion to English Literature. Oxford: Oxford UP, 1985.
- Preminger, Alex and T. V. F. Brogan, eds. The New Princeton Encyclopedia of Poetry and Poetics. New York: MJF Press, 1993.

Prince, Gerald. Dictionary of Narratology. Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1987.  
Terras, Victor, ed. Handbook of Russian Literature. New Haven: Yale UP, 1985.

### **BIBLIOGRAPHY:**

Studies of Tolstoy and Dostoevsky are legion. I have put on 2-hr. reserve at O'Neill some fifty critical and biographical works that may prove useful in your preparation to exams and term papers (see RESERVE LIST). I will be happy to make further suggestions for study and research.

### **SCHEDULE OF CLASS MEETINGS, READINGS, AND ASSIGNMENTS:**

M, Jan 14:	Introduction
W, Jan 16	Required reading: Dostoevsky, <i>White Nights</i> , Best/Dost., 1-69
F, Jan 18	Required reading: Tolstoy, <i>The Cossacks</i> , Best/Tolstoy, 85-166 Jakobson, "On Realism in Art," Selection
M, Jan 21	No Classes: Martin L. King, Jr. Day
W, Jan 23	Required reading: Tolstoy, <i>The Cossacks</i> , Best/Tolstoy, 167-191
F, Jan 25	Required reading: Tolstoy, <i>The Cossacks</i> , Best/Tolstoy, 191-243
M, Jan 28	Required reading: Dostoevsky, <i>Notes from the Underground</i> , Best/Dostoevsky, 115-158
W, Jan 30	Required reading: Dostoevsky, <i>Notes from the Underground</i> , Best/Tolstoy, 158-260
F, Feb 1	Required reading: Tolstoy, <i>Holstomer</i> Shklovsky, "Art as Device," Selection
M, Feb 4	Required Reading: Tolstoy, <i>Holstomer</i>
W, Feb 6	Short Paper 1 is due in class Required reading: Dostoevsky, <i>The Idiot</i> , 1-88
F, Feb 8	Required reading: Dostoevsky, <i>The Idiot</i> , 89-175
M, Feb 11	Required reading: Dostoevsky, <i>The Idiot</i> , 179-250
W, Feb 13	Required reading: Dostoevsky, <i>The Idiot</i> , 250-321

F, Feb 15	Required reading:	Dostoevsky, <i>The Idiot</i> , 326-457 Bakhtin, <i>Problems of Dostoevsky's Poetics</i> , xii-xliii, 3-46, Selection
M, Feb 18	Required reading:	Dostoevsky, <i>The Idiot</i> , 461-572 Bakhtin, 47-77, Selection
W, Feb 20	Required reading:	Dostoevsky, <i>The Idiot</i> , 572-615
F, Feb 22	Written Midterm Examination	
M, Feb 25	Required reading:	Tolstoy, <i>Anna Karenina</i> , 1-115
W, Feb 27	Required reading:	Tolstoy, <i>Anna Karenina</i> , 117-236
F, Feb 29	Required readings:	Tolstoy, <i>Anna Karenina</i> , 237-352 Girard, "Triangular Desire," Selection <i>Guest Speaker: TBA</i>
M, March 3-F, March 7	No Classes: Spring Break	
M, March 10	Required reading:	Tolstoy, <i>Anna Karenina</i> , 353-435
W, March 12	Required reading:	Tolstoy, <i>Anna Karenina</i> , 437-549
F, March 14	Required reading:	Tolstoy, <i>Anna Karenina</i> , 551-669
M, March 17	Required reading:	Tolstoy, <i>Anna Karenina</i> , 671-768
W, March 19	Required reading:	Tolstoy, <i>Anna Karenina</i> , 769-817
F, March 21-M, March 24	No Classes: Easter Break	
W, March 26	Required reading:	
F, March 28	Required reading:	Dostoevsky, <i>A Gentle Creature</i> , Best/Dost., 261-319 <i>Guest Speaker: TBA</i>
M, March 31	Required reading:	Dostoevsky, "Bobok"; "The Boy at Christ's Christmas Tree," Selection

W, April 2	Required reading:	Dostoevsky, <i>The Brothers Karamazov</i> , 1-84 + notes
F, April 4	Required reading:	Dostoevsky, <i>The Brothers Karamazov</i> , 84-212
M, April 7	Required reading:	Dostoevsky, <i>The Brothers Karamazov</i> , 213-283 Jackson, "The Sentencing...", Selection
W, April 9	Required reading:	Dostoevsky, <i>The Brothers Karamazov</i> , 283-363
F, April 11	Required reading:	Dostoevsky, <i>The Brothers Karamazov</i> , 364-512 Freud, "Dostoevsky and Parricide," Selection
M, April 14	Required reading	Dostoevsky, <i>The Brothers Karamazov</i> , 516-562
W, April 16	Required reading:	Dostoevsky, <i>The Brothers Karamazov</i> , 563-753
F, April 18	Required reading:	Dostoevsky, <i>The Brothers Karamazov</i> , 758-776 Shrayer, "The Jewish Question...", Selection
M, April 21	No Classes: Patriot's Day	
W, April 23	Short Paper 2 is due in class. No Extensions!	
	Required reading:	Tolstoy, <i>The Kreutzer Sonata</i> , Great/Tolstoy, 353-394
F, April 25	Required reading:	Tolstoy, <i>The Kreutzer Sonata</i> , Great/Tolstoy, 394-449
M, April 28	Required reading:	Tolstoy, <i>Father Sergius</i> , Great/Tolstoy, 501-525
F, April 30	Required reading:	Tolstoy, <i>Father Sergius</i> , Great/Tolstoy, 526-546
W, May 7	Written Final Examination 9 A.M.	

---

Please register all your questions, doubts, and suggestions with me as soon as they have arisen. I am delighted to be working with you and look forward to a rewarding intellectual dialogue.

M.D.S.