



RUSS 358

Winter 2024

Prof. **Lyudmila Parts**

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Office hours: Thursday 11:30-12:30.

Fedor Dostoevsky

Course objectives: a study of major works by Dostoevsky. Structure, themes, philosophical, religious, and political ideas, and their artistic and philosophical significance for Russia in the 19th century and beyond.

Required Texts (McGill Bookstore):

Feel free to use older editions. You can also find all of these in most libraries. But no electronic books on your phones or laptops.

1. *Course pack*
2. *The Best Short Stories of Fyodor Dostoevsky*. Transl. David Magarshack. Modern Library.
3. *The Idiot*. Transl. Richard Pevear, Larissa Volokhonsky, Vintage classics.
4. *The Brothers Karamazov*. Transl. Richard Pevear, Larissa Volokhonsky. Farrar, Straus and Giroux.

Readings:

Critical materials in the *Course pack* [CP] and on *MyCourses*

“White Nights” (1848) [in Best Short Stories, BSS]

Notes from the Underground (1864) [in BSS]

Albert Camus, excerpts from *Myth of Sisyphus* and *Rebel* [CP]

The Idiot (1868)

“The Eternal Husband” (1870) [CP]

“A Gentle Creature” (1876) [in BSS]

The Brothers Karamazov (1879)

Course requirements and policies:

Attendance and participation. Regular attendance and active participation is expected from all students. Class discussions are essential part of the course. Most assignments will relate to what we discuss in class. The matter of makeup assignments is to be discussed with me and is not guaranteed even with medical notes. There will be occasional spot-checks/quizzes. **There will be a great deal of reading**, plan your time accordingly. You are expected to complete all readings before each class. In addition to attendance grade, if you miss 4 or more classes you will lose half a grade and if you miss 7 or more classes – a full grade.

Use of Laptops. Given the type of participation that is expected, and out of respect for your fellow students, laptops, iPads, and other mobile computing and communication devices will not be permitted. That includes electronic books: you need to have real ones in front of you. If you

have special circumstances requiring you to use one of these devices, you must speak to me about it in my office hours.

Use of My Courses: all course information, news, and assignments are posted on MyCourses. Visit regularly and keep track of possible changes of schedule, Assignments, and Grades.

Critical Sources: to supplement the class discussion you will read several scholarly articles.

Written assignments (on MyCourses):

Analysis: **two** short submissions on major thematic and structural points discussed in class. The topics will be posted on MyCourses a week before the due date.

Reading Critical Sources: **two** assignments to read and summarise a critical source. You will submit on MyCourses AND bring a print-out to class, for discussion.

The Brothers Karamazov journal: you will keep a reader journal of the novel noting recurring images, motifs, conversation topics, and details of descriptions – everything that seems significant. You will submit your lists on MyCourses (with short explanations, about a page) each Tuesday morning by 10 am. while we read the novel, **four** submissions in all. Submit AND have a copy with you. Individual submissions will not be graded. You will receive the grade for the whole journal.

Final Paper: short analytical essay: 4-5 pages, double-spaced. You will use critical sources. Topics will be given in advance. The paper is to be submitted on MyCourses by **5 pm on April 16th**. No late papers will be accepted and no revisions allowed.

Final grade breakdown:

- Attendance and participation (including quizzes) – 10 %
- MyCourses assignments:
 - Analyses (2) – 30%
 - Summaries (2) – 20 %
- BK journal submissions – 15%
- Paper – 25%

Academic Integrity:

McGill University values academic integrity. Therefore, all students must understand the meaning and consequences of cheating, plagiarism and other academic offences under the Code of Student Conduct and Disciplinary Procedures (see www.mcgill.ca/students/srr/honest/ for more information). (approved by Senate on 29 January 2003)

Inclusive Learning Environment:

As the instructor of this course, I endeavor to provide an inclusive learning environment. However, if you experience barriers to learning in this course, do not hesitate to discuss them with me and the Office for Students with Disabilities, 514-398-6009.

Language:

In accord with McGill University's Charter of Students' Rights, students in this course have the right to submit in English or in French written work that is to be graded. This does not apply to courses in which acquiring proficiency in a language is one of the objectives."