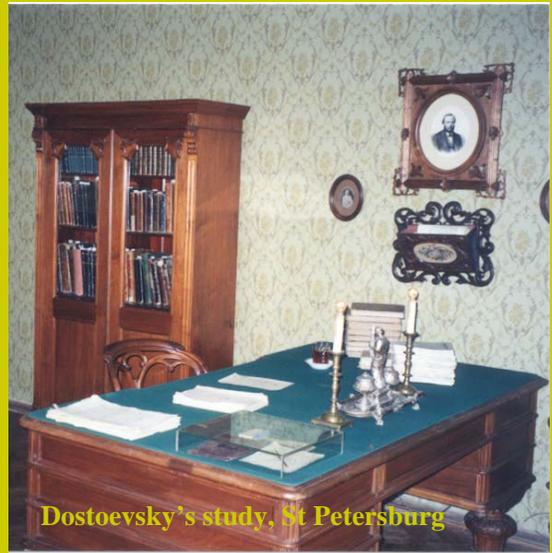
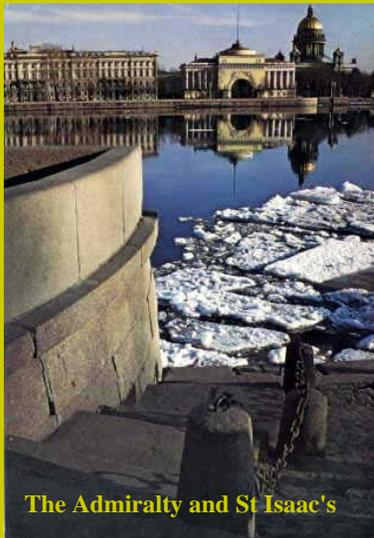


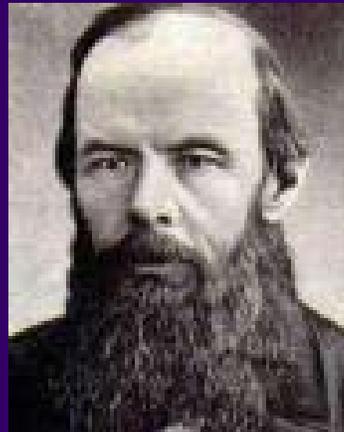
Russian 462 Dostoevsky



Dostoevsky's study, St Petersburg



The Admiralty and St Isaac's



University of Michigan, Department of Slavic Languages and Literatures

This course studies the life and work of Fedor Dostoevsky, locating him and his oeuvre in the cultural and intellectual history of Russia, while also examining an extensive and representative sample of his prose fiction in detail. It is intended both for those with a general interest in Russian literature, and for those with a specific, scholarly or literary interest in Dostoevsky. *Poor Folk*, *The Double*, *Notes from the Underground*, *Crime and Punishment*, and *The Brothers Karamazov* are read and analyzed. His contribution to literary and literary-political discussions of the time is assessed. ,

For more information, contact the instructor, Michael Makin (mlmakin@umich.edu)

MWF 11-12, Fall Term 05



Russian 462/Russian 856

Fedor Dostoevsky

Fall Term, 2005

M W F 11-12

2002 MLB

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It is expected that most students in this course will not know Russian, and it should be emphasized that they will in no way be at a disadvantage. Russian and REES undergraduate concentrators, however, are expected to complete some of the required reading in Russian (and are also expected to be able to demonstrate that they have done so – for example, by quoting relevant texts in Russian in their papers); graduate students in Russian and REES are expected to complete at least 50% of the required reading in Russian.

Final grades will be determined on the following basis for Russian 462: each examination -- 15% of total grade; each paper -- 20% of total grade; class participation -- 15% of total grade. More than four absences from class will detrimentally affect the final grade.

Students taking this course as Russian 856 will be expected to attend one informal seminar meeting per week (time tba), and to work on a major research project throughout the semester. A draft of the research paper is due on Friday, 2 December. On Friday, 9

December 856 students will give class presentations on their research. The final version of the research paper is due on Tuesday, 20 December.

Required and Recommended Book Purchases:

F. Dostoyevsky, *Poor Folk and Other Stories*, tr. D. McDuff, Penguin, Penguin Classics (1989), ISBN 0140445056;
idem, *Uncle's Dream and Other Stories*, tr. D. McDuff, Penguin, Penguin Classics (1989), ISBN 0140445188;
idem, *Notes from the Underground*, tr. Richard Peavear, Vintage, (1994), ISBN 067973452X;
idem, *Crime and Punishment*, tr. J. Coulson, Norton Critical Editions (1975), ISBN 0393956237;
idem, *Devils*, tr. M. Katz, Oxford World Classics, OUP (1999), ISBN 0192838296;
idem, *The Brothers Karamazov*, tr. Constance Garnett, ed. Ralph Matlaw, Norton Critical Editions, Norton (1975), ISBN 0393092143.

