

**Carleton University  
Fall 2024  
Department of English**

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

**Class times:** Tuesdays and Thursdays, 1:00-2:25 p.m.  
**Location:** 505 SA

**Prerequisite:**  
**ENGL 4600 - fourth-year standing or permission from the department**  
**EURR 4103 – third year standing**

**Instructor:** Professor D. Dragunoiu  
**Email:** dana.dragunoiu@carleton.ca  
**Office:** 1925 Dunton Tower  
**Phone:** 613 371 1465

**Office Hours:**  
Tuesdays 2:30 p.m.-3:30 p.m. in my office,  
Wednesdays 10:00 a.m.-10:30 a.m. on Zoom, 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 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 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 by examining 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. I have ordered these editions through Carleton’s Bookstore, but students are encouraged to purchase these texts as soon as possible to start reading them during the summer. Inexpensive used copies may be purchased at [abebooks.com](http://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.



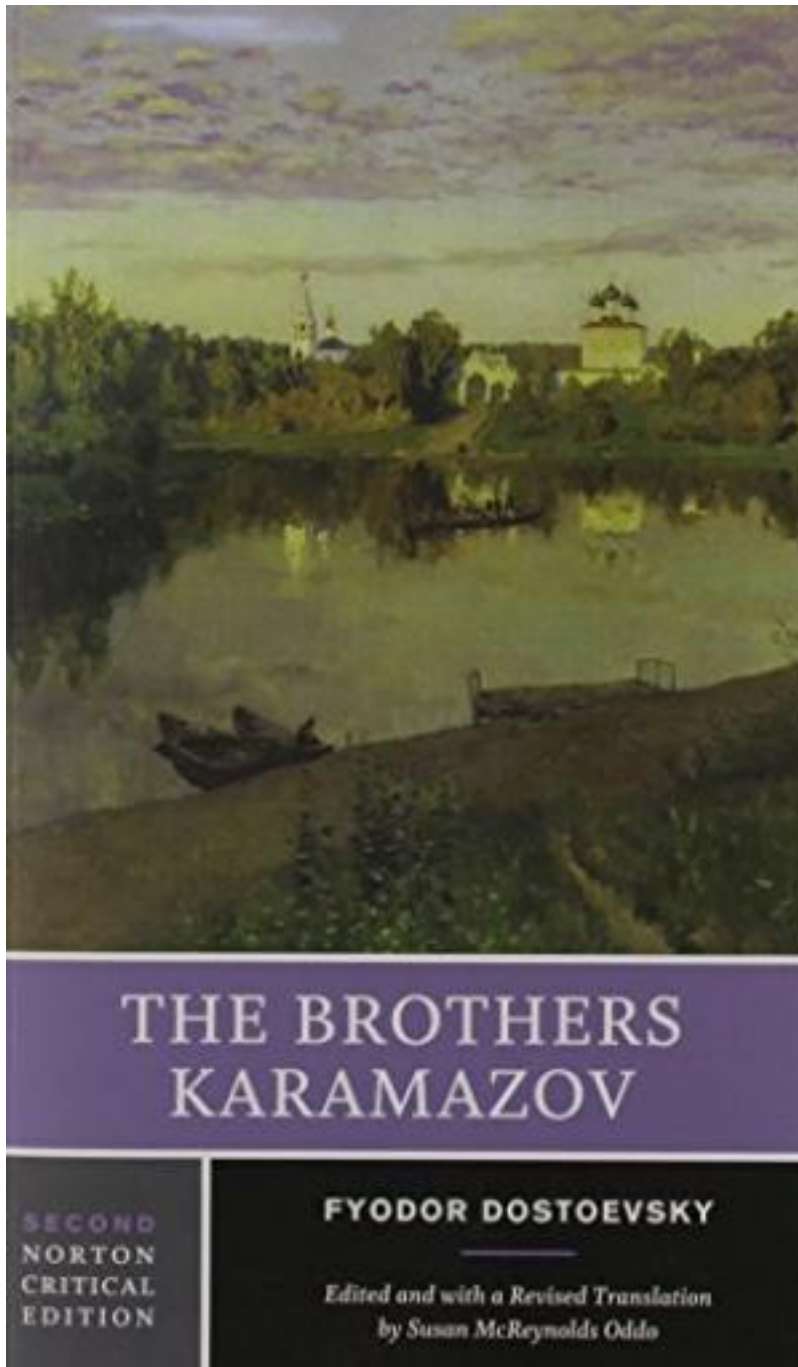
# ANNA KARENINA

SECOND  
NORTON  
CRITICAL  
EDITION

LEO TOLSTOY

—  
*Edited and with a Revised Translation  
by George Gibian*

**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
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 and course changes for full fall, late fall, and fall/winter courses.
Thursday, Sep 19	Books 4-5
Tuesday, Sep 24	Book 6; <b>short essay due</b>
Thursday, Sep 26	Books 7-8
Monday, Sep 30	Last day to withdraw from full fall and fall/winter courses with a full fee adjustment.
Tuesday, Oct 1	Books 9-10
Thursday, Oct 3	Book 11
Tuesday, Oct 8	Book 12
Thursday, Oct 10	Epilogue
Tuesday, Oct 15	Analyzing <i>The Brothers Karamazov</i> in its entirety; <b>last day to submit short essays</b>
Thursday, Oct 17	Analyzing <i>The Brothers Karamazov</i> in its entirety
<b>October 21-25</b>	<b>FALL BREAK—UNIVERSITY CLOSED</b>
Tuesday, Oct 29	<i>Anna Karenina</i> : Part 1
Thursday, Oct 31	Part 2
Tuesday, Nov 5	Part 3
Thursday, Nov 7	Part 4; <b>annotated bibliographies due.</b>
Tuesday, Nov 12	Part 5
Thursday, Nov 14	Part 6
Friday, Nov 15	Last day for academic withdrawal from full and late fall courses. Last day to request Formal Examination Accommodation Forms for December examinations to the Paul Menton Centre.
Tuesday, Nov 19	Part 7
Thursday, Nov 21	Part 8
Tuesday, Nov 26	Analyzing <i>Anna Karenina</i> in its entirety
Thursday, Nov 28	Analyzing <i>Anna Karenina</i> in its entirety; <b>last day to submit annotated bibliographies; formal essays due; take-home exam posted.</b>
Tuesday, Dec 3	Analyzing <i>The Brothers Karamazov</i> and <i>Anna Karenina</i> together.
Thursday, Dec 5	Analyzing <i>The Brothers Karamazov</i> and <i>Anna Karenina</i> together. <b>Fall term ends for this course.</b> Take-home exams due; last day to submit formal essays.
Saturday, Dec 21	<b>Last day to submit take-home exams.</b>

