

**Carleton University
Fall 2019
Department of English**

**ENGL 4600A/EURR 4103A:
The Great Russian Novel (in English translation):
Tolstoy's *Anna Karenina* and
Dostoevsky's *The Brothers Karamazov***

**Prerequisite:
fourth-year standing or permission from the department**

**Time of Class:
Tuesdays and Thursdays
1:05 pm—2:25 pm
Location: 4236 Mackenzie Building
*Please confirm location on Carleton Central***

**Instructor: Professor D. Dragunoiu
Email: dana.dragunoiu@carleton.ca
Office: 1925 Dunton Tower
Phone: 613-520-2600, ext. 1556
Office Hours:
Tuesdays and Thursdays, 12:15 pm-1:00 pm, or by appointment**

Comme l'on serait savant, si l'on connaissait bien seulement cinq à six livres!
Flaubert to Louise Colet, February 17, 1853

In a letter to his mistress, Flaubert remarked wistfully: “How knowledgeable one might be if one knew well only some half a dozen books!” Taking Flaubert’s remark seriously, this course examines in close detail two crowning achievements of nineteenth-century Russian literature through the double lens of the nineteenth-century Russian history and culture that produced them and the lens of the twentieth-century world literature, theory, and philosophy that they inspired.

Following the Golden Age of poetry associated most intimately with the verse of Pushkin, Russian literature produced a second Golden Age, this time associated with prose. The novels of Tolstoy and Dostoevsky, in particular, were greeted by writers all over the world as the finest in their genre. In *Aspects of the Novel*, E.M. Forster declared “No English novelist is as great as Tolstoy—that is to say has given so complete a picture of man’s life, both on its domestic and heroic side. No English novelist has explored man’s soul as deeply as Dostoevsky.” At late as 1925, Virginia Woolf still referred to Tolstoy as “the greatest of all novelists” for having written *War and Peace*. For Vladimir

