

**Carleton University
Fall 2022
Department of English**

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

**Class times: Mondays and Wednesdays, 2:35-3:55 pm
Location: 415 SA**

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

**Instructor: Professor D. Dragunoiu
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Office: 1925 Dunton Tower
Phone: 613-520-2600, ext. 1556
Office Hours:
Wednesdays 10:00 am—11:30 am, 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 two crowning achievements of nineteenth-century Russian literature through the 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 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

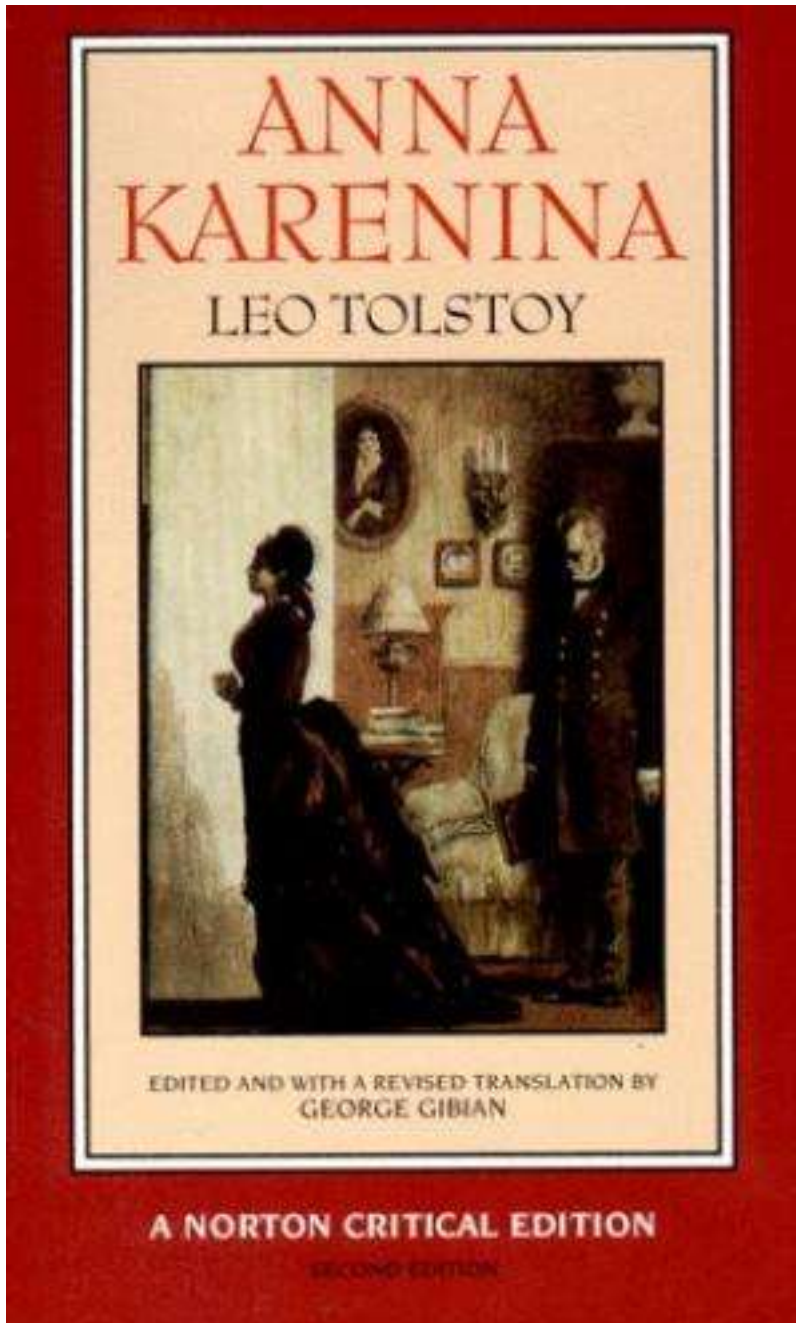
of nineteenth-century literature.” Other twentieth-century figures bestowed even higher praise on Dostoevsky’s final novel, *The Brothers Karamazov*: Freud referred to it as “the most magnificent novel ever written” and Einstein confessed that it was “the most wonderful book I have ever laid my hands 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 them both.

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? What is evil? What happens after death? At the same time, we will range into the twentieth century in order to examine the reasons behind Tolstoy’s and Dostoevsky’s influence on Freud, Bakhtin, Heidegger, Camus, Wittgenstein and others.