**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 rubles  
'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.

**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 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 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 5; 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 November 28; 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. There will be no exceptions to this rule.

### **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%). **Take-home exams will not be accepted after December 21.**

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 than typing them out on a keyboard. However, students who cannot learn optimally without taking notes on a keyboard should consult with me in advance and request an accommodation.
4. Do not arrive late to class. Arriving late is disrespectful and it disturbs everyone. 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 everyone.

### **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**

Email is my preferred method of communication. 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/>

## **MENTAL HEALTH**

Carleton University supports a culture of [wellness](#). As a University student you may experience a range of mental health challenges that significantly impact your academic success and overall well-being. If you need help, please speak to someone. (You can always speak to me.) There are numerous resources available both on- and off-campus to support you.

Emergency Resources (on and off campus): <https://carleton.ca/health/emergencies-and-crisis/emergency-numbers/>

Carleton Resources:

- Mental Health and Wellbeing: <https://carleton.ca/wellness/>
- Health & Counselling Services: <https://carleton.ca/health/>
- Paul Menton Centre: <https://carleton.ca/pmc/>
- Academic Advising Centre (AAC): <https://carleton.ca/academicadvising/>
- Centre for Student Academic Support (CSAS): <https://carleton.ca/csas/>
- Equity & Inclusivity Communities: <https://carleton.ca/equity/>

Off Campus Resources:

- Distress Centre of Ottawa and Region: (613) 238-3311 or TEXT: 343-306-5550, <https://www.dcottawa.on.ca/>
- Mental Health Crisis Service: (613) 722-6914, 1-866-996-0991, <http://www.crisisline.ca/>
- Empower Me: 1-844-741-6389, <https://students.carleton.ca/services/empower-me-counselling-services/>
- Good2Talk: 1-866-925-5454, <https://good2talk.ca/>
- The Walk-In Counselling Clinic: <https://walkincounselling.com>

## **ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATION**

Carleton is committed to providing academic accessibility for all individuals. You may need special arrangements to meet your academic obligations during the term. The accommodation request processes, including information about the Academic Consideration Policy for Students in Medical and Other Extenuating Circumstances, are outlined on the Academic Accommodations website ([students.carleton.ca/course-outline](https://students.carleton.ca/course-outline)).