Recommended:

F. Dostoevsky, *The Idiot*, tr. Alan Myers, Oxford World Classics, OUP (1992), ISBN 0192826042;
idem, *The House of the Dead*, tr. D. McDuff, Penguin (1985), ISBN 0140444564.

Russian Texts Online

Most of Dostoevsky's works are available in the huge electronic library put together by Maxim Moshkov. For Dostoevsky, go to <http://www.lib.ru/LITRA/DOSTOEWSKI/>

Online Translations

You will find online texts of translations of *Poor Folk*, *The Insulted and the Injured*, *Notes from the Underground*, *Crime and Punishment*, *The*

Idiot, The Devils (aka The Possessed), A Raw Youth, and The Brothers Karamazov in the Books Online site at:

<http://onlinebooks.library.upenn.edu/> and at a good number of other sites.

Schedule of Classes

September:

- | | | |
|---|----|--|
| W | 7 | Introduction to course; the early life of Dostoevsky. |
| F | 9 | Dostoevsky's debut as a writer. |
| M | 12 | <i>Poor Folk</i> . |
| W | 14 | <i>Poor Folk</i> , conc. |
| F | 16 | Other 1840s work ("The Landlady", "Mr Prokharchin", "Polzunkov",
<i>White Nights</i>). |
| M | 19 | cont. |
| W | 21 | conc. |
| F | 23 | Penal servitude (<i>House of the Dead</i> , extracts). |
| M | 26 | Exile, return to European Russia |
| W | 28 | "Uncle's Dream". |
| F | 30 | conc. |

October

- | | | |
|---|----|--|
| M | 3 | The Early Sixties (<i>House of the Dead</i> , extracts) |
| W | 5 | conc. |
| F | 7 | <i>Notes from Underground</i> . |
| M | 10 | cont. |
| W | 12 | conc. |
| F | 14 | <i>Crime and Punishment</i> . |

M 17 **STUDY BREAK**
W 19 **First Hour-Examination**
F 21 *Crime and Punishment, cont..*

M 24 cont.
W 26 cont.
F 28 conc.

M 31 *The Idiot.*

November:

W 2 *The Idiot, conc.*
F 4 Dostoevsky in the 1870s.

First Paper Due.

M 7 *The Devils*
W 9 cont.
F 11 cont.

M 14 cont.
W 16 conc..
F 18 *The Brothers Karamazov.*

M 21 **Second Hour-Examination.**

THANKSGIVING

M 28 *The Brothers Karamazov, cont.*
W 30 cont.

December:

F 2 cont.

Second Paper Due.

M 5 cont.
W 7 conc.
F 9 Graduate Student Presentations

M 12 **Third Hour-Examination.**

Michael Makin
3016 MLB
Tel. 647-2142
E-mail: mlmakin@umich.edu
Office Hours:
M 12.00 W 2.15, F 10, or by appointment

F. M. Dostoevsky -- Chronology through 1866



- 1821 3 October, born, Moscow. Father -- [Mikhail](#), doctor (son of priest), who had risen through service to acquire noble status; [mother](#) of merchant stock.



Former Mariinskii Hospital for the Poor, Moscow, where FMD's father worked as a doctor, at the time of FMD's birth.

- 1825 [Death of Alexander I; accession of [Nicholas I](#); [Decembrist revolt](#).]
- 1826 [Death of [Karamzin](#) (born 1766), author of "Poor Liza" («[Бедная Лиза](#)», 1792), *History of the Russian State* (1818-26).]
- 1830 [Aleksandr Pushkin's *Tales of Belkin*, «[Повести Белкина](#)».]
- 1831 Dostoevskii family buys small estate at [Darovoe](#), 150 miles from Moscow.
- 1833 FMD goes away to school.
- 1834 [Pushkin's "[Queen of Spades](#)", «[Пиковая дама](#)».]