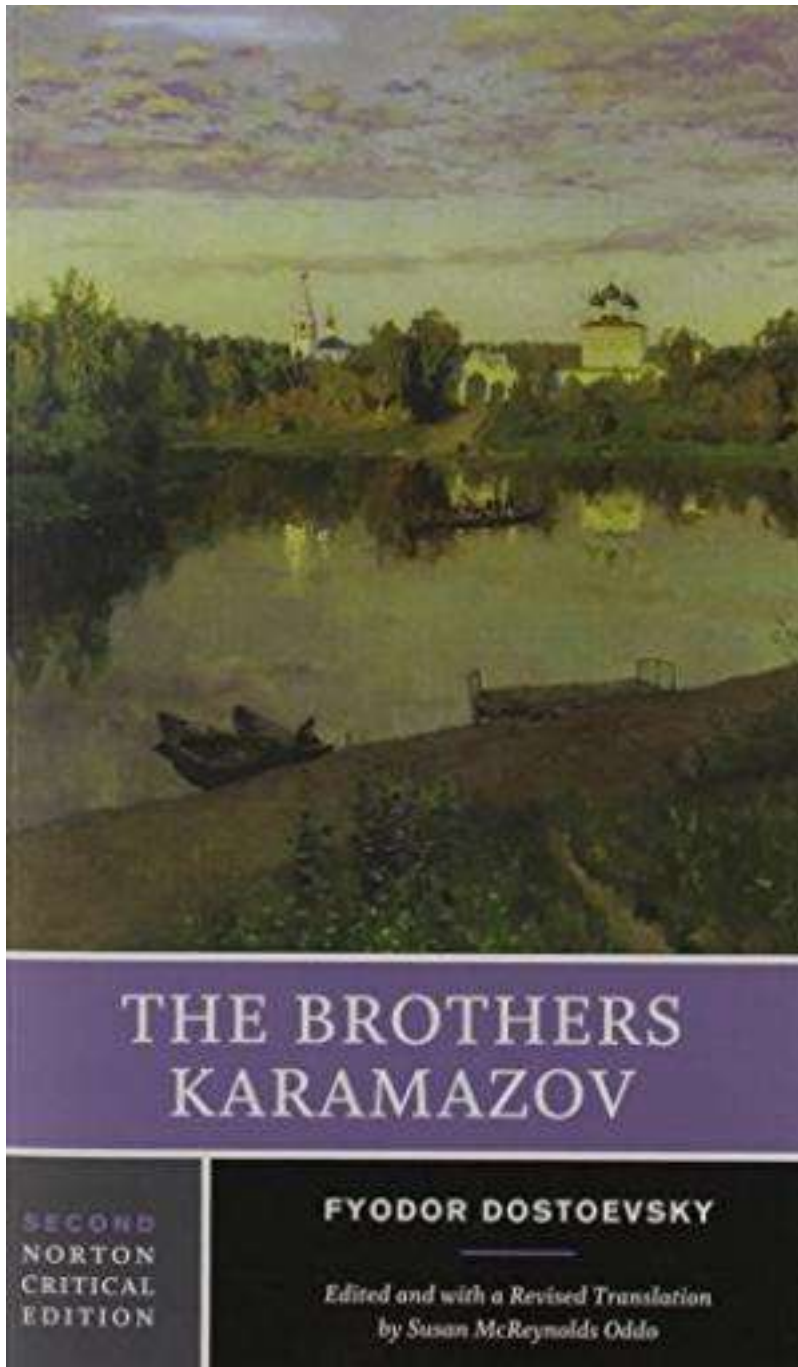
Though both novels will be taught and read in English translation, Russian readers have the option of reading them in Russian and quoting from the original Russian texts in their written work. The course is designed to appeal to students in English, EURUS, SLALS, and—most important of all—to all voracious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

Students are encouraged to read as much in advance as they can. In an ideal world, students will 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.

During my lectures, I will be citing passages from the editions listed 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 me).** Inexpensive used copies may be purchased at abebooks.com. For students who do not wish to purchase books, [*Anna Karenina*](#) and [*The Brothers Karamazov*](#) can also be read online free of charge. Russian readers may also read *Анна Каренина* ([Parts 1-4](#) and [Parts 5-8](#)) and *Братья Карамазовы* (<https://ilibrary.ru/text/1199/index.html>) online.