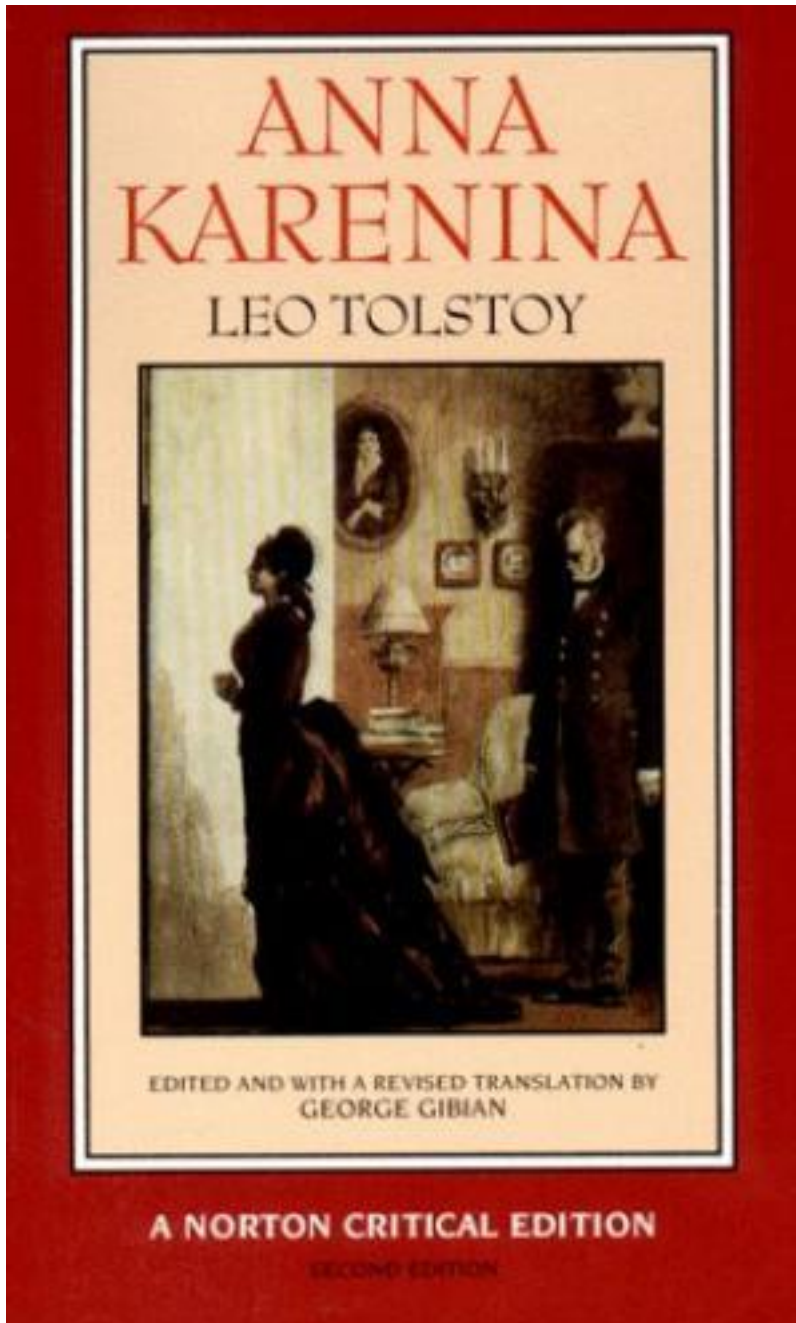
Nabokov, it was Tolstoy's *Anna Karenina* that was "the supreme masterpiece of nineteenth-century literature." Other twentieth-century figures bestowed even higher praise on Dostoevsky's final novel, *The Brothers Karamazov*: Freud referred to it as "the most magnificent novel ever written" and Einstein confessed that it was "the most wonderful book I have ever laid my hands on." Kafka acknowledged having been influenced by it (he referred to himself and Dostoevsky as "blood relatives") and Wittgenstein is said to have read it so many times as to have learned entire passages by heart. Nabokov coined the term "Tolstoevsky" to refer to Tolstoy's and Dostoevsky's outsized influence on world literature and culture, and Heidegger, generally considered the twentieth century's most influential philosopher, acknowledged having been influenced by both of them.

We will read Tolstoy's *Anna Karenina* and Dostoevsky's *The Brothers Karamazov* by focusing on the "big questions" (Dostoevsky called them "accursed") that obsessed nineteenth-century Russian writers: What is the meaning of life? Does God exist? What is the essence of humanity? Is it right to own property and how much property does a man need? Why do people reproduce? What is evil? What happens after death? At the same time, we will range deep into the twentieth century in order to examine the reasons behind Tolstoy's and Dostoevsky's influence on Freud, Bakhtin, Heidegger, Camus, Sartre, Wittgenstein and others.

