

**Slavic and Eastern Languages and Literatures 205 (S: 3)
English 303 (S: 3)**
Boston College/ Spring Semester 2011
Classes: M W F 3-3⁵⁰ Fulton 210

Professor Maxim D. Shrayer
Office: Lyons Hall 201B
Office hours: M 4-5; W 2-3*

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 reserve at O'Neill; please use **only** the required editions/translations):

- 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, 2001. (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 Eagle Press, 2011. (hereafter: *Selection*)

REQUIREMENTS:

- active participation in class discussions
- two short papers (4-5 pp., approx. 1000 words), due in class, respectively, February 9 and April 20
- written midterm, February 25
- final written examination, May 12

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

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 (BC Catalog; <http://www.bc.edu/offices/stserv/academic/resources/policy.html#integrity>). If you have any questions, please approach the instructor. 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.

SCHEDULE OF CLASS MEETINGS, READINGS, AND ASSIGNMENTS:

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| W, Jan 19 | Introduction |
| F, Jan 21 | Dostoevsky, <i>White Nights</i> , <i>Best/Dost.</i> , 1-69 |
| M, Jan 24 | Tolstoy, <i>The Cossacks</i> , <i>Best/Tolstoy</i> , 85-166 Jakobson, "On Realism in Art," <i>Selection</i> |
| W, Jan 26 | Tolstoy, <i>The Cossacks</i> , <i>Best/Tolstoy</i> , 167-191 |

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| F, Jan 28 | Tolstoy, <i>The Cossacks</i> , <i>Best/Tolstoy</i> , 191-243 |
| M, Jan 31 | Dostoevsky, <i>Notes from the Underground</i> , <i>Best/Dostoevsky</i> , 95-130 |
| W, Feb 2 | Dostoevsky, <i>Notes from the Underground</i> , <i>Best/Tolstoy</i> , 130-213 |
| F, Feb 4 | Tolstoy, <i>Holstomer</i> Shklovsky, "Art as Device," <i>Selection</i> |
| M, Feb 7 | Tolstoy, <i>Holstomer</i> |
| W, Feb 9 | Dostoevsky, <i>The Idiot</i> , 1-88 Short Paper 1 is due February 9 in class |
| F, Feb 11 | Dostoevsky, <i>The Idiot</i> , 89-175 |
| M, Feb 14 | Dostoevsky, <i>The Idiot</i> , 179-250 |
| W, Feb 16 | Dostoevsky, <i>The Idiot</i> , 250-321 |
| F, Feb 18 | Dostoevsky, <i>The Idiot</i> , 326-457 Bakhtin, <i>Problems of Dostoevsky's Poetics</i> , xii-xliii, 3-46, <i>Selection</i> |
| M, Feb 21 | Dostoevsky, <i>The Idiot</i> , 461-572 Bakhtin, 47-77, <i>Selection</i> |
| W, Feb 23 | Dostoevsky, <i>The Idiot</i> , 572-615 |
| F, Feb 25 | Written Midterm Examination |
| M, Feb 28 | Tolstoy, <i>Anna Karenina</i> , 1-115 |
| W, March 2 | Tolstoy, <i>Anna Karenina</i> , 117-236 |
| F, March 2 | Tolstoy, <i>Anna Karenina</i> , 237-352 Girard, "Triangular Desire," <i>Selection</i> |
| F, March 4 | Tolstoy, <i>Anna Karenina</i> , 353-435 |
| M, March 7-F, March 11 | No Classes: Spring Break |
| M, March 14 | Tolstoy, <i>Anna Karenina</i> , 437-549 |
| W, March 16 | Tolstoy, <i>Anna Karenina</i> , 551-669 |

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| F, March 18 | Tolstoy, <i>Anna Karenina</i> , 671-768 |
| M, March 21 | Tolstoy, <i>Anna Karenina</i> , 769-817 |
| W, March 23 | Dostoevsky, <i>A Gentle Creature, Best/Dost.</i> , 215-243 |
| F, March 25 | Dostoevsky, <i>A Gentle Creature, Best/Dost.</i> , 243-262 |
| M, March 28 | Dostoevsky, "Bobok"; "The Boy at Christ's Christmas Tree," <i>Selection</i> |
| W, March 30 | Dostoevsky, <i>The Brothers Karamazov</i> , 1-84 + notes |
| F, April 1 | Dostoevsky, <i>The Brothers Karamazov</i> , 84-212 |
| M, April 4 | Dostoevsky, <i>The Brothers Karamazov</i> , 213-283 Jackson, "The Sentencing...", <i>Selection</i> |
| W, April 6 | Dostoevsky, <i>The Brothers Karamazov</i> , 283-363 |
| F, April 8 | Dostoevsky, <i>The Brothers Karamazov</i> , 364-512 Freud, "Dostoevsky and Parricide," <i>Selection</i> |
| M, April 11 | Dostoevsky, <i>The Brothers Karamazov</i> , 516-562 |
| W, April 13 | Dostoevsky, <i>The Brothers Karamazov</i> , 563-753 |
| F, April 15 | Dostoevsky, <i>The Brothers Karamazov</i> , 758-776 Shrayer, "The Jewish Question...", <i>Selection</i> |
| M, April 18 | No Classes: Patriots' Day |
| W, April 20 | Tolstoy, <i>The Kreutzer Sonata, Great/Tolstoy</i> , 353-394 Short Paper 2 is due April 20 in class |
| Thu, April 21-M, April 25 | No Classes: Easter and Passover Break |
| W, April 27 | Tolstoy, <i>The Kreutzer Sonata, Great/Tolstoy</i> , 394-449 |
| F, April 29 | Tolstoy, <i>Father Sergius, Great/Tolstoy</i> , 501-525 |
| M, May 2 | Tolstoy, <i>Father Sergius, Great/Tolstoy</i> , 526-546 |
| W, May 4 | Conclusion |
| Th, May 12 | Written Final Examination 12:30 PM |