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

Wednesday, Sep 7	Introduction; short-essay topics posted
Monday, Sep 12	<i>The Brothers Karamazov</i> : From the Author
Wednesday, Sep 14	Books 1-2
Monday, Sep 19	Book 3
Tuesday, Sep 20	Last day for registration and course changes in full fall, late fall, and fall/winter courses.
Wed, Sep 21	Books 4-5
Monday, Sep 26	Short essay due
Wednesday, Sep 28	Book 6
Friday, Sep 30	Last day to withdraw from full fall and fall/winter courses with full fee adjustment. Withdrawals after this date will result in a permanent notation of WDN on the official transcript.
Monday, Oct 3	Books 7-8
Wednesday, Oct 5	Books 9-10
Monday, Oct 10	Thanksgiving Day; no classes; university closed.
Wednesday, Oct 12	Book 11
Monday, Oct 17	Book 12
Wednesday, Oct 19	Epilogue; formal-essay topics posted
OCTOBER 24-28	FALL BREAK—UNIVERSITY CLOSED
Monday, Oct 31	Analyzing <i>The Brothers Karamazov</i> in its entirety; last day to submit short essays
Wednesday, Nov 2	Analyzing <i>The Brothers Karamazov</i> in its entirety
Monday, Nov 7	<i>Anna Karenina</i> : Part 1
Wednesday, Nov 9	Part 2
Monday, Nov 14	Part 3
Tuesday, Nov 15	Last day for academic withdrawal from full fall and late fall courses.
Wednesday, Nov 16	Part 4; annotated bibliographies due.
Monday, Nov 21	Part 5
Wednesday, Nov 23	Part 6
Monday, Nov 28	Part 7
Wednesday, Nov 30	Part 8
Thursday, Dec 1	Last day for receipt of applications from potential winter (February) graduates.
Monday, Dec 5	Analyzing <i>Anna Karenina</i> in its entirety
Wednesday, Dec 7	Analyzing <i>Anna Karenina</i> in its entirety; last day to submit annotated bibliographies; formal essays due; take-home exam posted.
Friday, Dec 9	Analyzing <i>The Brothers Karamazov</i> and <i>Anna Karenina</i> together. Fall term ends. (This class makes up for the missed Thanksgiving Monday.)
Thursday, Dec 22	Take-home exams due; last day to submit formal essays.

All final take-home examinations are due on this day, with the exception of those conforming to the examination regulations in the Academic Regulations of the University section of the Undergraduate calendar.

NB: The course will end with a class party where guests will be invited to recite their own limericks or haikus, such as the following (by Michelle Olmstead, former graduate of this course):

There once was a foul man named Fyodor
He was such a terrible father
Without any scruples
He hoarded women and roubles
'Til one of his sons had him murdered.

There once was a rich Count named Vronsky
Who treated his lover quite Wrongsky
He was to blame
When she tackled a train
But at least he wasn't Oblonsky.

TERMS OF EVALUATION

Grade Distribution: 10% first essay (2-3 pages; 12-point font; double spaced); 10% annotated bibliography (minimum of five scholarly sources); 35% formal essay (7-8 pages, 12-point font; double spaced); 25% five unannounced quizzes; 20% take-home exam.

NB: Students who miss six or more classes will not be eligible to submit work and will therefore fail the course.

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.
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ESSAYS A choice of essay topics will be posted 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: Materials submitted to other courses are not acceptable as submissions in this course. All work must be original and not submitted for grade in other courses. The essay grades are contingent upon an informal oral examination by the instructor.**

- a) The short essay should be 2-3 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. The essay deadline is listed on the reading schedule. Essays are to be submitted electronically to our Brightspace course page by **11:59 pm** on the day of the deadline. **Short essays will not be accepted after Monday, October 31; first essays received after this date will not be graded and will receive a grade of "0."**

b) The formal essay should be 7-8 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. The essay deadline is listed on the reading schedule. Essays are to be submitted electronically to our Brightspace course page by **11:59 pm** on the day of the deadline. **Formal essays will not be accepted after December 22; formal essays received after this date will not be graded and will receive a grade of "0."**

ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY: The annotated bibliography must contain **five or more** bibliographic items relevant to the selected topic. These may include books, essays, reviews or any other material that is justifiably relevant to the chosen topic. Guidelines for writing an annotated bibliography can be found [here](#). Follow the "Sample Chicago Manual of Style Annotation" at the bottom of the page. The deadline is listed on the reading schedule. Annotated bibliographies must be submitted to our Brightspace course page by **11:59 pm** on the specified date. **Annotated bibliographies will not be accepted after Wednesday, December 7; bibliographies received after this date will not be graded.**

BEGINNING-OF-CLASS, UNANNOUNCED QUIZZES:

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.