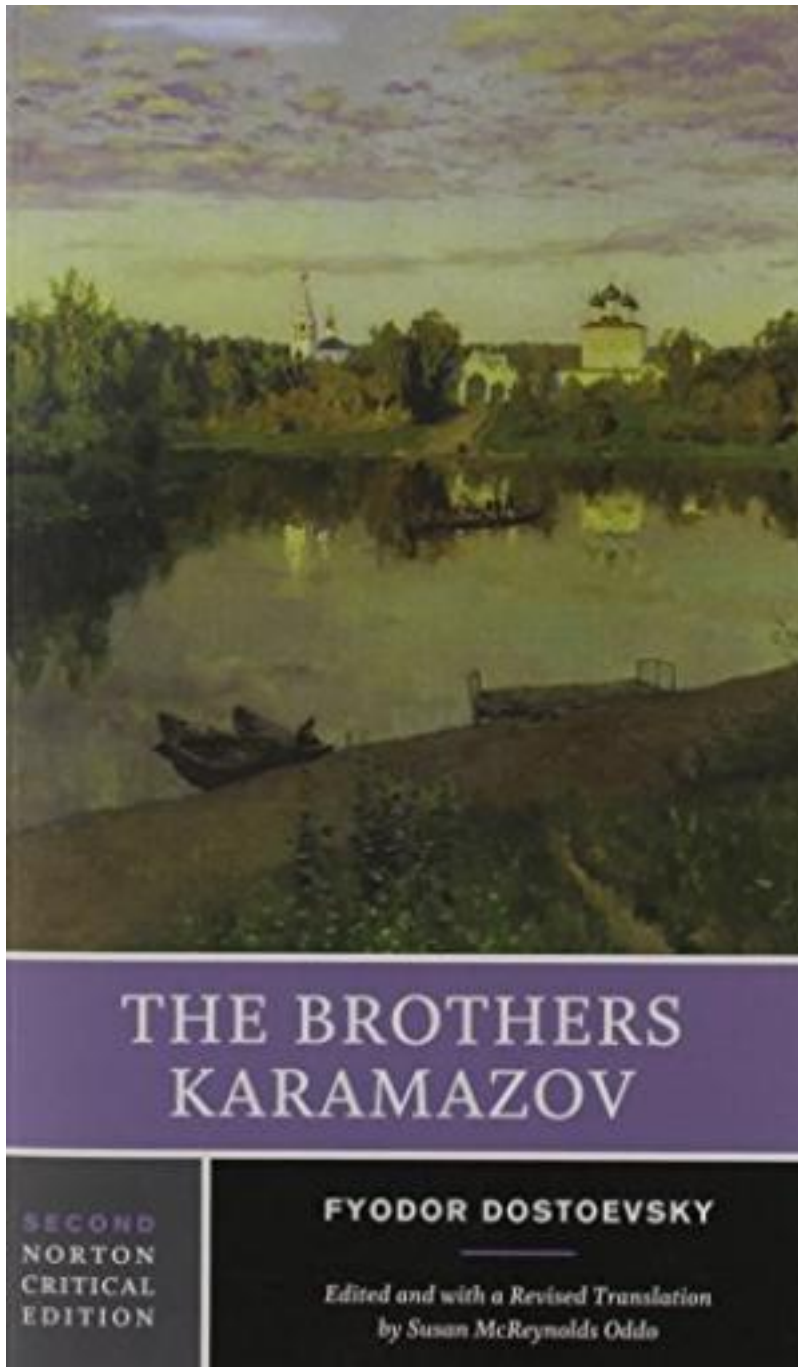
Though both novels will be taught and read in English translation, Russian readers have the option of reading them in Russian and quoting the original Russian texts in their written work. The course is designed to appeal to students in English, EURUS, SLALS, and—most important of all—to all voracious readers.

Students are encouraged to read as much in advance as they can. In an ideal world, students will arrive to class having read both novels before the beginning of the course, and re-read them during the course according to the reading schedule. Such an ideal scenario would maximize retention, comprehension, and pleasure.

Lectures and citations will follow the editions below. Though students may use any editions they already have, I encourage students to purchase these particular editions (see images and descriptions below) because they are finely translated, closely annotated, and accompanied by useful secondary materials such as scholarly essays and extracts from the authors' diaries and private correspondence. Students are responsible for purchasing these course texts online or at bookstores that carry them (they will *not* be ordered by the instructor for the course). Inexpensive used copies may be purchased at abebooks.com.



Leo Tolstoy, *Anna Karenina*. The Maude translation revised by George Gibian.
Edited by George Gibian. Second edition. New York: Norton, 1995.



Fyodor Dostoevsky, *The Brothers Karamazov*. The Garnett translation revised by Ralph E. Matlaw and Susan McReynolds Oddo. Edited by Susan McReynolds Oddo. Second edition. New York: Norton, 2011.

