**Spring 2016**

**Russian 5250.02 (3-4 cr.)**

**The Russian Writer: Fyodor Dostoevsky**

**TuTh TBD**

**Classroom TBD**

**Instructor: Prof. Alexander Burry**

**Email: burry.7@osu.edu**

**Office: 345 Hagerty Hall (center of building, across from classroom 351)**

**Office hours: TBD**

**Description**

This course will cover several of Fyodor Dostoevsky’s major works from different periods: *The Double*, *Notes from Underground*, *The Idiot*, and *The Brothers Karamazov*. We will read the texts closely, considering their social, political, philosophical, and aesthetic contexts. Readings will also include critical articles and excerpts on Dostoevsky’s novels.

**Class Structure**

Class sessions will consist of a combination of lecture and discussion. Generally, the first half of the class will be lecture, followed by class discussion after a short break. All readings and assignments must be done on time, and students should be prepared to contribute actively to all discussions. All readings are in English; graduate students specializing in Russian literature should read the primary texts in the original. You will usually have 150-200 pages of reading per week.

**Readings**

Fyodor Dostoevsky, *Notes from Underground* and *The Double* (SBX)

-- *The Idiot* (SBX)

-- *The Brothers Karamazov* (SBX)

Other readings are available on Carmen.

**Grading**

Attendance 10%

Participation 10%

Reading Quizzes 20%

Midterm Paper 20%

Final Paper 40%

**Grading Scale**

A 93 +; A- 90-92; B+ 87-89; B 83-86; B- 80-82; C+ 77-79; C 73-76; C- 70-72;

D 60-69; F 59-

**Grading Criteria**

**Attendance**

You must attend every session of the course, barring serious illness, family emergencies, or religious holidays. Documentation must be provided in all of these cases. The 10 points of the grade will be calculated based on the percentage of days attended: 27 out of 30 days attended, for instance, would yield 90% attendance, or 9 out of 10 points. Work, job interviews, personal trips, non-emergency doctors’ visits, and meetings with advisors must be scheduled around the class time; they are *not* valid excuses for missing class.

**Participation**

You are required to participate actively, enthusiastically, and in a collegial manner in all sessions. This involves reading all materials by the date indicated and preparing thoughtful responses based on the texts and themes of the course ahead of time. The following criteria will be used to establish participation grades:

A (10/10 points): clear evidence of preparation, frequent voluntary participation, and significant contribution to all class discussions.

B (8/10): clear evidence of preparation, participation in most of the classes.

C (6/10): evidence of preparation, but inconsistent participation.

D (5/10): inconsistent preparation, rare contributions to the class discussions.

E (1-4/10): attendance, but no evidence of preparation; no contribution to the discussions.

**Reading Quizzes**

There will be quizzes at the beginning of each class to make sure that you are keeping up with the reading. These quizzes will usually require very brief factual information about plot, characters, etc. The lowest 3 quiz grades (including missed quizzes) will be dropped.

**Extra Sessions**

Each student must attend hour-long extra sessions every week, in which we discuss additional aspects of Dostoevsky’s works. Russian literature graduate students, native speakers of Russian, and advanced-level students of Russian will discuss selections from Dostoevsky in Russian. For non-Russian-speaking students, there will be sessions on English-language criticism of Dostoevsky. Times and locations will be arranged two weeks before the start of the course.

**Midterm Paper**

The midterm paper should be a close reading of any of the works we cover through *The Idiot*. It should be 7-8 typed, double-spaced pages in length, and must be submitted electronically on Friday, Mar. 4 (Carmen Dropbox). Reference to critical or other outside sources is optional.

**Final Paper**

The final paper should combine close analysis of *The Brothers Karamazov* with substantial research into your chosen topic. Include at least 5-7 critical sources, including both journal articles and monographs on Dostoevsky. The paper should be 10-12 typed, double-spaced pages in length, and must be submitted electronically on Thursday, Apr. 28. To get full credit for the final paper, you must also submit a 100-200-word synopsis of your idea and a bibliography by Sunday, Apr. 17, and bring a rough draft to class on Thurs., Apr. 21. These rough drafts will be exchanged with classmates for further feedback. You will receive 5 points for the synopsis, 5 for the rough draft, and a maximum of 30 points for the final version of the paper.

**Academic Integrity**

It is the responsibility of the Committee on Academic Misconduct to investigate or establish procedures for the investigation of all reported cases of student academic misconduct. The term “academic misconduct” includes all forms of student academic misconduct wherever committed; illustrated by, but not limited to, cases of plagiarism and dishonest practices in connection with examinations. Instructors shall report all instances of alleged academic misconduct to the committee (Faculty Rule 3335-5-487). For additional information, see the Code of Student Conduct (http://studentaffairs.osu.edu/info\_for\_students/csc.asp).