TAKE-HOME EXAM:

The take-home exam will be posted on our Brightspace course page on the date specified in the Reading Schedule. 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 two sections: a. a choice of short questions designed to test students' comprehensive knowledge of the studied texts (50%); b) a choice of essay questions designed to showcase students' understanding of the mechanics of argument and analysis as applied to works studied in class (50%).

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.	

General Guidelines for Student Conduct

1. Discussions will be conducted in an atmosphere of respect and goodwill towards all members of the class and towards all races, ethnicities, religious affiliations and gender identities.
2. Turn off cell phones and other technological devices upon arrival to class.
3. **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 our Brightspace course page for use by all members of the class. 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. However, students who cannot learn optimally without taking notes on a keyboard should consult with the instructor in advance and request an accommodation.
4. 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.
5. Chatting with classmates during a lecture or class discussions is unacceptable in a university setting. It disturbs both the students and the instructor.

Special Information Regarding Fall 2022 Pandemic Measures

All members of the Carleton community are required to follow the measures outlined on Carleton’s [COVID-19 website](#). Please note that failure to comply with University policies and mandatory public-health requirements and endangering the safety of others are considered misconduct under the [Student Rights and Responsibilities Policy](#). Failure to comply with Carleton’s COVID-19 procedures may lead to supplementary action involving Campus Safety and/or Student Affairs.

Brightspace

All information relevant to this course will be posted in advance on our Brightspace course page. Students are expected to consult it frequently and to

keep abreast of assignments, deadlines, and all notifications related to the course. Additionally, students are expected to check their Carleton email boxes with regularity.

Email Communication and Office Hours

My aim is to respond to student emails within 24 hours of receiving them. If you do not hear back from me within this time period, please resend your email to me (after verifying that the email address is correct; my last name is easy to misspell). All emails should be sent from your Carleton email accounts as directed by CU policy.

Office Hours are set aside specifically *for* students. By coming to Office Hours, students are *not* taking up the professor's time, but rather meeting their obligations as students. All students will be expected to visit me during Office Hours at least once. For visits to posted Office Hours, no appointment is necessary. For "by appointment" office hours, we will schedule a mutually convenient time to meet either online or in person.

Learning Outcomes

This course was designed to achieve the following learning outcomes:

1. demonstrate cultural literacies that engage with the transnational, multilingual, and historical traditions of literary production
2. read and analyze texts accurately, contextually, and critically
3. conduct independent textual research
4. recognize and apply a range of methodological frameworks in a critical and self-reflective manner
5. write clearly and persuasively in a variety of genres, while advancing and supporting arguments
6. express ideas clearly, persuasively, and collegially in a variety of oral formats.

PLAGIARISM

The University Senate defines plagiarism as "presenting, whether intentionally or not, the ideas, expression of ideas or work of others as one's own." According to the Department examples of plagiarism include the following:

- any submission prepared, in whole or in part, by someone else;

- 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;
- 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 form of intellectual theft. It is a serious offence that cannot be resolved directly with the course's instructor. The Associate Deans of the Faculty conduct 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 failure of the assignment, failure of the entire course, or suspension from a program. For more information please go to: <https://carleton.ca/registrar/academic-integrity/>

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

Pregnancy obligation: write to me 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 accommodation regarding a formally-scheduled final exam, you must complete the [Pregnancy Accommodation Form](#).

Religious obligation: write to me 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 [click here](#).

Academic Accommodations for Students with Disabilities: The Paul Menton Centre for Students with Disabilities (PMC) provides services to students with Learning Disabilities (LD), psychiatric/mental health disabilities, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD), chronic medical conditions, and impairments in mobility, hearing, and vision. If you have a disability requiring academic accommodations in this course, please contact PMC at 613-520-6608 or pmc@carleton.ca for a formal evaluation. If you are already registered with the PMC, contact your PMC coordinator to send me your Letter of Accommodation at the beginning of the term, and 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 me to ensure accommodation arrangements are made. Please consult the PMC website for the deadline to request accommodations for the formally-scheduled exam (if applicable).

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 where 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: <https://carleton.ca/equity/sexual-assault-support-services>

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 will be provided to students who compete or perform at the national or international level. Write to me 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>