READING SCHEDULE

Thursday, Sep 5	Introduction; distribution of short essay topics
Tuesday, Sep 10	<i>The Brothers Karamazov</i> : From the Author
Thursday, Sep 12	Books 1-2
Tuesday, Sep 17	Book 3
	Last day of registration for fall-term and fall/winter courses.
Thursday, Sep 19	Books 4-5
Tuesday, Sep 24	Short essay due
Thursday, Sep 26	Book 6
Monday, Sep 30	Last day to withdraw from fall-term courses and fall/winter courses with a full fee adjustment
Tuesday, Oct 1	Books 7-8
Thursday, Oct 3	Books 9-10
Tuesday, Oct 8	Book 11
Thursday, Oct 10	Book 12
Tuesday, Oct 15	Epilogue; last day to submit short essays; distribution of formal essay topics
Thursday, Oct 17	Analyzing <i>The Brothers Karamazov</i> in its entirety
OCTOBER 21-25	FALL BREAK—UNIVERSITY CLOSED
Tuesday, Oct 29	Analyzing <i>The Brothers Karamazov</i> in its entirety
Thursday, Oct 31	<i>Anna Karenina</i> : Part 1
Tuesday, Nov 5	Part 2
Thursday, Nov 7	Part 3
Friday, Nov 8	Last day to request Formal Examination
	Accommodation Forms for December examinations to the Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities
Tuesday, Nov 12	Part 4
Thursday, Nov 14	Part 5
Tuesday, Nov 19	Part 6
Thursday, Nov 21	Part 7
Tuesday, Nov 26	Part 8
Thursday, Nov 28	Analyzing <i>Anna Karenina</i> in its entirety; formal essay due
Tuesday, Dec 3	Analyzing <i>Anna Karenina</i> in its entirety
Thursday, Dec 5	Analyzing <i>The Brothers Karamazov</i> and <i>Anna Karenina</i> together
Friday, Dec 6	Last day for Academic withdrawal from fall term courses.
Friday, Dec 13	Last day to submit formal essays.

TERMS OF EVALUATION

Grade Distribution: 10% first essay (3-4 pages); 30% second essay (9-10 pages); 25% beginning-of-class unannounced quizzes; 35% final exam.

NB: Students who miss six or more classes will not be eligible to submit work or write exams. Standing in a course is determined by the course instructor subject to the approval of the Faculty Dean. This means that grades submitted by the instructor may be subject to revision. No grades are final until they have been approved by the Dean. **Standing in a course is determined by the course instructor subject to the approval of the Faculty Dean. This means that grades submitted by the instructor may be subject to revision. No grades are final until they have been approved by the Dean.**

ESSAYS:

A choice of essay topics will be distributed in advance of the due dates, and students are encouraged to consult with the instructor regarding all aspects of the research, organization, argument, and writing style of the essays. Each essay will be graded on form—organization, writing style, grammar,—(50%), and content—knowledge of texts, quality of argument, analysis, and scholarly research—(50%). *NB: The essay grades are contingent upon an informal oral examination by the instructor.*

a) The short essay should be 3-4 pages long (12-point font; double spaced). A penalty of 2%/per day (including Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays) will be applied to late essays. The penalty does not apply in case of illness upon the presentation of a doctor's note. Hard copies of essays are encouraged. The essay deadline is listed on the reading schedule; the essays are due at the **BEGINNING OF CLASS** on the specified date. **Short essays will not be accepted after October 15; first essays received after this date will not be graded and will receive a grade of "0."**

b) The formal essay should be 9-10 pages long (12-point font; double spaced). A penalty of 2%/per day (including Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays) will be applied to late essays. The penalty does not apply in case of illness upon the presentation of a doctor's note. Hard copies of essays are encouraged. The essay deadline is listed on the reading schedule; the essays are due at the **BEGINNING OF CLASS** on the specified date. **Formal essays will not be accepted after December 13; second essays received after this date will not be graded and will receive a grade of "0."**

BEGINNING-OF-CLASS QUIZZES:

In order to ensure that students come prepared for lectures and class discussions, they will write **eight** unannounced multiple-choice quizzes designed to test their detailed knowledge of the works scheduled for analysis during that particular class. Of these eight quizzes, only the **five** highest-earning quizzes will count towards the final grade. Each of these five highest-earning quizzes will be worth 5% of the final grade (for a total of 25%). These quizzes will be written at the beginning of class; those arriving late will not be able to write them and will therefore forfeit the quiz grade.