- 1836 Death of mother.
[[Nikolai Gogol'](#) (1809-52) publishes "The Nose", «[Нос](#)»]
- 1837 FMD goes to St Petersburg, enters [Academy of Engineers](#), housed in the [Mikhailovskii Castle](#).
[Death of Pushkin (born 1799), after a duel, partly as the result of a malicious conspiracy.]
- 1839 Death of father, possibly murdered.
- 1841 Promoted to ensign. Plans romantic tragedies.
[Death of [Mikhail Lermontov](#) (born 1814).]
- 1842 [Gogol' publishes first part of [Dead Souls](#) («[Мертвые души](#)»), and "[The Overcoat](#)" («[Шинель](#)»)].
- 1844 First published work: a translation of Balzac's *Eugénie Grandet*. Work on *Poor Folk*.
- 1845 Completes [Poor Folk](#) («[Бедные люди](#)»), which is greeted ecstatically (prior to publication) by Nikolai [Nekrasov](#) (1821-1877), Dmitrii Grigorovich (1822-1900), and Vissarion [Belinskii](#) (1811-1848), leaders of liberal thought and writing, whose enthusiasm guarantees FMD popularity in their literary circles.
[*Physiology of Petersburg*, edited by Nekrasov -- a collection of Natural School sketches.]
- 1846 *Poor Folk* published, January; [The Double](#) («[Двойник](#)»), February. Published reception of *Poor Folk* less enthusiastic than the reaction of Nekrasov *et al* to the ms. "Mr Prokharchin" («[Господин Прохарчин](#)»), October.
FMD frequents a number of literary salons. His ambitions and sensitivity evident to all.
First journalism.
- 1847 "The Landlady" («[Хозяйка](#)») FMD joins [Petrashevskii circle](#), a large and informal group of young people who meet regularly at the apartment of Mikhail [Petrashevskii](#) to discuss art and current events. Influence of [Fourier](#) (1772-1837) and Utopian Socialism.
[Gogol' publishes reactionary *Selected Passages from Correspondence with*

Friends («[Выбранные места из переписки с друзьями](#)», to outrage of liberals.)

- 1847-51 [[Ivan Turgenev](#) (1818-1883) publishes *Sportsman's Sketches* («[Записки охотника](#)»)]
- 1848 "A Weak Heart" («[Слабое сердце](#)»), "Polzunkov" («[Ползунков](#)»), "White Nights" («[Белые ночи](#)»).
- [Revolution in Western Europe. Anxiety and excitement in Russia. Government nervous]
- 1849 *Netochka Nezvanova* («[Нечка Незванова](#)», unfinished). At an April meeting of the Petrashevskii circle, FMD reads Belinskii's open letter to Gogol' («[Письмо Гоголю](#)») criticizing the latter's *Selected Passages*. 23 April, circle purged and FMD, along with other members of the circle, arrested. Although FMD in prison, publication of *Netochka Nezvanova* continues, and he writes "A Little Hero" («[Маленький герой](#)»). After prolonged investigation, FMD among fifteen condemned to death. 22 December the fifteen are taken to [Semenovskii Square](#) in St Petersburg, and lined up for execution by firing squad. Courier from Emperor arrives with order for clemency. The fifteen are shackled, and begin journey to prison in Siberia. All are stripped of ranks and titles.
- [[Ivan Goncharov](#) (1812-1891) publishes "Oblomov's Dream" («[Сон Обломова](#)»)]
- 1852 [[Lev Tolstoi](#) (1828-1910) publishes *Childhood* («[Детство](#)»)].
- 1850-54 Convict, among common criminals in [Omsk](#). Keeps secret notebook of prison expressions and folklore. Later claimed prison cured him of atheism.
- 1854 Released from prison, sent to [Semipalatinsk](#) (in present-day Kazakhstan), where obliged to serve as private in army. Immediately plans resumption of literary career.
- 1853-6 [Crimean War](#). Inspired by this, FMD writes first of three very patriotic, pro-imperial (and bad) poems, which are sent to the Imperial court in Petersburg in an attempt to win clemency for him: «[На европейские события в 1854 году](#)»; «[На первое июля 1855 года](#)»; «[На коронацию и заключение мира](#)».
- 1855-6 [Tolstoi, *Sebastopol Stories* («[Севастопольские рассказы](#)»)].
- 1855 [Death of Nicholas I; accession of [Alexander II](#), who promises major social and political reforms.]