**Students with Disabilities**

Any student who feels that he or she may need an accommodation due to a disability should contact me privately to discuss his or her specific needs. Students with documented disabilities may contact the Office for Disability Services at 614-292-3307 in 150 Pomerene Hall to coordinate reasonable accommodations. More information is available at the internet address of this office (http://www.ods.ohio-state.edu).

**Schedule of Readings and Assignments**

**(subject to change)**

**Week 1**

Jan. 12 Introduction to Dostoevsky, the Russian Novel

Reading for Jan. 14: *The Double*, Ch. 1-5 (pp. 121-167)

Jan. 14 *The Double*

Reading for Jan. 19: *The Double*, Ch. 6-13 (pp. 167-282)

**Week 2**

Jan. 19 *The Double*

Reading for Jan. 21: Excerpts from *Notes from the House of the Dead;*

Excerpts from Chernyshevsky, *What is To Be Done?*

Jan. 21 *Notes from the House of the Dead*; Chernyshevsky

Reading for Jan. 26: *Notes from the Underground*, Parts I, II

**Week 3**

Jan. 26 *Notes from Underground*

Reading for Jan. 28: Excerpts from Bakhtin, *Problems of Dostoevsky’s Poetics*

Jan. 28 *Notes from Underground*; Bakhtin

Reading for Feb. 2: *The Idiot*, Part I, Ch. 1-10 (pp. 5-118)

**Week 4**

Feb. 2 *The Idiot*

Reading for Feb. 4: *The Idiot*, Part I, Ch. 11-16 (pp. 118-175)

Feb. 4 *The Idiot*

Reading for Feb. 9: *The Idiot*, Part II, Ch. 1-7 (pp. 179-259)

**Week 5**

Feb. 9 *The Idiot*

Reading for Feb. 11: *The Idiot*, Part II, Ch. 8-12 (pp. 259-321)

Feb. 11 *The Idiot*

Reading for Feb. 16: *The Idiot*, Part III, Ch. 1-7 (pp. 325-424)

**Week 6**

Feb. 16 *The Idiot*

Reading for Feb. 18: *The Idiot*, Part III, Ch. 8-10 (pp. 424-457)

Feb. 18 *The Idiot*

Reading for Feb. 23: *The Idiot*, Part IV, Ch. 1-8 (pp. 461-572)

**Week 7**

Feb. 23 *The Idiot*

Reading for Feb. 25: *The Idiot*, Part IV, Ch. 9-12 (pp. 572-615)

Feb. 25 *The Idiot*

Reading for Mar. 1: *The Idiot*, Critical Excerpts

**Week 8**

Mar. 1 *The Idiot*

Reading for Mar. 3: Excerpts from Dostoevsky, *A Writer’s Diary*

**Midterm Paper due Friday, Mar. 4 (Carmen Dropbox)**

Mar. 3 *A Writer’s Diary*

Reading for Mar. 8: *The Brothers Karamazov*, Book 1-2 (pp. 7-84)

**Week 9**

Mar. 8 *The Brothers Karamazov*

Reading for Mar. 10: *The Brothers Karamazov*, Book 3 (pp. 85-141)

Mar. 10 *The Brothers Karamazov*

Reading for Mar. 22: *The Brothers Karamazov*, Books 4-5 (pp. 145-243)

**Spring Break, Mar. 14-18**

**Week 10**

Mar. 22 *The Brothers Karamazov*

Reading for Mar. 24: *The Brothers Karamazov*, Book 6 (pp. 245-280)

Mar. 24 *The Brothers Karamazov*

Reading for Mar. 29: *The Brothers Karamazov*, Books 7-8 (pp. 283-378)

**Week 11**

Mar. 29 *The Brothers Karamazov*

Reading for Mar. 31: *The Brothers Karamazov*, Book 9 (pp. 379-432)

Mar. 31 *The Brothers Karamazov*

Reading for Apr. 5: *The Brothers Karamazov*, Book 10 (pp. 435-474)

**Week 12**

Apr. 5 *The Brothers Karamazov*

Reading for Apr. 7: *The Brothers Karamazov*, Book 11 (pp. 475-551)

Apr. 7 *The Brothers Karamazov*

Reading for Apr. 12: *The Brothers Karamazov*, Book 12 (pp. 553-630)

**Week 13**

Apr. 12 *The Brothers Karamazov*

Reading for Apr. 14: Epilogue (pp. 631-646), Criticism (Vetlovskaya, Volgin)

Apr. 14 *The Brothers Karamazov*

Reading for Apr. 19: Criticism (Morson, McReynolds, Golstein)

**Synopsis of Final Paper Due Sunday, Apr. 17 (Carmen Dropbox)**

**Week 14**

Apr. 19 Criticism of *The Brothers Karamazov*

**Rough Draft of Final Paper Due in Class Apr. 21**

Apr. 21 Final Dostoevsky Discussion; Rough Drafts of Papers Due

**Final Papers Due Thursday, Apr. 28 (Carmen Dropbox)**