FINAL EXAM:

The final exam will take place during the formal examination period at the end of the winter semester. It is designed to evaluate students' close reading and retention of the course material as well as their understanding of class lectures and discussions. Consequently, the exam will contain three sections: a. a number of multiple choice questions designed to test students' close reading of the studied texts (20%); b. a choice of short questions designed to test students' comprehensive knowledge of the studied texts (50%); a choice of essay questions designed to showcase students' understanding of the mechanics of argument and analysis as applied to works studied in class (30%).

GRADING SYSTEM

Letter grades assigned in this course will have the following percentage equivalents:

A+ = 90-100	B+ = 77-79	C+ = 67-69
A = 85-89	B = 73-76	C = 63-66
A - = 80-84	B - = 70-72	C - = 60-62
D+ = 57-59	D = 53-56	D - = 50-52
F	Failure. No academic credit.	

REQUEST FOR ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION:

You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term. For an accommodation request, the processes are as follows:

Pregnancy obligation

Please contact your instructor with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details, visit the Equity Services website:

carleton.ca/equity/wp-content/uploads/Student-Guide-to-Academic-Accommodation.pdf

Religious obligation

Please contact your instructor with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist. For more details, visit the Equity Services website:

carleton.ca/equity/wp-content/uploads/Student-Guide-to-Academic-Accommodation.pdf

Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

If you have a documented disability requiring academic accommodations in this course, please contact the Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) at 613-520-6608 or pmc@carleton.ca for a formal evaluation or contact your PMC coordinator to send your instructor your Letter of Accommodation at the beginning of the term. You

must also contact the PMC no later than two weeks before the first in-class scheduled test or exam requiring accommodation (if applicable). After requesting accommodation from PMC, meet with your instructor as soon as possible to ensure accommodation arrangements are made. carleton.ca/pmc

Survivors of Sexual Violence

As a community, Carleton University is committed to maintaining a positive learning, working and living environment where sexual violence will not be tolerated, and its survivors are supported through academic accommodations as per Carleton's Sexual Violence Policy. For more information about the services available at the university and to obtain information about sexual violence and/or support, visit: carleton.ca/sexual-violence-support

Accommodation for Student Activities

Carleton University recognizes the substantial benefits, both to the individual student and for the university, that result from a student participating in activities beyond the classroom experience. Reasonable accommodation must be provided to students who compete or perform at the national or international level. Please contact your instructor with any requests for academic accommodation during the first two weeks of class, or as soon as possible after the need for accommodation is known to exist.

<https://carleton.ca/senate/wp-content/uploads/Accommodation-for-Student-Activities-1.pdf>

All Students

Students are strongly encouraged to make optimal use of the instructor's office hours. Office hours are set aside for students to discuss with the instructor all aspects of the course and to seek assistance with any problems they might encounter in fulfilling the assigned tasks. Two weeks after the beginning of the course, each student will be asked to attend a short, informal introductory meeting with the instructor in order to discuss the student's aims and expectations in the course. All students are also strongly encouraged to take advantage of the services offered at Carleton University, such as the following:

Centre for Student Academic Support (CSAS) offers students a variety of free services, including academic-skills workshops and information sessions, bookable study rooms, a tutor referral service, and a supportive staff of peer helpers. To learn more about these services, visit CSAS on the Fourth Floor of the MacOdrum Library, contact them by phone at 613-520-3822, or visit them online at <https://carleton.ca/csas/>

Writing Services offers students free one-on-one assistance with academic writing. To learn more about this free service, visit www.carleton.ca/csas/writing-services/. To make an appointment for a 40-minute session, call 613-520-3822, or visit in person at the Centre for Student Academic Support on the Fourth Floor of the MacOdrum Library.

