
DOSTOEVSKY: BETWEEN MARGINALITY AND MADNESS in Spring 2019 (CL3056)

Course Code	CL3056	Professor(s)	Roy Rosenstein
Prerequisites	None	Office Number	G-108
Class Schedule	TF: 13:45-15:05 in G-113	Office Hours	TF 13h30 (by appointment only) TF 18h20 (by appointment or walk-in) Other days and times by appointment Hours end the last day of our class, May 7
Credits	4	Email	rrosenstein@aup.edu
Semester	Spring 2019	Office Tel. Ext.	

Course Description

Dostoevsky and Beyond: Between Marginality and Madness

The intellectual anti-heroes and heroines of Dostoevsky's novels, novellas, and short stories from the period beginning with *Notes from Underground* in 1864 and closing with *The Brothers Karamazov* in 1880 have left a more decisive and enduring mark on Western culture than those of any other Russian writer, arguably of any modern writer. The author's struggles with poverty, poor health, imprisonment, epilepsy, and gambling led him to question the validity of any preconceived social, moral, or metaphysical order. His underground characters, divided between reason and will, confront desire, despair, schizophrenia, and insanity, sometimes descending into sado-masochism, rape, murder, and suicide. We will read three of his novels with an eye first to examining their Russian context and then to sampling their international repercussions : Gogol, Turgenev, Tolstoy, Gorky; Hesse, Faulkner, Wright, Sartre, Abe, Bernhard. Theater outings are planned early in the semester. Film screenings will also be incorporated, to the degree our schedule permits.

Course Learning Outcomes

To discover the nature and place of Dostoevsky's fiction in historical and international context.
To engage with Russian and other masterworks from the nineteenth century to the present.
To situate representative texts and authors in Russian and comparative literary history.
To assimilate and apply relevant critical terminology.

To develop coherent, well-structured analyses of the works under scrutiny.
To refine and polish essay-writing skills, both under time pressure and with research content.

General Education

[PLEASE EDIT OR REMOVE THE FOLLOWING TEXT AS APPLICABLE]

The general education program at AUP consists of four requirements: Speaking the World, Modeling the World, Mapping the World, and Comparing Worlds Past and Present.

This course can be used to fulfill the [INDICATE THE REQUIREMENT(S) FULFILLED BY THE COURSE] requirement and as such has the following learning outcomes:

[INDICATE THE GENERAL EDUCATION LEARNING OUTCOMES]

Course Outline

Dostoevsky: Probable Day-to-Day Semester Schedule

1. Tues., Jan. 22 Introduction: Nature and structure of the course. Why Dostoevsky?

2. Fri., Jan. 25 Dostoevsky, *Notes from Underground*, Part 1, pp. 84-117

3. Tues., Jan. 29 Typed, double-spaced maximum one-paragraph/one-page REACTION PAPER:

what are your first responses to *Notes from Underground* and its Underground

Man? Have you met anyone like him or read anything like it before? Is he mad?

Is he us? How do you understand him? Can we? How?

Notes, Part 2, 117-195.

4. Fri., Feb. 1 Typed comparative research interests SURVEY due: list TEN favorite works

of literature (fiction, poetry, and drama, by author and title), then state WHY

you

remember and appreciate them (max. 1 page total, double-spaced)

Gogol, "The Overcoat," "Diary of a Madman," "The Nose"

5. Tues., Feb. 5 Typed one-paragraph statement of comparative research INTERESTS submitted:

Who/what appeals to you most/least among the Russians? Sample RP topics

Turgenev, "Diary of a Superfluous Man "; Tolstoy, "Diary of a Madman"

6. Fri., Feb. 8 Dostoevsky, *The Double*

7. Tues., Feb. 12 One para. sample research TOPIC(S) proposed: What questions? comparisons?

The Brothers Karamazov (Dmitri)

8. Fri., Feb. 15 Typed MLA-style sample ANNOTATED RP BIBLIOGRAPHY submitted:
Two primary sources + ten print books/articles at AUP library (in stacks or online)

which might be interesting or useful for your course paper topics and HOW?

The Brothers Karamazov (Ivan)

9. Tues., Feb. 19 Typed sample preliminary RP OUTLINE (one page max.) submitted:

Title; Thesis; A(pproach), B(ody), C(onclusion)

In outline format, with bullet points and in complete sentences

The Brothers Karamazov (Alyosha, Smerdyakov)

10. Fri., Feb. 22 Gorky, *The Lower Depths*, Act One

NO AUP CLASSES, TUES. FEB. 26

11. Fri., Mar. 1 *The Lower Depths*, Acts Two to Four

SPRING BREAK: Finish *The Brothers Karamazov*, if you haven't already

12. Tues., Mar. 19 **MIDTERM EXAM**

(short-answer + essay-type questions : a dress rehearsal for the final exam)

MID-SEMESTER : are you reading *Steppenwolf*?