- 1856 FMD promoted to ensign (most junior commissioned rank), and thereby restored to rank of nobleman.
[Turgenev, *Rudin* («Рудин»)]
- 1856-7 [Mikhail Saltykov-Shchedrin (1826-1889), *Provincial Sketches*, «Губернские очерки».]
- 1857 Marries Mar'ya Isaeva, widow of drunken civil servant. Publishes “A Little Hero”.
- 1859 Granted permission to resign commission and return to European Russia. Publishes *Uncle's Dream* («Дядюшкин сон») and *The Village of Stepanchikovo and its Inhabitants* («Село Степанчиково и его обитатели»)-- the two comic stories of provincial life he had worked on in Semipalatinsk. Settles in Tver'. At end of year allowed to return to St Petersburg.
[Goncharov, *Oblomov* («Обломов»); Turgenev, *Nest of Gentlefolk* («Дворянское гнездо»)]
- 1860 Finds journal, *Vremya* (Time), with brother Mikhail, Nikolai Strakhov (1828-1896) and Apollon Grigor'ev (1822-1864). Over next few years, they develop and propound *pochvennichestvo* -- doctrine calling for return of the intelligentsia to popular roots, reunification of social classes (ideologically somewhat close, especially by mid-1860s, to latter-day Slavophilism).
[Turgenev, *On the Eve* («Накануне»)]
- 1861 *The Insulted and the Injured* («Униженные и оскорбленные»); *Notes from the House of the Dead* («Записки из мертвого дома»). FMD's reputation as major writer restored.
[Liberation of serfs -- greatest of the “Great Reforms”]
- 1862 First visit abroad (Paris, London, Switzerland, Italy).
[Increasing polarization in political views within Russia: harder and harder to steer middle course, as *Vremya* had originally intended]
[Turgenev's *Fathers and Sons* («Отцы и дети»), which coined the term “nihilism” to designate the politics of the new generation of radicals, many of them *raznochintsy* (people not from the nobility). That generation was dominated by the work and ideas of Nikolai Chernyshevskii (1828-1889), Dmitrii Pisarev (1840-1868), and Nikolai Dobrolyubov (1836-1861), who were influenced by English utilitarian thought, and hostile to the romantic aesthetics of the previous generation of liberals. They promoted representational art, a material aesthetic, and democratic principles. Their vehicle, from the late 1850s on, was the

journal *Sovremennik* (Contemporary). Their literary criticism explored contemporary fiction, often in order to comment on social and political issues. Their intellectual inspiration drawn in part from William [Godwin](#) (1756-1836), John Stuart [Mill](#) (1806-1873), and Ludwig [Feuerbach](#) (1804-1872).]

1863 *Vremya* closed by government. FMD abroad, pursuing [Apollinariya Suslova](#). Wife ill, marriage collapsing. FMD gambling. Impressions of Europe in “Winter Notes on Summer Impressions” ([«Зимние записки о летних впечатлениях»](#)).

[Chernyshevskii publishes utopian novel, *What is to be Done?* ([«Что делать?»](#)), while in prison after 1862 arrest; exiled in 1864.]

[Tolstoi, [The Cossacks](#) ([«Казачество»](#)).]

1864 With brother, founds second journal, *Epokha* (Epoch). Death of wife; death of brother, deep in debt.

[Notes from the Underground](#) ([«Записки из подполья»](#)).

1865 *Epokha* closes. FMD near bankrupt, with debts assumed from brother and from failed journal. Travels to Germany and Denmark, continues to gamble.

1865 [Tolstoi begins publication of [War and Peace](#) ([«Война и мир»](#)) in Katkov’s, *Russkii vestnik* (Russian Herald), a leading conservative journal.]

1866 [Crime and Punishment](#) ([«Преступление и наказание»](#)) published in *Russkii vestnik*; [The Gambler](#) ([«Игрок»](#)). Meets Anna Snitkina, who will become his second wife in 1867.

[Attempt on life of Emperor by the radical student [Karakozov](#); *Sovremennik* closed; era of Great Reforms at an end]



Anna Snitkina, whom FMD married in 1867



Study of FMD, in Dostoevskii museum, Petersburg. At this desk the author died in 1881.

Russian Texts

Most of Dostoevsky's works are available in the huge electronic library put together by Maxim Moshkov. For Dostoevsky, go to <http://www.lib.ru/LITRA/DOSTOEWSKIJ/>.

Another excellent resource for the Russian texts is [*Russkaya virtual'naya biblioteka* page for Dostoevsky](#), which provides an [online edition of the 1988-96 fifteen volume collected works](#).

Online Translations

You will find online texts of translations of most of Dostoevskii's fiction (the translations are by Constance Garnett — not perfect, but quite readable) in the Books Online site at: <http://onlinebooks.library.upenn.edu/> and at a good number of other sites.

Other Materials

Of the *seven* Dostoevskii museums on the territory of the former Soviet Union, the Petersburg Memorial Apartment probably has the biggest exhibition, and has some decent pages in English on its [web site](#).

Christian Stange's [Dostoevsky Research Station](#) is probably the biggest and best Dostoevskii site in English, and has links to many other sites — although not all of the links are active.