Academic Advising Centre (AAC) provides students with support in the form of free one-on-one academic advising and study-skills appointments. To learn more about these

services, visit www.carleton.ca/academicadvising. To make appointments for an advising or study-skills session, call 613-520-7850, or visit the centre in person at 302 Tory.

Career Services and Co-operative Education is an on-campus centre for career development, employment preparation, and experiential learning opportunities for Carleton students. Students are encouraged to use the various services provided throughout their time at Carleton by visiting its two service locations. Career Services is located at 401 Tory (613-520-6611); the Co-operative Education Program is located at 1400 CTTC (613-520-4331).

International Student Services Office (ISSO) is at the heart of Carleton's international student community. It supports international students, including incoming and outgoing exchange students, and promotes cross-cultural understanding within the Carleton community. **ISSO is also responsible for the administration of Carleton's 80+ exchange programs.** For more information, visit ISSO at 128 University Centre or contact by phone 613-520-6600. For general email inquiries, write to isso@carleton.ca; for exchange-program inquiries, write to exchange@carleton.ca. Website: www.carleton.ca/isso.

The Student Experience Office oversees the Co-Curricular Record. The Co-Curricular Record is an official record designed as a means of recognizing all students' "out of class" involvement in student leadership development, extra-curricular activities, and Carleton community service opportunities. To learn more about the Record, visit 430 Tory (613-520-2600 ext.7595), or www.carleton.ca/seo.

Plagiarism and Other Instructional Offences

Lifting phrases from web sites, print materials, and/or the written work of class members constitutes an academic offence. Written work suspected of plagiarism will be forwarded directly to the Office of the Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences (FASS). Assisting anyone in an act of plagiarism also constitutes an academic offence.

The University's policy concerning plagiarism and other instructional offences is outlined in the Undergraduate Calendar (see particularly regulation 10.1 – Instructional Offences). The University Senate defines plagiarism as "*presenting, whether intentionally or not, the ideas, expression of ideas or work of others as one's own.*" This can include:

- reproducing or paraphrasing portions of someone else's published or unpublished material, regardless of the source, and presenting these as one's own without proper citation or reference to the original source;

- submitting a take-home examination, essay, laboratory report or other assignment written, in whole or in part, by someone else;

- using ideas or direct, verbatim quotations, or paraphrased material, concepts, or ideas without appropriate acknowledgment in any academic assignment;
- using another's data or research findings;
- failing to acknowledge sources through the use of proper citations when using another's works and/or failing to use quotation marks;
- handing in "substantially the same piece of work for academic credit more than once without prior written permission of the course instructor in which the submission occurs."

Plagiarism is a serious offence that cannot be resolved directly by the course's instructor. The Associate Dean of the Faculty conducts a rigorous investigation, including an interview with the student, when an instructor suspects a piece of work has been plagiarized. Penalties are not trivial. They can include a final grade of "F" for the course.

The policy can be found at:

<https://carleton.ca/secretariat/wp-content/uploads/Academic-Integrity-Policy.pdf>

General Guidelines

1. Turn off cell phones and other technological devices upon arrival to class. This classroom has a "no-screen" policy. Official note takers will be assigned to take notes on a regular basis for everyone in class. These notes will be posted on CU Learn for everyone to use. Only official note takers will have access to a screen. Everyone else ought to take notes by hand. Studies show that taking notes by hand is far more conducive to learning. Should the "no-screen" policy cause trouble or anxiety, students are encouraged to seek a special dispensation from the instructor.
2. Do not arrive late to class. Arriving late is disrespectful and it disturbs both the instructor and the students. If arriving late due to unforeseen circumstances, please minimize the disturbance by sitting in a seat close to the doors.
3. Chatting with classmates during a lecture or class discussions is unacceptable in a university setting. It disturbs both students and instructor.