13. Fri., Mar. 22 Typed one-para. STATUS REPORT on research paper: progress?
problems?

Hesse, *Steppenwolf*, 1-80 and beyond

14. Tues., Mar. 26 ABSTRACTS explained

Steppenwolf, through 192-253

15. Fri., Mar. 29 Last-minute research paper details: print and bring your drafts!

16. Tues., Apr. 2 TWO stapled originals of typewritten **RESEARCH PAPER submitted today,**

EACH w/ typed one-para. (max.) ABSTRACT + one-page (max.) OUTLINE after titlepage;

Be sure to follow carefully our RP Guidelines and MLA Handbook

Faulkner, *The Sound and the Fury*, 3-75 (Benjy)

17. Fri., Apr. 5 *The Sound and the Fury*, 76-179 (Quentin)

18. Tues., Apr. 9 *The Sound and the Fury*, 180-264 (Jason), 265-321 (Dilsey)

19. Fri., Apr. 12 Wright, "The Man Who Lived Underground"

20. Tues., Apr. 16 "The Man Who Lived Underground"

21. Fri., Apr. 19 Kobo Abé, *Woman in the Dunes*

22. Tues., Apr. 23 *Woman in the Dunes*

23. Fri., Apr. 26 Sartre, *No Exit*

24. Tues., Apr. 30 Bernhard, *Concrete*

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25. Fri., May 3 Preparing the final exam
26. Tues., May 7 Final comments and discussions

May 8-12: Reading Days

Tues., May 14, noon-14h30: Comprehensive Final Exam

spanning all the semester's readings and discussions, Dostoevsky to Bernhard:

short identifications and essay question, just like the midterm

Textbooks

Title	Author	Publisher	ISBN	Required
Xerox: Tolstoy, Gorky, Wright	Rosenstein	AUP	2000000016320	Yes
Xerox: The Double	Rosenstein	AUP	2000000016337	Yes
Xerox: Concrete Brothers	Bernhard	AUP	2000000016344	Yes
Karamazov, trans. Pevear	Dostoevsky	Vintage	9780099922803	Yes
Steppenwolf	Hesse	Penguin	9780241951521	Yes
Diary of a Madman and Other Stories (trans. MacAndrew)	Gogol	Signet	9780451418562	Yes
Notes from Underground	Dostoyevsky	Signet	9780451529558	Yes
First Love and Diary of a Superfluous Man	Turgenev	Dover	9780486287751	Yes
No Exit and Three Other Plays	Sartre	Vintage	9780679725169	Yes
The Sound and the Fury	Faulkner	Vintage	9780679732242	Yes
Woman in the Dunes	Abe	Vintage	9780679733782	Yes

Attendance Policy

Students studying at The American University of Paris are expected to attend ALL scheduled classes, and in case of absence, should contact their professors to explain the situation. It is the student's responsibility to be aware of any specific attendance policy that a faculty member might have set in the course syllabus. The French Department, for example, has its own attendance policy, and students are responsible for compliance. Academic Affairs will excuse an absence for students' participation in study trips related to their courses.

Attendance at all exams is mandatory.

IN ALL CASES OF MISSED COURSE MEETINGS, THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR COMMUNICATION WITH THE PROFESSOR, AND FOR ARRANGING TO MAKE UP MISSED WORK, RESTS SOLELY WITH THE STUDENT.

Whether an absence is excused or not is ALWAYS up to the discretion of the professor or the department. Unexcused absences can result in a low or failing participation grade. In the case of excessive absences, it is up to the professor or the department to decide if the student will receive an "F" for the course. An instructor may recommend that a student withdraw, if absences have made it impossible to continue in the course at a satisfactory level.

Students must be mindful of this policy when making their travel arrangements, and especially during the Drop/Add and Exam Periods.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY STATEMENT: As an Anglophone university, The American University of Paris is strongly committed to effective English language mastery at the undergraduate level. Most courses require scholarly research and formal written and oral presentations in English, and AUP students are expected to strive to achieve excellence in these domains as part of their course work. To that end, professors include English proficiency among the criteria in student evaluation, often referring students to the university Writing Lab where they may obtain help on specific academic assignments. Proficiency in English is monitored at various points throughout the student's academic career, most notably during the admissions and advising processes, while the student is completing general education requirements, and during the accomplishment of degree program courses and senior theses.

Grading Policy

(33%) midterm examination (identifications and essay) in March; attendance; participation

(33%) research paper of ten pages on a pre-approved comparative topic centered on

Dostoevsky: pre-writes and typed proposal due before midterm; paper due early April, submitted in two copies with one-paragraph (maximum) abstract and one-page (maximum) outline following title page of each of the two originals. An email version is expected immediately after submission of hard copy to complete the requirement.

(33%) comprehensive final examination (identifications and essay) in May.

The Department of Comparative Literature and English has established the following grading standards:

A = Clearly planned and developed with original ideas and excellent written expression

B = Well organized, with strong potential

C = Adequate, with reasonable command of style and grammar

D = Confused in style with errors of various kinds.

All in-class exercises are of necessity handwritten; any homework must be typewritten or will not be accepted.

Please see also attached day-to-day schedule, research paper guidelines, common correction symbols, short-title secondary bibliography, and first reading. There will be additional handouts in the course of the semester.

VERBUM SAPIENTI SATIS EST. A make-up exercise is granted only for an absence excused in advance. Unexcused work missed is graded *F*. Papers submitted late are accepted and corrected at the instructor's discretion: they are not necessarily graded or granted credit. Research topics must be proposed in writing and approved in advance. Papers not following attached guidelines are not acceptable. Cheating, such as plagiarism, may lead to dismissal from class and/or the University. Hand-held devices other than pens are banned. DURA LEX SED LEX.

Other
